



# MEDIA ADVISORY

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## **New Hollister Courthouse Site Chosen**

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CALIFORNIA  
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San Francisco—As a first step in building a new courthouse for the Superior Court of San Benito County, a site has been identified in the city of Hollister that will accommodate the court master plan, which calls for approximately 40,000 square feet of space, including three courtrooms. The parcel, which will be donated by the county of San Benito, will occupy a portion of the Justice Services Site on Flynn Road.

The site selection process evaluated a variety of factors, including expansion potential, access to the jail, and future access to other government offices. Proximity to public transit, as well as seismic conditions, environmental impact, and traffic patterns, also played an important role. A location in downtown Hollister, recommended by an advisory team of court and local officials, was passed over by the State due to cost and schedule considerations.

The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), the staff agency of the Judicial Council of California, expects to complete the site acquisition in the next 6 to 9 months. Throughout all phases of this project, the AOC will participate in meetings with the community to discuss the impact of construction and the building design. Once the acquisition of the site is completed, preliminary designs will be drawn up beginning in fall 2008. SmithGroup Architects of San Francisco has been selected for the project.

The existing physical infrastructure for the Hollister courthouse is “in deplorable condition ... and incapable of meeting the region’s growing demand for court services,” according to a 2006 assessment by the AOC’s Office of Court Construction and Management. It is currently estimated that the courthouse replacement project, expected to be completed in mid-2011, will cost approximately \$35.6 million (in 2007 dollars).

A key mission of the AOC is to build regionally appropriate courthouses that serve the needs of the local community and provide equal access for all to the justice system.

For more information on this project, please call Jonathan Streeter,  
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