



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA • ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS
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Status Report Coming on Court Facility Transfers *Announcement to be made Tuesday*

SAN FRANCISCO—The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) will issue an important status report on the transfer of trial court facilities on Tuesday.

Under the Trial Court Facilities Act of 2002, as amended, all trial court facilities must be transferred from county to state responsibility by December 31, 2009. Most of the state's more than 500 court facilities have been transferred to the judicial branch, and the AOC's Office of Court Construction and Management has already begun work on renovating or replacing more than 50 courthouses, primarily using funds from court users rather than the state's general fund.

Assuming responsibility for constructing, renovating, and maintaining the state's courthouses and other facilities has been a major goal of the Judicial Council, the policymaking body of the California courts. Two other goals have already been achieved—state funding of the trial courts and unification of the superior and municipal courts into a single-level trial court system.

The three goals are part of a series of historic reforms accomplished by the Judicial Council over the last 12 years as part of an effort to establish the judiciary as a separate and equal branch of California government.

Tuesday's announcement will include background on the court transfers to date as well as background on the history and purpose of the transfers.

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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.