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New Hollister Courthouse Design Receives Approval

San Francisco—The State Public Works Board (SPWB) has approved preliminary plans for the New Hollister Courthouse, bringing the long-awaited project one step closer to the start of construction. The new building will be a two-story, 41,500-square-foot structure that includes space for three courtrooms, a jury assembly room, a centrally located public counter for civil and criminal issues, family court services, court administration, security operations, a holding area, and facility support space.

The design, by architecture firm SmithGroup, incorporates several energy-efficient and conservation measures that will make the building environmentally sustainable. The building's features will qualify it to receive Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver certification by the U.S. Green Building Council.

The approval by SPWB Wednesday marks completion of the preliminary plans phase and enables the project to move into working drawings. Kitchell Contractors, Inc., the construction-manager-at-risk for the courthouse, is scheduled to solicit bids for construction in winter 2010, with prequalification to begin in summer 2010. Before that, Kitchell will perform local outreach to ensure that local qualified subcontractors and local suppliers have the opportunity to participate. Construction is scheduled to begin in February 2011 and be completed in fall 2012. The \$36.2 million project, managed by the Administrative Office of the Courts, was funded from the State Court Facilities Construction Fund rather than drawing on the state's General Fund.

Project information can be found on the California Courts Web site at www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/occm/projects_sanbenito.htm.

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