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 SUITE 205
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 (707) 224-1990
 401 AMADOR STREET
 VALLEJO, CA 94590
 (707) 648-5312

August 28, 2012

The Honorable Brad Hill, Presiding Judge
 Court Facilities Working Group
 455 Golden Gate Ave
 San Francisco, CA 94102-3688

Re: Ukiah Courthouse Project

Dear Justice Hill:

As you may know, the current Ukiah Courthouse is significantly inadequate in many areas. In particular, the building is not accessible for our disabled community members and many employees. It also has severe problems with overcrowding, and seismic standards.

The City of Ukiah has worked diligently with the AOC to facilitate this project, helping to select a site that meets the criteria of the State. However, the project is being reassessed by the AOC to determine whether further cost savings can be obtained and/or the current courthouse can be renovated to serve the county's court needs.

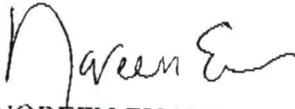
I urge you to complete the assessment as soon as possible, and to consider the positive aspects of the proposed new site:

- At \$2 million, it is well under the State's \$3.4 million budget for site acquisition
- It comes with two donated legal ingress and egress access points from the City of Ukiah and the North Coast Rail Authority
- The proposed development of the location has initiated the remediation of this brownfield site, consistent with State-wide priorities.
- It is located on a rare infill site in the downtown, conveniently located near support services.
- The City of Ukiah has already made the necessary traffic and intersection improvements to accommodate the development and committed to undergrounding utilities fronting the project site.
- The site is easily accessed by public transportation and ancillary services.

The City of Ukiah has already spent roughly \$750,000 on planning for this site. The AOC has also invested considerable amount of staff time and resources on this project. This last remaining infill site in Ukiah's downtown is located in close proximity to support services and public transit. If this project is delayed, the opportunity to utilize this site may be lost. At stake is the economic recovery of this civic center, which depends on the traffic generated by the courthouse.

I urge you to consider along with the AOC's list of criteria in making this decision, the opportunity that is unique to this site, and the City of Ukiah's commitment to this project.

Sincerely,



NOREEN EVANS
Senator, 2nd District



**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF MERCED**

2260 N Street
Merced, CA 95340

FROM THE CHAMBERS OF

BRIAN L. McCABE
PRESIDING JUDGE
OF THE MERCED SUPERIOR
COURT

TELEPHONE:
(209) 725-4172

August 30, 2012

Justice Brad R. Hill, Chairman
Court Facilities Working Group

Re: SB 1407 Projects

Justice Hill and Group Members:

The Superior Court of Merced County herewith submits additional information (letters of support and PowerPoint) regarding the proposed Los Banos courthouse construction project as requested in your letter of July 23, 2012. I will be attending the Court Facility Working Group (CFWG) meeting on September 5, 2012 to answer any questions or to provide any additional information you or the CFWG may have regarding our project.

Hon. Brian L. McCabe
Merced Superior Court
Presiding Judge

cc: Executive Committee
Linda Romero Soles, CEO



PROBATION DEPARTMENT



Scott M. Ball
Chief Probation Officer

August 17, 2012

Brad R. Hill, Presiding Justice
Court of Appeal, Fifth District
2424 Ventura Street
Fresno, California 93721

Dear Honorable Brad R. Hill and Members of the Court Facility Working Group:

As the Chief Probation Officer of the Merced County Probation Department, I am troubled by the prospect of the Los Banos County Courthouse Project being delayed indefinitely. Unfortunately, Merced County is often referred to as the 'Appalachian of the West'. The County is among State leaders for high unemployment, low housing values, and low rates of education. These distinctions are highly evident when visiting State and County facilities in the Las Banos and Dos Palos regions of the County. The cramped quarters of the current 32 year-old facility fail to meet the needs of a community which has experienced a 283% population growth since its construction. Its citizens are in need of revitalization projects such as this to enhance community pride and hope for economic stability.

As you know, probation is subject to an unfunded State mandate to provide essential services to the Courts. We are relied upon not only for defendant social histories and sentencing recommendations, but also for updating the Court on defendant progress while on community supervision. Our accommodations within the Los Banos Courthouse are limited to five workspaces for eight officers. The space occupied by the officers does not include separate space for individual meetings with offenders, nor does it include a conference area where group sessions or rehabilitative services would otherwise occur. As part of the Los Banos Courthouse master plan, new County offices such as the Probation Department will eventually be in the same location as the new Courthouse. However, until the Courthouse Project is approved by the State, it is highly unlikely that the County's vision will come to fruition.

There are significant safety and functional needs that merit the Merced County Los Banos Courthouse Project to proceed and remain on the list of high-priority infrastructure projects to be completed. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Scott M. Ball
Chief Probation Officer
Merced County Probation Department

cc: Brian McCabe, Presiding Judge, Superior Court of California, County of Merced
Merced County Board of Supervisors



August 17, 2012

Brad R. Hill, Presiding Justice
Court of Appeal, Fifth District
2424 Ventura Street
Fresno, California 93721

Dear Honorable Brad R. Hill and Members of the Court Facility Working Group:

In response to your invitation to comment on Courthouse Projects, Merced County and the City of Los Banos respectfully request your consideration to continue the construction process for the Merced County Los Banos Courthouse Project and preserve the project as a high priority. We are aware that the current state budget creates many challenges for the local Court, the Administrative Office of the Court (AOC) and Judicial Council. Counties and cities also face similar budgetary shortfalls which challenge us to advance critical infrastructure projects.

By way of brief background, the Superior Court of California, Merced County, currently operates twelve courts; eleven are located in the city of Merced and one courtroom is located in the city of Los Banos, which is approximately forty miles west of the county seat in the city of Merced. Our Los Banos facility fails to meet state standards for current courthouses and meets all the critical needs for replacement and renovation priorities addressed within SB 1407 funding. The facility provides limited court services to the western portion of the county and primarily services the communities of Los Banos, Dos Palos and Gustine. The population of this region of the county has seen an increase of 283% over the past 30 years, primarily because of commuters from San Jose/Santa Clara/Hollister who have moved to this area for the lower priced housing and better environment to raise their children. Los Banos is currently the fastest growing city in Merced County; yet, its unemployment rate hovers above 18.7%, compared to the County which is currently at 17.8% and 10.7% for the State.

The Los Banos court facility occupies nearly half of a 14,675 square foot county-owned, shared-use building that was built in 1980. The Los Banos court currently conducts felony, misdemeanor, traffic, drug court, limited civil and small claims calendars. With an ever increasing annual caseload, the current facility is inadequate, overcrowded, functionally deficient and lacks appropriate security features. Considering the area's population increases and caseload demands, establishing a more modern, more secure and functionally appropriate court facility to serve the residence is warranted. A larger facility would accommodate expansion of current services with an additional courtroom for a new judgeship to address caseload demands, a jury assembly room, a separate more secure area for incarcerated defendants, more security for court staff, a family law division and family law proceedings, including mediation and self-help services.

