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New Stockton Courthouse Site Receives State Green Light *Site Selected for New Courthouse to Meet Community Needs*

San Francisco—The State Public Works Board (SPWB) today approved the acquisition of a site in downtown Stockton for the planned new courthouse for the Superior Court of San Joaquin County. The site is Hunter Square Plaza, adjacent to the current courthouse at 222 East Weber Avenue. The site is owned by the City of Stockton, which formally agreed on August 18, 2009, to donate the property for the courthouse to the state Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), which is responsible for construction of the new courthouse.

“The court and the community it serves are pleased the project has moved beyond this important milestone,” said Presiding Judge William Murray of the San Joaquin County court. “Our current courthouse is unsafe, undersized, and deficient in many ways. We are hoping we do not have to do business in our current facility a minute longer than necessary. We thank the City of Stockton for its donation. We also thank the AOC for recognizing the community’s desire to build the new courthouse in Hunter Square, the location that will best serve the community into the future.”

The new 282,763-square-foot facility will house 30 courtrooms in what is expected to be a 12-story building. The AOC will proceed with architectural design of the new courthouse on the Hunter Square site. The agency has selected the architectural firm NBBJ for the courthouse. Architectural design is expected to take nearly two years. Construction is expected to begin in mid-to late 2011.

The courthouse project, with a total estimated cost of \$259.9 million, is scheduled for completion in fall 2013. Project funding comes from State Court Facilities Construction Fund, from court fees and fines, not the state’s General Fund.

More about the project can be found on the California Courts Web site:
www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/occm/projects_sanjoaquin.htm.

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