



NEWS RELEASE NR 74-09
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Potential Sites for New Red Bluff Courthouse Announced

San Francisco—Two potential sites for a new courthouse in Red Bluff are currently being considered, the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) announced today. The sites under consideration include:

- 1230 Hook Road (directly north of the County of Tehama Juvenile Justice Center, the Tehama County Health Services Agency, and St. Mary's Cemetery), currently owned by the County of Tehama; and
- Vista Way and South Jackson, currently in private ownership.

The state has been seeking a site of between four and six acres for the new courthouse. Both candidate sites are considerably larger and will require the current owner to designate a portion for the courthouse. The county-owned site would involve a property exchange in which the county would receive equity in the Red Bluff Courthouse Annex in exchange for the property and a cash payment reflecting the difference in value between the two.

The potential sites came out of an extensive site selection process conducted by the AOC, which manages the project, and the Superior Court of Tehama County. Following the Judicial Council's standard site selection policy, the AOC worked with the court to customize a set of objective criteria that will be used to evaluate potential sites. These criteria were then validated by the Project Advisory Group, which represents the community and provides advisory input to the AOC and the court.

The short-listed sites will be scored and ranked against the criteria in order to make the selection process as objective and thorough as possible. The site selection process is still in its early stages, and it is possible that the sites under current consideration may not be selected for any of a variety of reasons. Should that occur, the project team may revisit other potential sites considered earlier in the process or new sites not yet considered.

Once a preferred site and one or more alternate sites are selected and approved by the State Public Works Board, the project team will conduct an environmental assessment under the California Environmental Quality Act before acquiring a site. Site selection and acquisition typically take between one and two years, depending on the complexity of the required environmental assessments, but the project team will accelerate the schedule if possible.

The proposed project would house five courtrooms in approximately 52,300 square feet. It would resolve significant overcrowding, as well as functional and security deficiencies, by consolidating and replacing five court facilities: four in downtown Red Bluff, including the space in the historic Tehama Courthouse, and one in Corning. The new courthouse project, with an estimated total cost of \$78.1 million, was ranked as an “immediate need” in the judicial branch’s capital-outlay plan and is among the branch’s highest-priority infrastructure projects. It is among 41 projects to be funded by Senate Bill 1407, which finances critically needed courthouse construction, renovation, and repair through a portion of judicial branch fees and penalties. The AOC also recently announced selection of the Sacramento-based architecture firm of LPAS to design the new Red Bluff courthouse. The project is scheduled for completion in mid-2014.

More information about the project:

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

Judicial Council’s Site Selection and Acquisition Policy for Judicial Branch Facilities:

www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/occm/documents/site_selection_acquisition_policy.pdf

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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.