Board of Supervisors

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Supervisor, District One

Hubert "Hub" Walsh, Jr.
Supervisor, District Two

Linn Davis
Supervisor, District Three

Deidre F. Kelsey
Supervisor, District Four

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Supervisor, District Five

James L. Brown
County Executive Officer

Merced County
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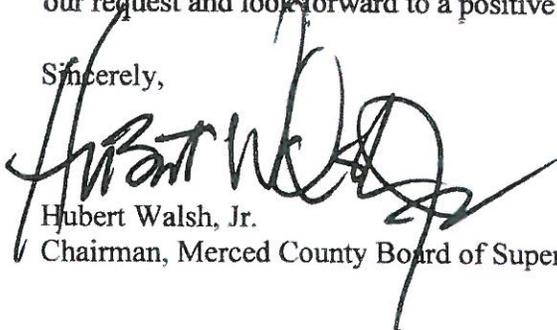
Striving for
Excellence

There is community support for this project, as the community collaborated with State staff to select an effective site for the new courthouse. The County of Merced, Los Banos City Council, the local newspaper and schools all support the construction and the site has been secured and purchased. The community has seen its share of violent crimes involving gang members as such crimes involving a gun increased by 17%. Without adequate court space to try offenders, the community will see them return and the current rate will continue to skyrocket. For a rural community, this is not just creating fear, but it is critical safety issue for law enforcement, court officers and the public. We need to help restore this community to being a "better environment to raise children" and a new courthouse will establish that commitment in seeing that justice will be served swiftly and locally.

It is hoped that this new facility will eventually be in the same campus as a new location for the police department, attorney offices and other such facilities associated with the courts. A conceptual master plan has already been developed for the site showing future county and city buildings. The property has been acquired by the State, the building program verification has been completed and the schematic design is 100% complete with 1-story & 2-story option. The estimates currently indicate that the construction costs were reduced well beyond the goal of 10% minimum with either of these options.

We appreciate the difficult task ahead of your Work Group in prioritizing the court facility projects to be funded by SB1407. Merced County and the City of Los Banos feel there are significant safety and functional needs that merit the Merced County Los Banos Courthouse Project to proceed and remain on the list of high-priority infrastructure projects to be completed. We thank you in advance for your favorable consideration of our request and look forward to a positive recommendation to expand court services in Los Banos.

Sincerely,



Hubert Walsh, Jr.
Chairman, Merced County Board of Supervisors



Michael Villalta
Mayor, City of Los Banos

cc: Brian McCabe, Presiding Judge, Superior Court of California, County of Merced
Merced County Board of Supervisors
Los Banos City Council

Superior Court of California County of Merced

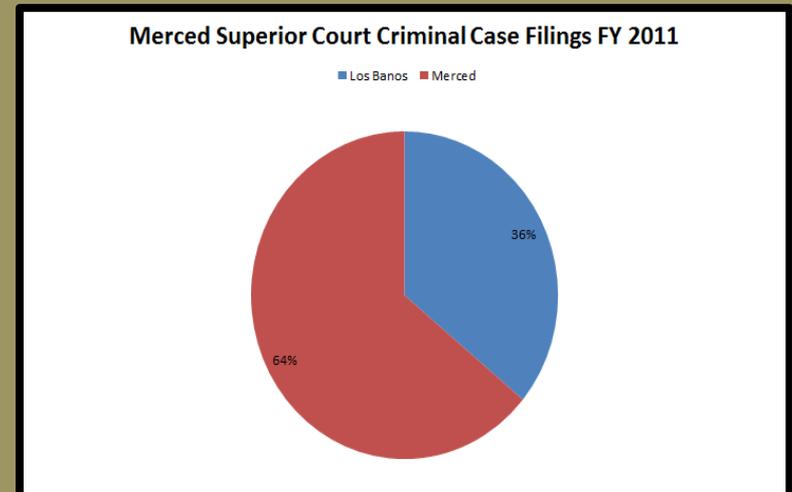


New Los Banos Courthouse Justification



36% of all Merced Superior Court criminal case filings, in the year 2011, were done in the Los Banos court location.

Civil/Small Claims	7/1/09 - 6/30/10	7/1/10 - 6/30/11	7/1/11 - 6/30/12
Merced - Civil: Limited	4,193	3,863	3,021
Los Banos - Civil: Limited	469	357	315
% Los Banos of Merced	11%	9%	10%
Merced - Small Claims	1,086	1,092	905
Los Banos - Small Claims	143	138	127
% Los Banos of Merced	13%	13%	14%
Criminal	7/1/09 - 6/30/10	7/1/10 - 6/30/11	7/1/11 - 6/30/12
Merced - Criminal	10505	9046	6414
Los Banos - Criminal	2969	2776	2305
% Los Banos of Merced	28%	31%	36%





Current Conditions

- The Los Banos Courthouse was constructed in 1980 and is county owned and managed. The court utilizes 5,376 square feet of the total 15,000 square feet. The court conducts felony, misdemeanor, traffic, drug court, limited civil, and small claims calendars. The facility is inadequate for handling all of these case types.
- Security – The building has no sally port. Prisoners enter the building from a wrought iron fence enclosure, which is in clear view from the street and adjacent properties. The entrance to the judges chambers is located directly adjacent to the prisoners entrance.
- Inadequate Court Holding Facilities – Up to 40 prisoners are brought into the courthouse each day. The courthouse has no secure holding cells. The narrow corridor leading to the courtroom creates severe safety issues for deputies.



Judges Chamber's Entrance

Narrow Corridor



Prisoner Entrance



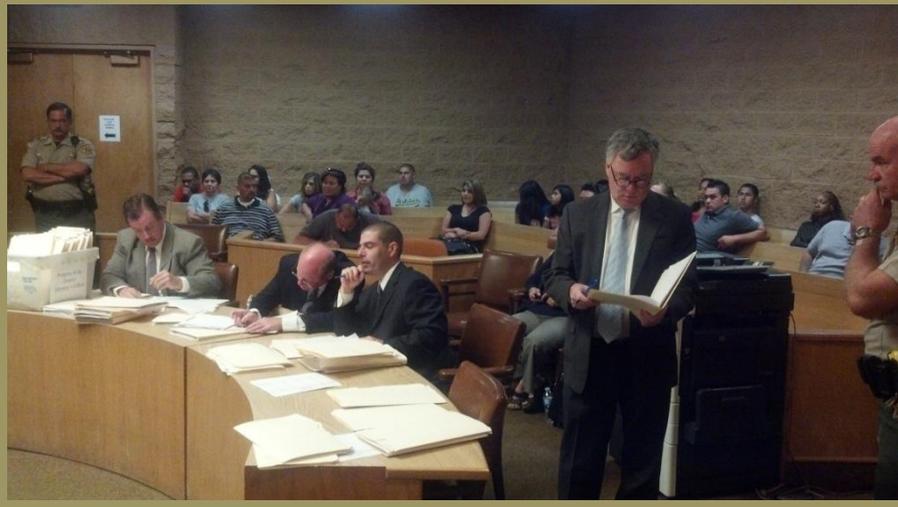
Substandard Facilities

- The courtroom in the facility contains 1,136 square feet. Current standards call for jury capable courtrooms in the range of 1,600 square feet to 2,400 square feet.
- The Los Banos court is a high volume court, particularly for traffic, misdemeanor, and felony arraignments, and therefore requires courtrooms that meet current standards.





THE SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF MERCED





No Jury Assembly Room

- Jury trials are held infrequently due to lack of assembly space. When jury trials are conducted, the courtroom then becomes unavailable for other necessary proceedings.

