



NEWS RELEASE NR 57-09
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New Long Beach Courthouse Site Acquisition Approved

San Francisco—The State Public Works Board (SPWB) has approved acquisition of the site for the new Long Beach courthouse. The site is approximately six acres located northwest of the existing courthouse, bounded by West Broadway, Magnolia Avenue, West 3rd Street, and Maine Avenue. The property is currently owned by the Long Beach Redevelopment Agency. On August 31, 2009, the Long Beach City Council approved a property exchange agreement in which the city will provide the new building site plus a financial contribution to the court building project in exchange for title to the existing Long Beach Courthouse property, which will be vacated when the new court building is complete.

Site acquisition approval is a major milestone toward replacing one of the worst courthouses in California in terms of security, overcrowding, and physical condition. The current courthouse, built in 1959, does not meet the current needs of the Superior Court of Los Angeles County and is physically incapable of meeting the growing demand for court services in the Long Beach area.

In August, the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) completed environmental review of the new courthouse project under the California Environmental Quality Act, concluding that the project's environmental impact could be made less than significant with specific mitigation measures.

The new Long Beach courthouse is the first for which the AOC is using an innovative arrangement called performance-based infrastructure, in which a private consortium will be engaged to finance, design, build, operate, and maintain the new court building under detailed requirements developed by the agency. Three competing teams will deliver proposals, with an initial deadline in late October for their plans to design, build, operate, and maintain the building. Financing and commercial elements of the proposals are due in late November. The AOC will evaluate the proposals based not only on compliance with the Judicial Council's construction requirements, but also on their financial value, quality of design, and efficient operational practices. The AOC expects to select a development consortium early in 2010. Construction is scheduled to begin in mid-2010 and complete in fall 2012.

More information about the project is at:

www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/occm/projects_lalongbeach.htm

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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.