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Architect Selected for New Hemet Courthouse

SAN FRANCISCO—The Los Angeles office of international architecture firm Perkins+Will has been selected to design the new Hemet Courthouse, the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) announced today. The proposed project, which is in the earliest phase of site selection, will provide a new 9-courtroom building to replace the 1969 facility that is overcrowded, substandard in size, and physically deficient. The proposed project would provide the Superior Court of Riverside County with a full-service facility to securely accommodate criminal trials and provide jury assembly and deliberation rooms, an adequately sized self-help center, a children's waiting room, and attorney interview/witness waiting rooms in the Hemet area.

This project was ranked in the "immediate need" category of the judicial branch's capital-outlay plan, making it among the branch's highest-priority infrastructure projects. The project is currently in site selection. The local Court and AOC are reviewing potential sites; site selection will be validated by a local project advisory group. Once engaged, the architecture team can begin preliminary space programming, but architectural design must wait until a site is selected and acquisition is approved by the State Public Works Board. Site selection and acquisition typically take a year or more. The project is scheduled for completion in first quarter 2016.

Perkins+Will has developed a leading architecture practice in North America since 1935, and has extensive experience in Southern California. The firm's design experience spans civic and cultural, corporate and commercial, healthcare, education, and more. In April 2010, *ARCHITECT* Magazine ranked Perkins+Will number two for its commitment to sustainability and green design. Among its Southern California buildings are the Rampart Station and Harbor Station for the Los Angeles Police Department, House Ear Institute, Wallis Annenberg Research Center, and the Neuroscience Research Building, University of California, Los Angeles.

The new Hemet courthouse 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, penalties, and assessments, without reliance on the state's General Fund. To date, 36 architectural firms have been selected or hired for trial court capital projects in the AOC's courthouse construction program. The overall program will create thousands more jobs in local communities as the projects proceed through design and construction over the next five years.

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

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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.