Overcrowded Public Areas

- On average, 330 people enter the building on a daily basis. The public enters and exits the building via a single set of double doors, causing substantial congestion.
- Security screening is located immediately adjacent to a small entry vestibule. There is very limited space for queuing, especially since the public exits through the same space.
- Inadequate space is available for public waiting outside the courtroom.



THE SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF MERCED





Overcrowded Clerical Work Areas

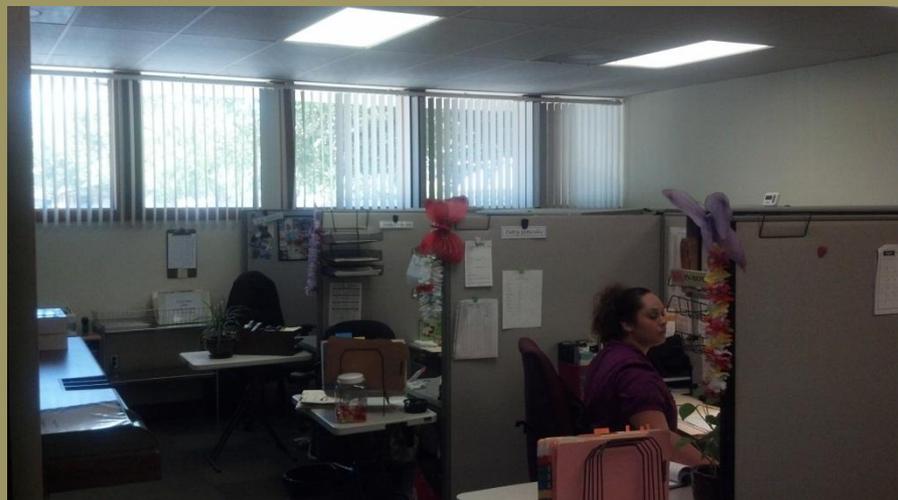
- The facility lacks functionally appropriate attorneys/witness/client interview rooms.
- 16 clerical staff members are located in an area of approximately 1,200 square feet. Due to lack of space, workstations are undersized for the type of work being conducted.
- Due to lack of space, some active files are stored in the employee break room. The jury deliberation room is also used for file storage.

Accessibility

- There is no handicapped audience seating in the courtroom.
- Courtroom bench, witness stand, and clerk's workstation are not ADA accessible.



THE SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF MERCED





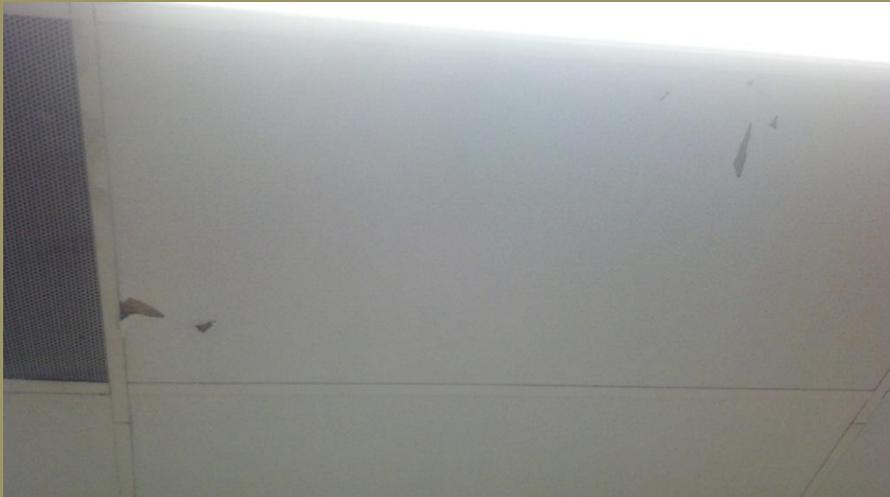
Unsafe Conditions

- Mold is just one of the many safety hazards in the current facility.
- Some of the locks to the doors in the building are in poor condition and are very unreliable.





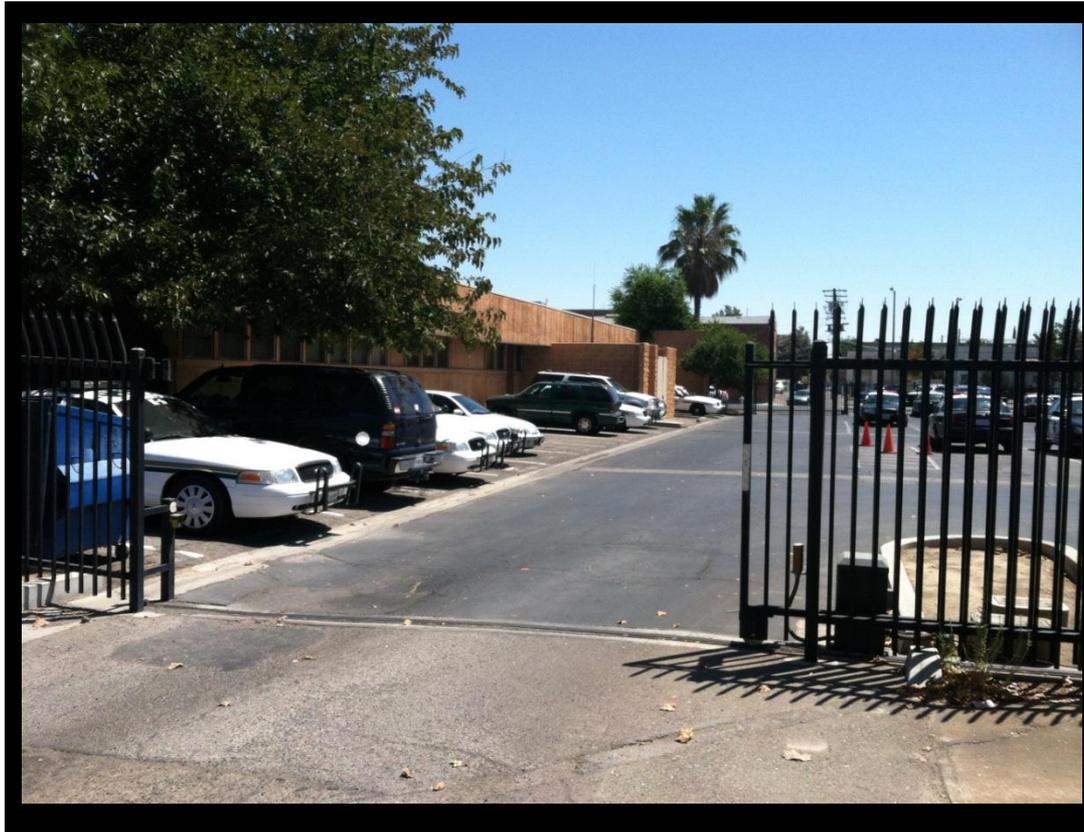
THE SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF MERCED





Other Building and Site Deficiencies

- The building has a very poor seismic rating.
- The site has very limited parking for staff and public use. Ten spaces are allocated to the court, one of which is reserved for the judicial officer. Additional parking is located on the surrounding streets.

