



NEWS RELEASE OC 02-11
Contact: Teresa Ruano, 415-865-7447

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 14, 2011

Site Finalized for New Indio Juvenile and Family Courthouse

SAN FRANCISCO—The State Public Works Board (SPWB) today approved the acquisition of a site in Indio for the new juvenile and family courthouse in the Desert Region of eastern Riverside County. The four-acre property is between Oasis Street and Avenue 48 adjoining the juvenile hall. The state will also acquire the county's interest in the existing courthouse, which will be demolished after construction of the new courthouse. The site is served by the regional public bus system, and public parking is also available.

On December 7, 2010, the Riverside County Board of Supervisors approved the sale of the land to the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), which is managing the project, for approximately \$2.8 million. SPWB approval clears the way for close of escrow on the property, expected by mid-February 2011, as well as for architectural design.

“Placing the new courthouse in close proximity to the current Juvenile Hall, rather than transporting juveniles to a courthouse located miles away from the current site, will prove to be a major cost savings to the citizens of the county over the years to come. The state has made a wise decision today,” said Presiding Judge Sherrill A. Ellsworth, speaking on behalf of the Superior Court of Riverside County. “Additionally, the decision to dedicate a court facility to family and juvenile matters will also prove to be effective, in terms of convenience, efficiency, and security.”

The new courthouse will consolidate all juvenile and family court services in a single five-courtroom facility. Currently, juvenile court services are provided in the old and overcrowded Indio Juvenile Court building with only two courtrooms, while family court services are provided in two courtrooms in the Larson Justice Center, nearly a mile away.

The AOC is proceeding with the architectural design, for which it has engaged the Southern California architecture firm of Frank R. Webb Architects. The architects have developed test fits of the building on the site, and design is expected to proceed through early 2013, with construction to start in mid-2013. The courthouse project is scheduled for completion in late 2014.

The new courthouse project, with an estimated total cost of \$65.8 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 funded by Senate Bill 1407, which finances critically needed courthouse construction, renovation, and repair through a portion of judicial branch fees, penalties, and assessments, without reliance on the state's General Fund.

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The AOC is also developing two other courthouses in Riverside County. For the new six-courtroom Banning Justice Center, the architect's working drawings are nearly complete and will be presented to the Banning City Council on January 25, 2011. Groundbreaking is expected in mid-2011, with construction scheduled for completion in fall 2013. Site selection is also under way for a planned nine-courtroom facility to replace the overcrowded courthouse in Hemet.

More information about the projects is on the California Courts website at www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/occm/projects.htm.

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