



MEDIA ADVISORY OC 17-10
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Public Meeting and Invitation to Comment on New San Diego Central Courthouse Environmental Scoping

What: A public meeting hosted by the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) will present information about the new San Diego Central Courthouse, including details about the proposed site in downtown San Diego, 1.4 acres bounded by West “C” Street, Union Street, West “B” Street, and State Street.

This scoping meeting is a preliminary step in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process. The AOC has begun preparation of an environmental impact report (EIR) for the project in accordance with CEQA. At the meeting, the public and other interested parties will have an opportunity to comment on the AOC’s notice of preparation (NOP), which describes the proposed project and its potential environmental effects. The AOC is expanding on an NOP completed by San Diego County in 2000 for a similar replacement courthouse. Once completed this summer, the draft EIR also will be published for public review and comment.

The NOP review period extends to June 2, 2010, so those unable to attend the meeting may also review the document and comment independently. Both versions of the NOP and instructions for submitting comments are available on the California Courts Web site at:
www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/occm/projects_sandiego.htm.

When: Tuesday, May 18, 2010, 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Where: Downtown Information Center, 193 Horton Plaza (above CVS Pharmacy), San Diego

Who: The AOC’s Office of Court Construction and Management will present an overview of the project and solicit public input on the scope of the EIR. Interested parties may present comments at the meeting or submit written comments.

Why: The proposed project would replace the County Courthouse, the Family Courthouse, and the Madge Bradley Courthouse in downtown San Diego. These buildings have been found to be unsafe, overcrowded, and inadequate for modern court operations. The project, with an estimated total cost of \$633.9 million, will be funded by Senate Bill 1407, which finances critically needed courthouse construction, renovation, and repair through a portion of judicial branch fees, fines, and penalties, with no impact on the state’s General Fund.

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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.