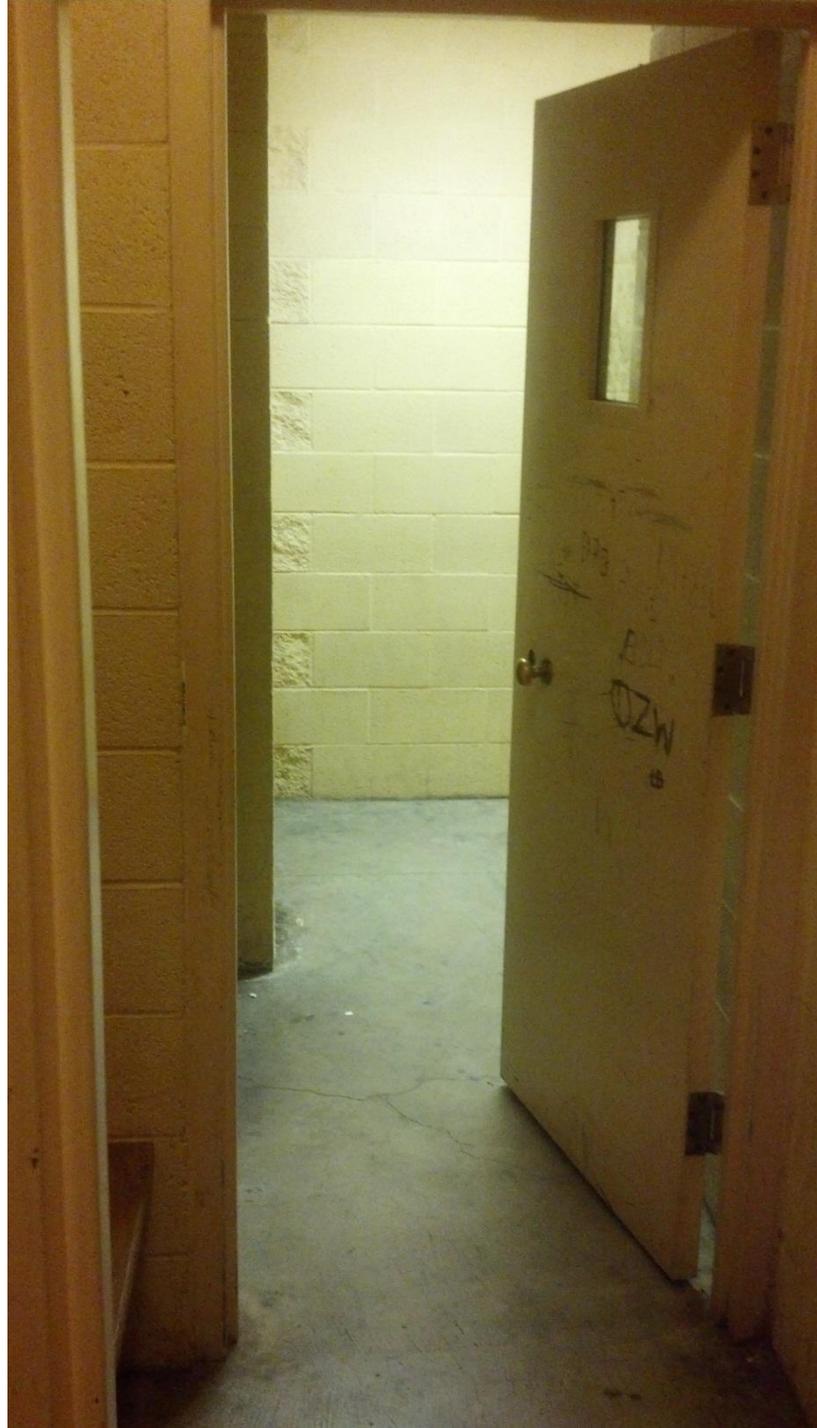


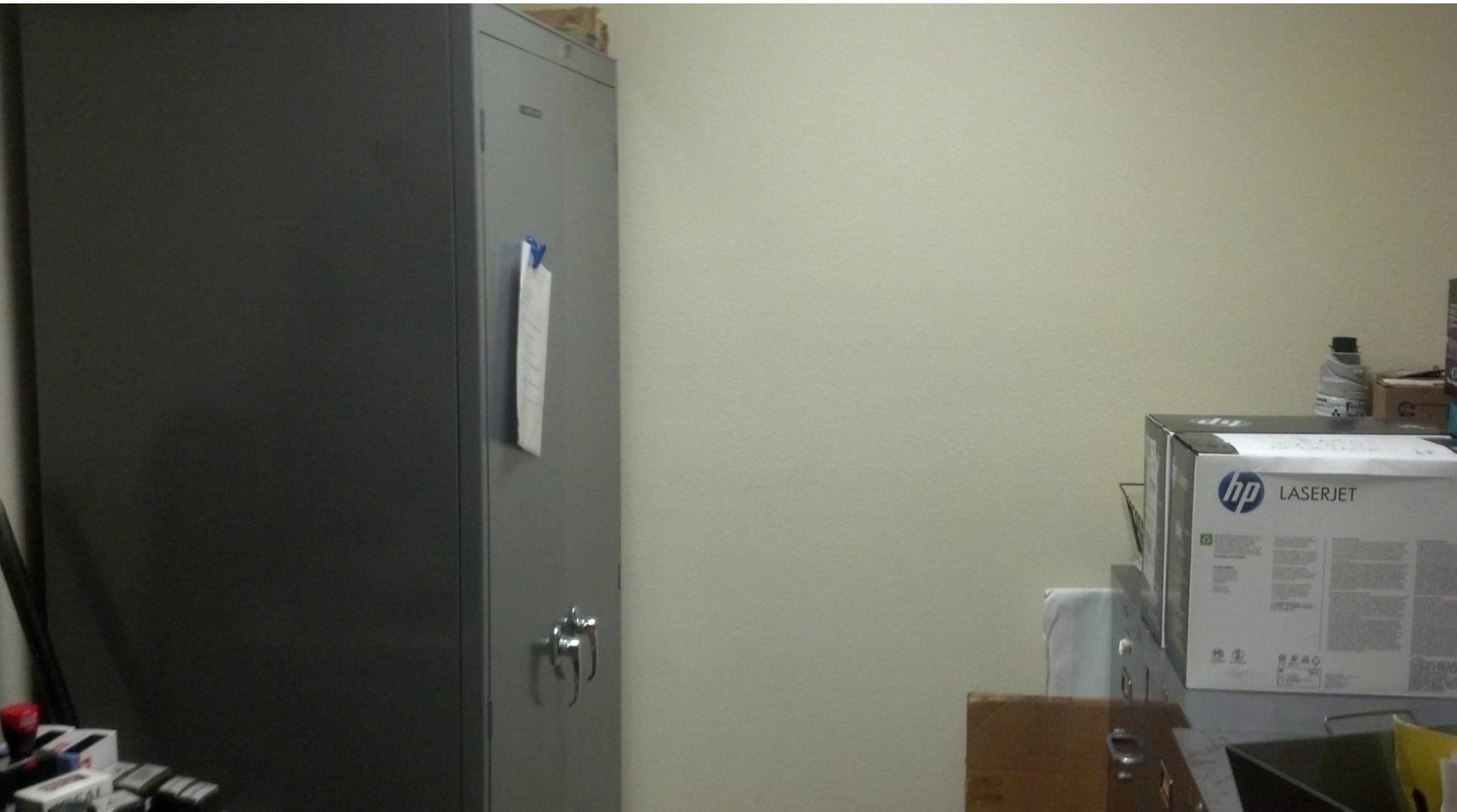


The following improvements will be made with the proposed new courthouse:

- Replace existing one-courtroom courthouse that is currently unsafe, substandard, overcrowded and functionally deficient.
- Expand court services by increasing the capacity for criminal court proceedings from one to two by providing space for one new judgeship.
- Expand court services by adding a family law division to the Los Banos courthouse, including child custody mediation and self-help services, which are not currently provided due to lack of space.
- Provide a jury assembly room to allow the court to operate jury trials for the convenience of western Merced County jurors, victims, witnesses, law enforcement officers, and members of the bar.















