



**MEDIA ADVISORY** MA 09-09  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
April 3, 2009

## **Public Meeting and Invitation to Comment on Proposed New Hollister Courthouse**

**What:** A public meeting hosted by the Superior Court of San Benito County and the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) will present information about the proposed Hollister courthouse at the northwest corner of 4th Street and Monterey Street.

This meeting is a necessary step in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process. At the meeting, the public and other interested parties will have an opportunity to review and comment on the AOC's Mitigated Negative Declaration, which concludes that the proposed Hollister courthouse project, in conjunction with the AOC's proposed mitigation measures, will have no significant environmental effect.

The review period extends through April 23, so those unable to attend the meeting may also review the document and comment. The AOC's document is available at the California Courts Web site: [www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/occm/projects\\_sanbenito.htm](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/occm/projects_sanbenito.htm)

**When:** Monday, April 13, 5:30–7:30 p.m.

**Where:** San Benito County Board of Supervisors Chambers  
481 4th Street, 1st Floor  
Hollister, CA 95023

**Who:** Judicial officers from the Superior Court of San Benito County and representatives from the AOC's Office of Court Construction and Management will present plans and project information.

**Why:** The Judicial Council of California designated a new Hollister courthouse as an "immediate need" due to seismic concerns, lack of space, and access issues. The designation of "immediate need" ranks this project as one of the highest priority capital outlay projects for the judicial branch.

The agenda follows.

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*The Judicial Council is the policymaking body of the California courts, the largest court system in the nation. Under the leadership of the Chief Justice and in accordance with the California Constitution, the council is responsible for ensuring the consistent, independent, impartial, and accessible administration of justice. The Administrative Office of the Courts carries out the official actions of the council and promotes leadership and excellence in court administration.*

## Agenda

5:30–5:45 p.m.

### **Welcome and Court/Community Perspective**

Hon. Steven R. Sanders, Presiding Judge  
Superior Court of San Benito County

### **Administrative Office of the Courts Introductions**

Jun Quan, Project Manager  
AOC Office of Court Construction and Management

### **Presentation of Proposed Project**

Jerry Ripperda, Environmental Analyst  
AOC Office of Court Construction and Management

- Purpose of Mitigated Negative Declaration Meeting
- Description of Proposed Project
- Summary of CEQA Document
- Project Contact Information
- Mitigated Negative Declaration Process and Schedule
- Project Schedule

5:45–7:30 p.m.

### **Public Comment and Questions**

#### **Fast Facts**

- The proposed location for the new courthouse is 335 West Street, the site of the former Fremont School.
- Public access to court services will be markedly improved in the new courthouse.
- The current courthouse location suffers from inadequate security, and it is structurally and functionally deficient.
- The Judicial Council considers this one of the highest priority capital outlay projects for the judicial branch and has included it in the “immediate need” category.
- The new two-story building will have 3 courtrooms, approximately 41,000 square feet, and on-site parking for the public and employees.
- Construction could begin in late 2010, with occupancy in mid-2012.
- The AOC is dedicated to building high-quality, energy-efficient, and cost-conscious courthouses that are appropriate for the region and meet the specific needs of the community.

Additional info: [www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/occm/projects\\_sanbenito.htm](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/occm/projects_sanbenito.htm)