



Superior Court of California, County of Glenn

Janelle Bartlett

Court Executive Officer • Jury Commissioner

September 27, 2011

Court Facilities Working Group
Office of the Court Construction Management
455 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

RE: SB 1407 Project

Dear Court Facilities Working Group:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide the Court Facilities Working Group with information relating to the renovation and addition to the Willows Historic Courthouse (WHC).

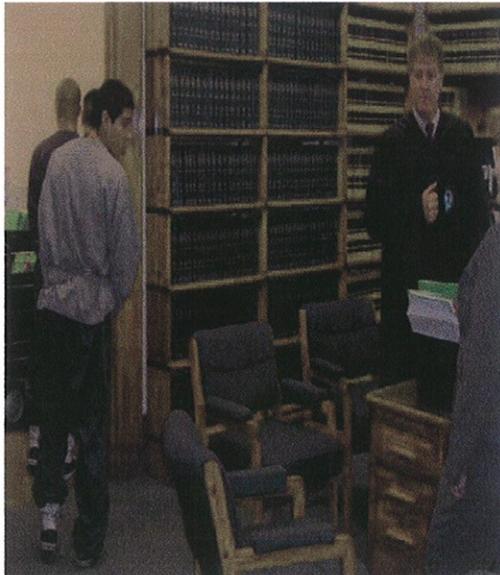
The value of our court's project first and foremost lies with the safety of our judges, employees and citizens.

The WHC was built in 1895 and the Orland facility in 1966. Both are currently outdated, unsafe, substandard in size and overcrowded.

The following are a few examples of the seriousness of our facilities deficiencies and, we believe, the most critical reasons why our project should move forward:

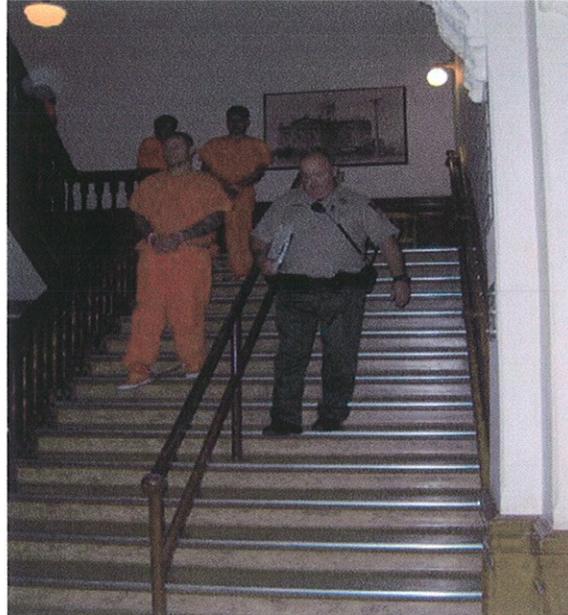
Historic Courthouse

- Juveniles are brought up very steep concrete stairs leading to the judge's chambers; they are accompanied by a probation officer through chambers and into the courtroom. The judge is literally as few as 5 to 10 feet from them (pictured below).



Glenn County is a small community where word spreads quickly; you can be assured many more know the way to the judge's chambers other than those that appear before him.

- There is also concern for the in custody defendants that are brought over shackled and handcuffed and required to climb up and down the steep steps leading to the courtroom. In addition, the close proximity to the public and potential liability to the court is real (pictured below).



- Due to the inadequate space of the entryway into the WHC the security screening station is cramped and easily congested forcing individuals to remain on the front porch until there is enough room to enter the building to the screening station. Individuals leaving the facility are at times required to wait until the security officers can move those coming in over to provide enough room to exit (pictured below).

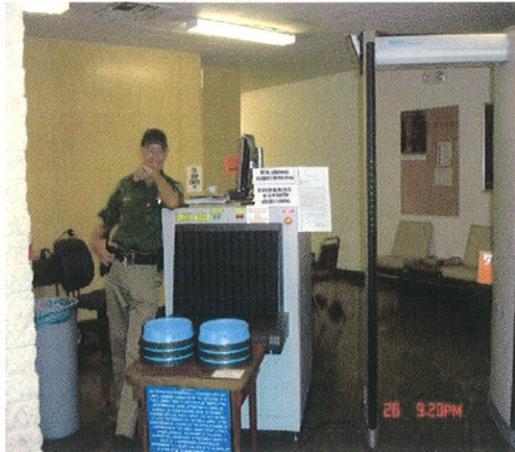


If the court were faced with an emergency such as in a fire, bomb threat, etc. the space to exit is insufficient at best.