000251 - 000500

000751 - 001000

001251 - 001500

001751 - 002000

002251 - 002500

2751 - 3000

000001 - 000250

000501 - 000750

001001 - 001250

001501 - 001750

002001 - 002250

2501 - 2750

This door is to the Judge's chambers that exits to the police department parking area. Defendants working off jail time are often washing cars in the parking area. The chambers door does not have a key pad nor is it alarmed.



The entrance to the courthouse does not force the public to go through security.



Entrance to the courtroom is adjacent to the clerk's office and courtroom entrance lacks a double entry (no sound absorption) and security cannot see who is entering the courtroom.



Interior walls are aged.





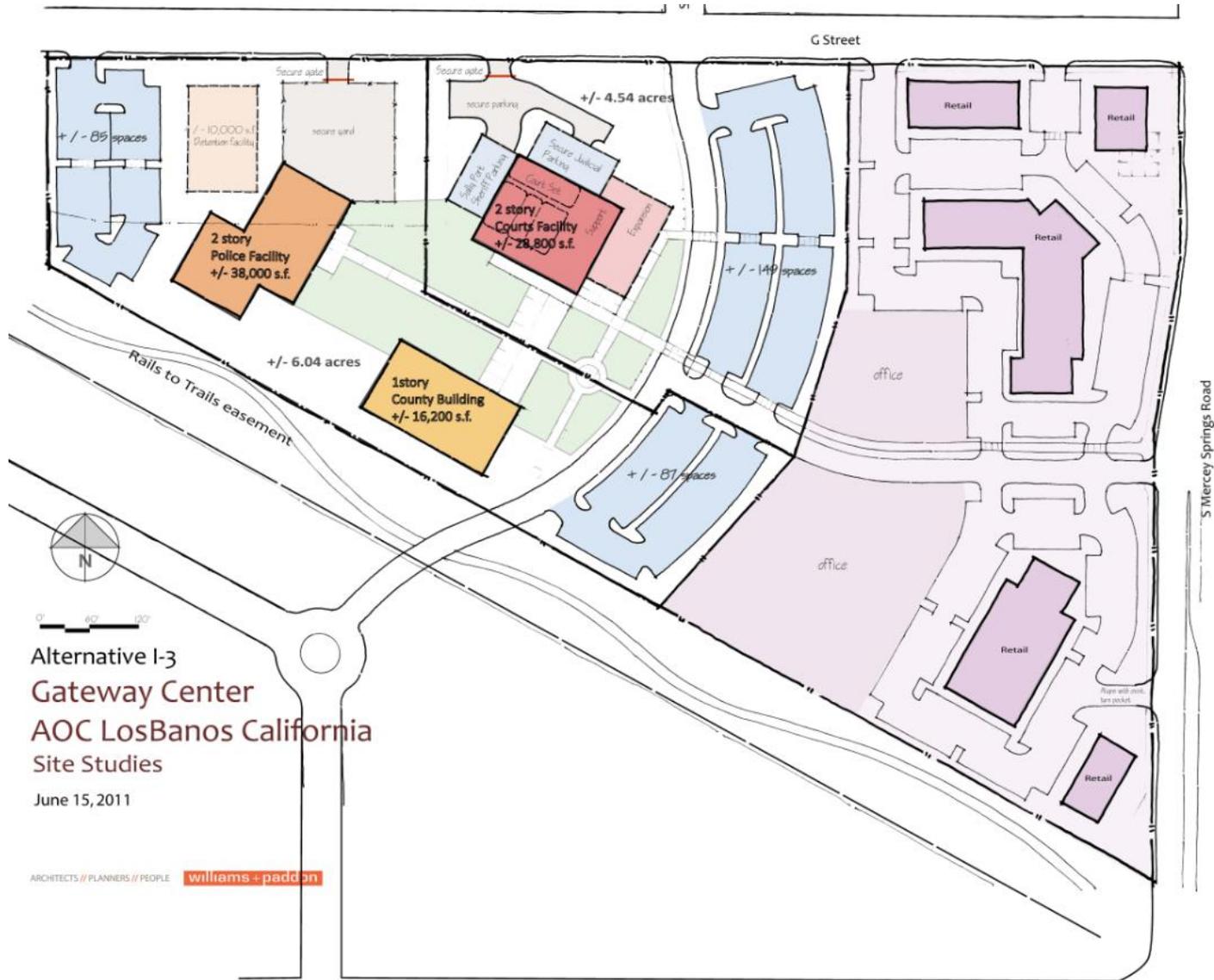
Counter is not ADA compliant and lacks sufficient space on the public side.





