



NEWS RELEASE NR 71-09

Contact: Philip R. Carrizosa, 415-865-8044

Daisy Yee, 415-865-8929

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 16, 2009

Preferred Site Selected for New Yuba City Courthouse

Site on Civic Center Boulevard Adjacent to County Jail

San Francisco—The State Public Works Board (SPWB) has approved the selection of a site in Yuba City for a proposed new courthouse for the Superior Court of Sutter County. The site, approximately 3.5 acres at 1077 Civic Center Boulevard within a larger county-owned parcel, has long been set aside as the preferred site for a new courthouse. The proposed new building will house seven courtrooms and will consolidate operations from three inadequate facilities—the historic Sutter County Courthouse (Courthouse West), the Annex, or Courthouse East, and a leased facility that serves as the Family Law Center.

The proposed project is being funded by Senate Bill 1407. SB 1407 was enacted by the state Legislature last year to authorize up to \$5 billion in funding for 41 court facilities using court user fees rather than the state's general fund. A new courthouse for the Sutter Superior Court is one of the first 15 such projects approved to move forward and is ranked in the "immediate need" priority category for capital projects for the judicial branch of California. All three locations have significant security problems, severe accessibility deficiencies, are very overcrowded, and have many physical problems.

The approved site, part of Yuba City's civic center, has been set aside for the new courthouse for many years, and the jail already has a partially built tunnel to the proposed location of the new courthouse. The state expects to acquire the land from the County by way of an equity exchange in which the County would receive the court's equity in the Courthouse East building. Approval of the site by the SPWB clears the way for the Administrative Office of the Courts to proceed with the equity exchange agreement and to determine what environmental assessment is needed under the California Environmental Quality Act.

The proposed courthouse site includes space for the building, of approximately 78,000 square feet, secured parking for judges, and 220 parking spaces for court visitors and staff. The courthouse project, with a total estimated cost of \$104.7 million, is scheduled for completion in fall 2013.

More about the project can be found on the California Courts Web site:

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

###

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.