- Protecting all staff, judges, etc. in a facility that is 115 years plus is challenging. There are many areas that have been painted over and over and the paint merely peels apart. I have been told by Office of Courthouse Construction it is due to the original lead paint underneath that prevents the new paint from adhering to the wall.
- An additional concern is the basement where some traffic and older cases, accounting records, etc. are stored. Staff must routinely maneuver very steep stairs into an environment that is very damp and musty a perfect breeding ground for molds.

Orland facility

- The Orland facility is shared with other county departments including 4H, Agriculture, Assessor's, DA and the sheriff's substation used primarily for the civil service deputy to prepare his paperwork. The security screening area is 18 feet wide of which 9 feet is security equipment.

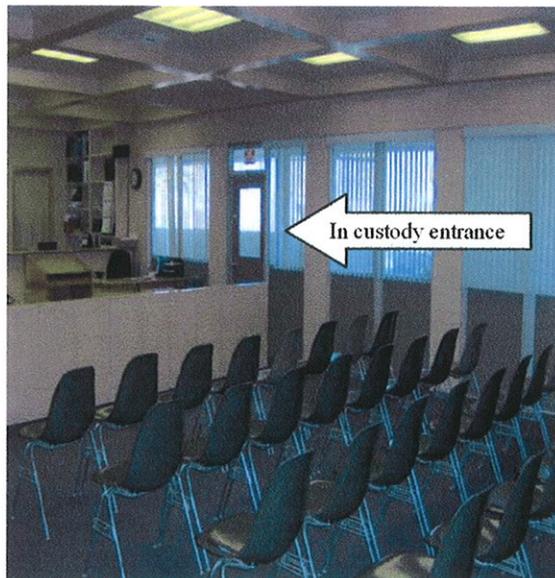
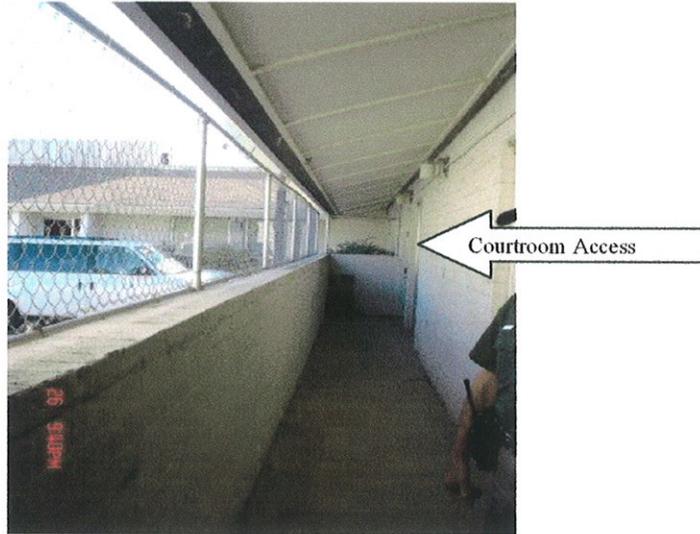


- It is so cramped that the individuals entering bump into those leaving. At anytime during the calendars you can have 4H children and/or parents, ranchers, tax payers, etc. going through security screening at the same time as criminal defendants out of custody, gang members, civil litigants, etc. Having these additional departments makes it a security nightmare. It is difficult enough for the security officer to keep an eye on who is entering to access the court with out being concerned for individuals entering the other offices and the employees of those departments as well. It became so cramped and dysfunctional that all who enter do so through the front of the building and those who exit are required to walk down the hall and exit out of the west door (pictured below).

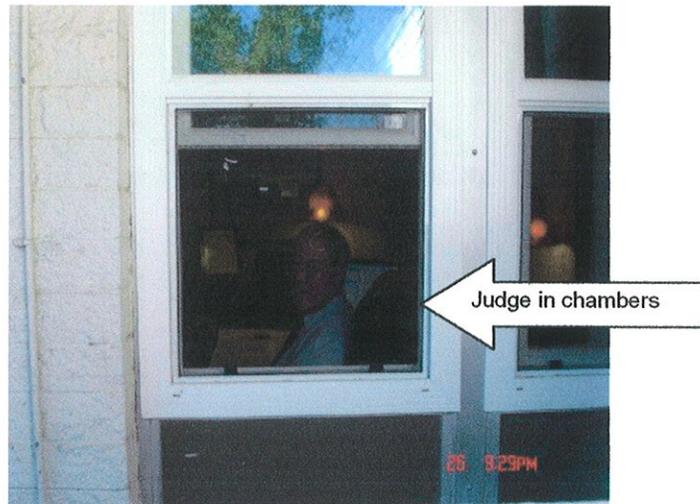


- This creates an additional concern, in that the west door was recently wired to allow access only to those who have a pass card. Now anyone exiting may allow someone to enter creating a security breach.