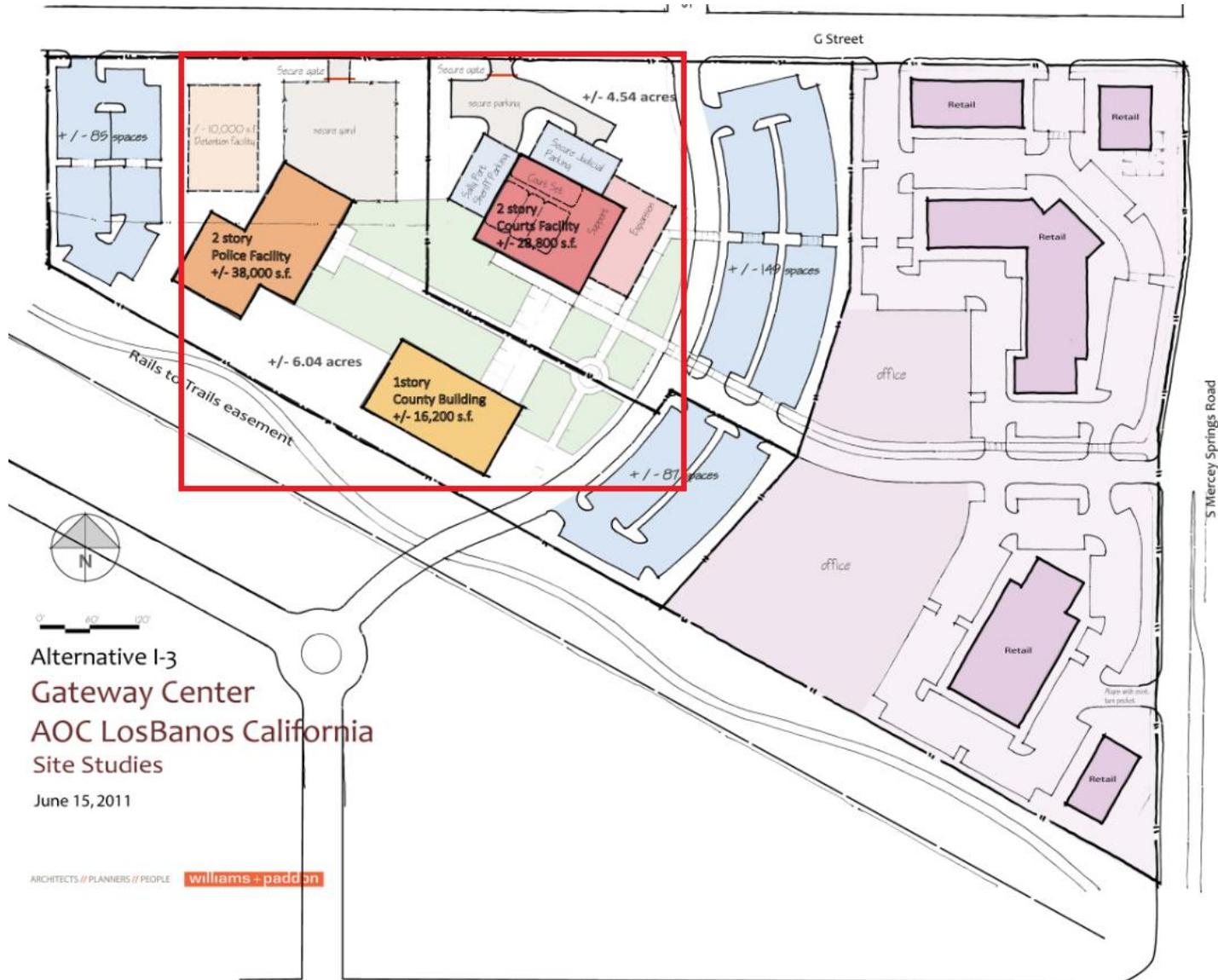






Alternative I-3
 Gateway Center
 AOC Los Banos California
 Site Studies
 June 15, 2011

ARCHITECTS // PLANNERS // PEOPLE **williams + paddon**



Alternative I-3
 Gateway Center
 AOC Los Banos California
 Site Studies

June 15, 2011

ARCHITECTS // PLANNERS // PEOPLE **williams + padden**



SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF MONTEREY

1200 Aguajito Road • Monterey, California 93940 • (831) 647-5800

August 30, 2012

Hon. Brad R. Hill, Chair
Court Facilities Working Group
455 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Hon. Hill and Members of the Court Facilities Working Group:

On behalf of the Monterey County Superior Court, I thank you for the opportunity to address the critical needs, by way of noting the deficiencies in the existing King City facility, that support the continuation of the South County Courthouse Project.

The Monterey County Superior Court serves a population of 404,000 spanning over 3,322 square miles bounded between Santa Cruz, San Benito and San Luis Obispo Counties. The South County Courthouse project is designated to replace the current King City Courthouse located approximately 50 miles southeast of the Salinas Courthouse. The King City Courthouse is a small single-story building, constructed in 1968, and is equipped with one courtroom and one hearing room. The King City Courthouse is a shared Court/County facility with 66% of the facility designated to the Court and the remaining portions designated to the South County Sheriff's Station and for offices of the District Attorney and the Public Defender. The facility is considered functionally deficient by the Task Force, and the South County Courthouse Project is designated "an immediate need project". Since the County will retain title to the existing facility to continue to operate the existing South County Sheriff's Station, the AOC has no rights to renovate or expand onsite and has recommended a newly constructed South County Courthouse as the best solution to provide expansion of court services for the benefit of all south Monterey county residents.

Monterey County Superior Court's comments on selected decision-making criteria are noted on the following pages. Additionally, I plan to expand on these areas as well as other criteria when we meet on September 6.

Security:

There are significant security constraints with the King City Courthouse as it is an aged and physically deficient building. The assessment of the security criterion resulted in the worst score possible for security-related issues. The following security constraints hinder court activities in the current facility:

1. Secure paths of circulation do not exist to separate judicial officers and staff from the public or to separate prisoners from judicial officers, staff, or the public.
2. There is no sallyport. Security for transporting prisoners is inadequate, as their loading and unloading occurs in an unsecured area.
3. The prisoner entrance is not secure and is directly adjacent to parking for judges, staff, and public.
4. The building has multiple entry points that are accessed by court and county staff, making it difficult to secure.
5. Judicial officers and staff do not have secure parking.
6. Judicial officers and staff do not have a secure route from the parking area into the courthouse and must walk through the public hallway to their chambers and offices.

Overcrowding:

1. The King City facility has an undersized lobby and courtroom space, which results in defendants, attorneys, witnesses and the public squeezing into confined spaces in the public hall and lobby space that abut the clerk's office windows and prevent efficient customer service/flow of persons in and out of the building.
2. There are no attorney conference rooms to allow for private attorney-client conferences and the public visiting the clerk's office window.
3. The size of the existing courtroom and hearing room are undersized per California Trial Court Facilities standards and have significant design flaws, such as limited seating, sightlines, acoustics and adjacencies.

4. There are overcrowded and limited staff work areas.
5. Inadequate holding cell areas resulting in custodies being detained in transport vehicles for the duration of court proceedings – sometimes as long as half a day.

Physical Condition:

The King City Courthouse was originally constructed in 1968 and has had limited upgrades since that time. The facility is severely deficient in several significant areas:

1. No fire sprinklers
2. Seismically
3. Aged and water damaged walls, ceilings, floor finishes, poor lighting, insufficient ventilation and cooling
4. Environmental concerns due to asbestos tiling
5. Reoccurring sewage backflow issues and the resulting substantial damage
6. Poor insulation and HVAC and electrical issues resulting in climate control – heating/cooling issues
7. Upgrades to the interior and exterior walls, plumbing fixtures, windows, tele/data lines, electrical and HVAC systems are needed

Access to Court Services:

South Monterey County residents currently drive from 65 to upwards of 100 miles for civil and family law court services located at the Monterey Division located in Monterey. Access to essential Family Law and Self-Help Center services require residents to travel up to 120 miles round-trip. Currently, basic court services are not available to south county residents due to space restrictions, such as: a jury assembly room, an adequately-sized in-custody holding, an alternative dispute resolution center, and attorney interview/ witness waiting rooms. This courthouse project will provide the Court with the ability to enhance access to court services by eventually expanding to a full-service courthouse for south county residents, enabling the court to operate more effectively and efficiently in the south county area. This project will allow the Court to

handle both criminal and civil jury trials and hear civil, family law and small claims matters for the south county area, eliminating the need for litigants to drive significant distances for these services. Additionally, this will reduce case load processing and overcrowding at the existing Monterey County Courthouse and at the Salinas Courthouse, by shifting criminal, civil, family law and small claims cases to the New Courthouse.

This New Courthouse will also provide the capacity to hold proceedings on state prison cases originating from Salinas Valley State Prison and Soledad-CTF, both prisons located 10 miles from the new South County Courthouse. The state prison cases are currently conducted at the Salinas Courthouse, some 30 miles away from the state prison facilities, requiring numerous prison vans and several state vehicles to travel to Salinas each week.

