



NEWS RELEASE OC 05-10
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Site Approved for New Indio Juvenile and Family Courthouse *Major Step Toward Improving Services*

San Francisco—The State Public Works Board (SPWB) has approved the selection of the preferred site for the planned new juvenile and family courthouse in the Desert Region of eastern Riverside County.

The new courthouse, to be located in Indio, will consolidate all juvenile and family court services in a single five-courtroom facility near the existing county juvenile hall, which will make it easy to transport juveniles to the courthouse. The site, approximately four acres located between Oasis Street and Avenue 48 in Indio, is served by the regional public bus system, and public parking is also available.

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 existing juvenile courthouse is now overcrowded and is among the worst in the state in terms of security.

This project, with an estimated total cost of \$84.4 million, was ranked as an “immediate need” in the judicial branch’s capital-outlay plan and is one of the branch’s highest-priority infrastructure projects. The new courthouse is funded by Senate Bill 1407, enacted by the state Legislature in 2008 to provide up to \$5 billion in funding for 41 new court facilities using court user fees rather than the state’s General Fund.

Site selection approval enables the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), which manages the project, to negotiate acquisition details with the county. A privately held alternate site was approved by the SPWB in November 2009. The AOC typically proceeds with a preferred and an alternate site through due diligence and acquisition negotiations until a final site decision is made.

The Southern California architecture firm of Frank R. Webb Architects has been selected to design the new courthouse. Once contract negotiations are completed, the architectural team will begin preliminary space programming and test fits of the project on the site. The project is scheduled for completion in fall 2014, although the project team is working to accelerate this schedule if possible.

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

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