



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Fresno Celebrates Groundbreaking for Juvenile Court Facility Today**

### ***State and County Collaborate on New Court Facility***

Fresno—Officials of Fresno County and the state judicial branch today are celebrating the first day of construction of the new, modern Juvenile Court Facility at a groundbreaking ceremony at 3333 East American Avenue at Highway 99. The ceremony was held this morning.

“The new Juvenile Court Facility will be a tremendous addition to the Fresno justice system,” said Ms. Tamara Beard, Court Executive Officer of the Superior Court of Fresno County. “This is a joint project of Fresno County and the judicial branch—and one that we have been working on for several years. Everyone is thrilled that we are finally starting construction of this important facility.”

“The judicial branch is pleased to be initiating a new partnership between Fresno County and the state,” said Ms. Kim Davis, Director of the Office of Court Construction and Management, Administrative Office of the Courts. “Together, we can make great strides in improving the infrastructure of the California court system.”

In addition to Ms. Davis, speakers at the ceremony included Mr. Bob Waterston, Chairman, Fresno County Board of Supervisors; Mr. Bart Bohn, County Administrative Officer; Justice Brad Hill, Court of Appeal, Fifth Appellate District; and Presiding Judge Denise Whitehead, Juvenile Delinquency Court, Superior Court of Fresno County.

The Juvenile Court Facility will be two-story, 121,076-square foot facility with public and staff parking. The ground floor will consist of offices primarily for Fresno County departments such as the district attorney, public defender, and county counsel, with a child care facility for families attending court proceedings.

The second floor will be devoted to Fresno court operations and will

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include space for six courtrooms and support facilities. Four courtrooms will be completed in this phase of the project and two will be shelled for future expansion.

The Trial Court Facilities Act was signed into law in 2002 and is designed to ensure that all Californians have equal access to safe, secure, and adequate court facilities. The law implements the key recommendation of the statewide Task Force on Court Facilities—that the state assume full responsibility for ownership and maintenance of court facilities.

To learn more about the state’s court construction projects, visit the California Courts Web site at <http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/occm/> . .

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