Economic Opportunity:

The community of the City of Greenfield strongly supports the South County Courthouse project, investing nearly \$5 million dollars to-date arranging to purchase, improve and donate land to the State. Additionally, the project site received critical off-site street improvements and the City arranged for the site to be a hub of government and civic services, just recently completing a new Civic Center and Police Department adjacent to the courthouse site. A significant amount of time, effort, energy and redevelopment monies have been dedicated to this project over the last several years.

Project Status:

The South County Courthouse project is has moved along quickly – site acquired and preliminary plans have been completed. Justice partners and the Court, the AOC and contractors have dedicated many hours over the last few years evaluating the needs of the community, analyzing and selecting the best site and many more hours reviewing designs to ensure the needs of the court, the safety of the public and working areas for court staff, sheriff's office and security issues were sufficient.

Court Usage

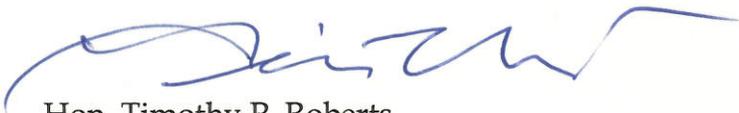
Currently there are 22.2 authorized judicial officers, 20 judges (18 filled, 1 vacancy, 1 unfunded judge allocation pursuant to AB 159) and 2.2 Commissioners (1 FT Commissioner and 2 - PT - .6 Commissioners). Understanding that the current fiscal climate may not provide funding for the Governor to appoint a judge for the vacancy or provide funding for the new AB 159 judgeship, it seems prudent to consider viewing the longer term needs noting that Monterey County Superior Court will not have available space to accommodate additional judges in existing courthouse locations.

Additional detail is provided on attachment A. When the Court has the vacancy filled and when the additional allocation is funded, there are no additional courtrooms to accommodate these 2 judges.

The building of the South County Courthouse provides the Court with the option of expanding the case-types heard there and the 3 courtrooms provides the Court with the option of transferring prison cases from a criminal courtroom in Salinas to the new South County Courthouse to accommodate a judge filling the current vacancy. Conveniently, the two local state prisons, Salinas Valley State Prison and the California Training Facility are located less than 10 miles from the new South County Courthouse location. The State will save in transportation costs once prison cases are moved to South County as these facilities are currently 30 miles from the Salinas Courthouse where prison cases are currently heard.

I thank you again for the opportunity to express the critical needs in support of the South County Project moving forward and the negative impacts to the South County Community if the project is stopped. This project, along with many other SB 1407 construction projects, has undergone prior reviews and the original \$62 million project budget has been reduced to approximately \$48.5 million. Additionally, please refer to letters submitted by the Monterey County Board of Supervisors and the City of Greenfield confirming their support of this project and expression of their concerns. I also look forward to the opportunity to speak with you further on additional impacts and concerns at the September 6, 2012 Court Facilities Workgroup session.

Sincerely,



Hon. Timothy P. Roberts
Presiding Judge

Attachment A

MONTEREY COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

Currently, Monterey County Superior Court has 22.2 authorized Judicial Officers - 20 Judges (18 filled, 1 vacancy, 1 new judgeship pursuant to AB 159 authorized / unfunded) and 2.2 Commissioners

Courthouse	Address	Courtroom(s)	Judicial Officer(s) Assigned	Special Notes
Salinas Courthouse	240 Church Street Salinas, CA	11	11 Judges	Criminal, Juvenile Dependency, Drug/Mental Health
Salinas Annex	118 W. Gabilan Salinas, CA	1 <i>(limited use)</i>	1 Judge	Limited use leased facility with SB 56 ongoing funds – cannot accommodate jury trials, limited ability to hear in-custody cases due to lack of holding facilities and secure courtroom facilities
Salinas Juvenile Delinquency	Monterey County Probation Department 1422 Natividad Road Salinas, CA	1	1 Judge	
Marina Courthouse	3180 Del Monte Blvd. Marina, CA	2	1.6 Commissioners	1-FT Traffic/Small Claims Commissioner 1-PT .6 AB 1058 Child Support Commissioner
Monterey Courthouse	1200 Aguajito Road Monterey, CA	5	4 – Judges 1 – PT .6 Commissioner	3 Civil, 1 Family Law Judge and 1-PT .6 Family Law Commissioner
King City Courthouse	240 Franciscan Way King City, CA	1 <i>(And 1 hearing room)</i>	1 Judge	Criminal, Traffic, Small Claims Hearing room not equipped with a jury box or in-custody holding facilities



Judicial Council of California
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

455 Golden Gate Avenue • San Francisco, California 94102-3688
Telephone 415-865-4200 • Fax 415-865-4205 • TDD 415-865-4272

TANI G. CANTIL-SAKAUYE
Chief Justice of California
Chair of the Judicial Council

JODY PATEL
Interim Administrative Director of the Courts

CURT SODERLUND
Interim Chief Deputy Director

August 27, 2012

Hon. Darrell Steinberg
President pro Tempore of the Senate
State Capitol, Room 205
Sacramento, California 95814-4900

Hon. Roger Dickinson
Member of the Assembly
State Capitol, Room 3126
Sacramento, California 94249-0009

Dear Senator Steinberg and Assembly Member Dickinson:

Thank you for your letter dated August 10, 2012, concerning the facility needs of the courts in downtown Sacramento, with which I am very familiar and which are similar to those thwarting safe and secure access to justice for many of the courts across the state.

As you are well aware, by next year, nearly \$1.5 billion of funds originally designated by the Legislature for court construction will have been borrowed, transferred to the General Fund, or redirected to court operations. The FY 2012–2013 Budget Act alone redirects from SB 1407 court construction funds to trial court operations: \$240 million in the current budget year (backfilling General Fund reductions to the trial courts) and \$50 million each fiscal year thereafter. The redirection of construction funds dramatically affects how many SB 1407 projects can move forward. Most SB 1407 construction projects have been “paused” as a direct result of the \$240 million redirection this year and the \$50 million in future years, in order to reevaluate and prioritize the projects. Upwards of \$500 million in construction projects will be terminated until the Legislature and Governor restore, in future years, the \$50 million it has permanently redirected.

Senator Darrell Steinberg
Assembly Member Roger Dickinson
August 27, 2012
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Last year I established the Court Facilities Working Group to advise the Judicial Council on all facilities issues. The working group is chaired by Justice Brad R. Hill, Administrative Presiding Justice of the Court of Appeal, Fifth Appellate District. The working group, as a result of the redirection of construction funds in the FY 2012–2013 Budget Act, will meet in San Francisco on September 5–7, 2012, in an open, public meeting to hear from the courts and the public on their projects and make preliminary recommendations on prioritizing projects. The draft criteria and proposed process for selecting projects to move forward are available for public comment at: <http://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/OCCM12-01.pdf>. The working group's preliminary recommendations to the council will be posted for comment in September 2012 prior to the working group finalizing their recommendations to the Judicial Council. I expect the working group to make their recommendations to the council at its public meeting on October 26, 2012.

