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Architect Selected for New North Tahoe Area Courthouse

SAN FRANCISCO—The California architecture firm of Williams + Paddon has been selected to design the new North Tahoe Area Courthouse, the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) announced today. The proposed project, which is in the earliest phase of site selection, will replace the court's inadequate space in the current courthouse with a modern, secure, adequately sized courthouse. The court occupies just over 2,000 square feet in the current Tahoe Courthouse, which is shared with the Sheriff's Department, jail, and District Attorney's Office, and the current building has numerous deficiencies in security, access, efficiency, and accessibility under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

"The court is very pleased with the selection of Williams + Paddon as the architect for the new North Tahoe Courthouse," said Presiding Judge Alan V. Pineschi of the Superior Court of Placer County. "We believe their experience is ideal for the unique design needs of a courthouse serving the beautiful and unique Lake Tahoe Area. We look forward to working with the AOC and Williams + Paddon in completing this critically needed project."

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, AOC, and a project advisory group that includes members of the local community are reviewing potential sites. 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 spring 2015.

Roseville-based Williams + Paddon brings broad experience to the project, having designed a range of buildings throughout California including civic, educational, corporate, and industrial projects. The firm also has a strong focus on sustainable design, and among its projects are some of the very few California buildings to achieve LEED Platinum certification, the highest ranking by the U.S. Green Building Council. The firm is already working with the AOC on a courthouse in Los Banos for the Superior Court of Merced County.

The new North Tahoe 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_tahoe.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.