



Superior Court of California County of Calaveras

NEWS RELEASE

Date – October 26, 2011

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Calaveras Courthouse Project Receives Necessary State Funding

On Thursday, October 20, 2011, the State Treasurer issued bonds which will be used to finance the construction of the new Calaveras Superior Court facility in San Andreas. The need for a new courthouse was recognized in 2007 when the project was identified as a statewide priority given the condition of the existing courthouse. However, construction could not begin until there was adequate financing through the sale of state lease revenue bonds, which occurred last week.

The new courthouse will be located adjacent to the new county jail, which is currently under construction. The building, which will be owned by the State of California and managed by the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), will be built on property acquired from the County of Calaveras.

The County has advanced funds on behalf of the State for its share of initial infrastructure costs. As part of the agreement between the County and the State, the County will be fully reimbursed through the proceeds of the bond sale. The bonds will be repaid by fines and assessments imposed in criminal and traffic cases. No State or County General Fund money will be spent on the project.

The Courthouse will be approximately 44,600 sq. ft. in size and will include four courtrooms, enhanced security systems and a jury assembly room. According to Presiding Judge Douglas V. Mewhinney the new courthouse will be more accessible and safer than the current facility the Court shares with the County. “Currently inmates are transported into courtrooms through the same hallway used by the public, court staff, judicial officers and county officials. In the new court facility there will separate, secure paths of travel for court staff, the public and inmates,” noted Judge Mewhinney. “We appreciate the efforts of the County and AOC in bringing a new courthouse one step closer to a reality”, said Judge Mewhinney.

On October 25, 2011, the AOC reissued the project plans and specifications to the seven pre-qualified general contractors and the local builders' exchanges. The contractors bids are due to the AOC on December 13, 2011. As part of its outreach to local contractors and material suppliers, the AOC will hold an informational meeting at the Calaveras County Library in San Andreas on November 2, 2011, at 1:00 p.m. All qualified local contractors and material suppliers are encouraged to attend the meeting to learn more about the project.

The AOC anticipates it will award the contract for construction of the project by February 1, 2012 with ground breaking to follow as soon as weather allows. Construction is expected to be completed in fall 2013.

For more information:

Project web page: <http://www.courts.ca.gov/facilities-calaveras.htm>

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