I know you believe as I do that there are too many unfortunate consequences of the multiyear fiscal crisis plaguing all Californians. Indefinite delay and, indeed, elimination of many urgently needed courthouse projects as well as other significant impacts to the court system are among them. However, we will only be able to move forward with the number of projects for which funding is provided. After the council's expected decisions in October, I will immediately let you know of the plans for the Sacramento courthouse.

I know you share my commitment to ensuring that the California judicial branch is funded adequately in the future so that we can achieve the promise of equal justice for all. Please feel free to contact me anytime with any concerns about the Sacramento courthouse project or any other issues. I always appreciate working with both of you.

Sincerely,



TANI G. CANTIL-SAKAUYE
Chief Justice of California and
Chair of the Judicial Council

RE/KQ/no

cc: Members of the Court Facilities Working Group
Hon. Laurie M. Earl, Superior Court of Sacramento County
Hon. Robert C. Hight, Superior Court of Sacramento County
Mr. Lee Willoughby, Director, Administrative Office of the Courts, Office of Court
Construction and Management



DAVE JONES
Insurance Commissioner

August 17, 2012

Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye
Judicial Council of California
Administrative Office of the Courts
455 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102-3688

Dear Chief Justice Tani- Cantil Sakauye,

RE: Support for Sacramento's New Criminal Courthouse Project

As you undertake your deliberation when re-evaluating the SB 1407 projects, I strongly urge the Court Facilities Working Group to keep Sacramento's New Criminal Courthouse Project as a high priority.

As someone who has had the opportunity to represent clients in the Sacramento Superior Court, and as someone who has served as a local elected official and state legislator representing Sacramento, I know first hand how much Sacramento needs this new courthouse.

I have been pleased to be a long time supporter of the Judicial Branch and have appreciated the opportunity to play a leadership role in assisting the Judicial Branch to obtain control over court facilities and to obtain resources needed to rehabilitate and build badly needed new courthouses.

As Chair of the Assembly Judiciary Committee from 2004 to 2008, I authored legislation that established a firm deadline for transferring courthouses from counties to the state. I then worked closely with the Judicial Council and AOC to make sure the transfers happened. My legislation cleared the way for the state of California to issue revenue bonds to repair dilapidated courthouses and to build new ones to meet increased demands on the judicial system. I was the principal coauthor of the legislation that authorized \$5 billion in revenue bonds for court construction. That legislation provided funding for counties with the greatest courthouse improvement and construction needs. Sacramento meets that requirement.

Sacramento has completed the site acquisition phase for the new courthouse, during which time over a dozen sites were investigated. The only viable option is Lot 41 in the Railyards. A purchase price on Lot 41 has been negotiated, and

extensive due diligence has revealed no serious environmental issues. This lot has been identified as one of the most desirable lots in the large urban in-fill site in Sacramento's downtown known as the Railyards project. If this lot is not purchased now, it may not be available in the future. The loss of this site could have substantial cost impacts if the Sacramento courts and the AOC are forced to re-start site selection at some future date. Furthermore, as the economy begins to recover, the price of this site and others will most definitely go up.

This project ranked as an "immediate need" (9th out of 41 projects) in the 2008 Judicial Branch's capital-outlay plan. The circumstances that warranted this high score have not changed. The Gordon D. Schaber Courthouse is fraught with security and safety deficiencies. Inmates are escorted through public and staff areas because the facility lacks dedicated, in-custody circulation. The holding facilities are too small, and there are not enough cells to segregate the various inmate classifications. And prospective Sacramento jurors know that there are not enough seats in the Jury Assembly room, further discouraging their service.

The importance of this project for the residents of Sacramento and surrounding communities cannot be overstated. Securing Lot 41 in The Railyards for the new criminal courthouse is critical to the future of the courthouse project. I strongly encourage that the Working Group recommend this project proceed, as well as the immediate acquisition of Lot 41 in The Railyards.

Sincerely,



Dave Jones
Insurance Commissioner

Cc: Justice Brad R. Hill, Court of Appeal, Fifth Appellate District
Hon. Patricia M. Lucas, Superior Court, County of Santa Clara
Hon. Donald Cole Byrd, Superior Court, County of Glenn
Hon. Candace D. Cooper, Retired, Court of Appeal, Second Appellate District
Hon. Keith D. Davis, Superior Court, County of San Bernardino
Hon. Samuel K. Feng, Superior Court, County of San Francisco
Hon. Robert D. Foiles, Superior Court, County of San Mateo
Hon. William F. Highberger, Superior Court, County of Los Angeles
Hon. Jamie A. Jacobs-May, Retired, Superior Court, County of Santa Clara
Hon. Jeffrey W. Johnson, Court of Appeal, Second Appellate District, Division One
Hon. Laura J. Masunaga, Superior Court, County of Siskiyou
Hon. Gary R. Orozco, Superior Court, County of Fresno
Mr. Michael J. Bocchicchio, AIA
Mr. Anthony P. Capozzi, Attorney at Law
Mr. Stephan Castellanos, FAIA
Ms. Melissa Fowler-Bradley, Court Executive Officer, Superior Court, County of Shasta
Mr. Stephen Nash, Court Executive Officer, Superior Court, County of San Bernardino
Hon. Laurie M. Earl, Superior Court, County of Sacramento
Hon. Robert C. Hight, Superior Court, County of Sacramento
Lee Willoughby, Director, Office of Court Construction & Management

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August 28, 2012

The Honorable Brad Hill, Presiding Judge
 Court Facilities Working Group
 455 Golden Gate Ave
 San Francisco, CA 94102-3688

Re: **Santa Rosa Criminal Courthouse**

Dear Justice Hill:

As you may know, funding has been withheld this year for the Santa Rosa Criminal Courthouse in Sonoma County California, pending reassessment of courthouse construction priorities. Previously the Santa Rosa Courthouse was ranked as an Immediate Need on the Judicial Council's list of capital-outlay projects.

The proposed Santa Rosa Criminal Courthouse will replace three facilities: the Hall of Justice, the main Adult Detention Center, and space in the offsite Family Court Services leased facility. These facilities are woefully outdated, overcrowded and lack important security features.

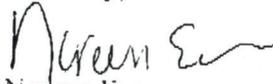
Overcrowding creates its own security problems, yet these facilities have deficiencies that are even more serious. Currently detainees are escorted down public hallways as well as external hallways used by judges and staff. There is no facility for weapons screening for the entire first floor, putting two courtrooms and all clerk's offices at risk. Some courtrooms have no holding cells and there are no smoke or fire alarms.

The proposed new Santa Rosa Criminal Courthouse will consolidate all criminal court operations in 15 courtrooms, and space for court administration, the court clerk, court security operations and holding, jury assembling, and building support. This single facility will be secure, provide comfortable accommodations for jurors and improve courtroom efficiency. As a LED certified building, it will also reduce energy costs and consumption.

More than five acres of property near the current Hall of Justice has been acquired and environmental work has been completed and certified. If funding is redirected to the project, construction could begin as early as 2013 – providing a needed boost for the local economy.

As a resident of Santa Rosa and a practicing attorney, I am well acquainted with the deficiencies of Sonoma County's current criminal court facilities. The Hall of Justice is a security and safety disaster waiting to happen. I urge you to resume funding the construction of the Santa Rosa Criminal Courthouse.

Sincerely,



Noreen Evans
Senator, 2nd District