- The judge's safety in Orland is also of extreme concern. The inmates are brought out of the holding cells down a narrow pathway to access the courtroom (pictured below).

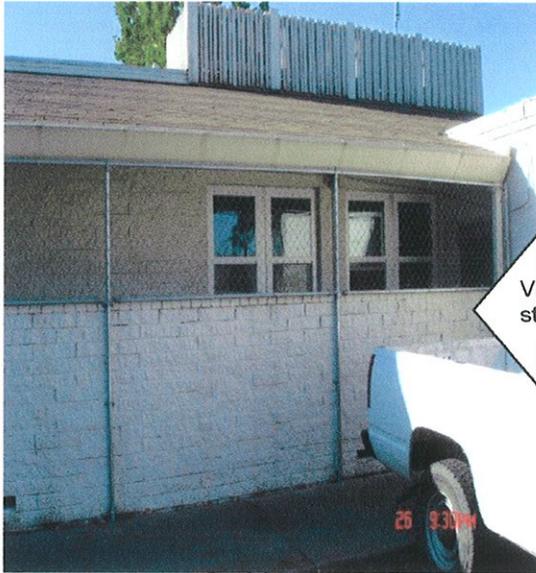


- The judge's chambers window is right where the defendants walk by. Not only is the judge within inches from view of the inmates, but also for anyone who wants to park in the back of the building directly in line with the judge's chambers window and his head if he is sitting at his desk (pictured below).



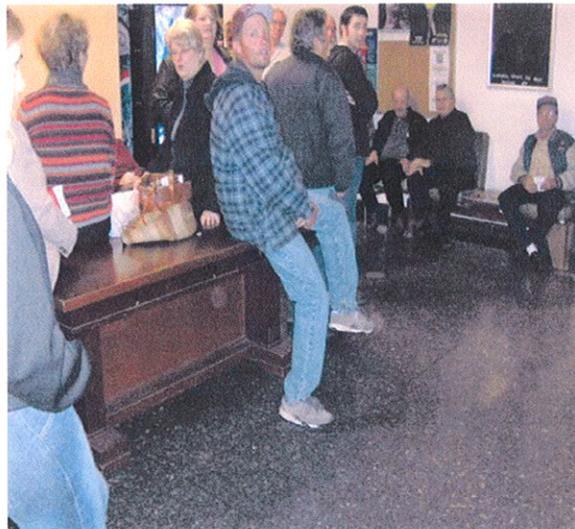


Staff looking into chambers from parking lot



View from where staff was standing

- Additionally, in both locations there is the lack of space for staff to work, storage of files, etc.
- Jurors check in and/or assemble along with witnesses, attorneys and litigants in the lobby and west hall of the Orland facility (pictured below).



- At the WHC they assemble down the stairs and onto the landing on the second floor. This area is not ventilated, has no air conditioning to help circulate the air and there is no separation between jurors, litigants, witnesses, attorneys, defendants, etc.

They say a picture speaks a thousand words. I could go on and on but the photos do speak for themselves.

The following is an update to the Project Profile – SB 1407 Capital Projects for Glenn County:

Section C. Key Issues:

- The issue relating to the soil contamination mitigation has been resolved.
- Expansion Parcel - the County of Glenn has agreed to donate the expansion parcel to the State and a draft of the Expansion Parcel - Property Acquisition Agreement is being reviewed.
- The County of Glenn has agreed to lease the parking spaces to the state as follows:
 - “Rent will consist of one dollar (\$1.00) per useable parking space contained in the Premises per month during the Initial Term. Lessee shall pay Lessor in advance, the full amount of Rent for the Initial Term, in the amount of forty thousand five hundred dollars (\$40,500) no later than 6 months prior to commencement of construction of the State Project. The anticipated commencement of construction date for the State Project is 2014. The full amount of the Rent is calculated as follows: 45 useable parking spaces x 12 months x 75 years = \$40,500”.

PROJECTED COST SAVINGS

Currently the Glenn County Superior Court leases a 5,000 square foot facility to house the courts self-help center, facilitator and mediator offices. The on-going savings are noted below:

- Rent @ \$4,000.00 per month for an annual cost of \$48,000.00.
- An annual on-going savings in the amount of \$12,500.00 in utility costs, security costs (alarms, panic buttons and building alarm) and janitorial.
- The total annual cost savings is \$60,000.00.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to provide the Court Facilities Working Group with why we believe the Glenn County project should move forward. Said simply, it is to provide safe and efficient justice for all of the citizens we serve; for the employees who serve them so willingly and for our dedicated bench officers who administer fair and impartial justice.

Sincerely,



Janelle Bartlett
Court Executive Officer

Cc: Hon. Donald Cole Byrd
Hon. Peter Billiou Twede