



NEWS RELEASE OC 20-11
Contact: Philip Carrizosa, 415-865-8044

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 11, 2011

Site Finalized for New Woodland Courthouse

SAN FRANCISCO—The State Public Works Board (SPWB) today approved the acquisition of a site in Woodland for the new courthouse for the Superior Court of Yolo County. The new courthouse will be located in the city block bounded by Main, Fifth, and Sixth Streets and Lincoln Avenue. On March 1, 2011, the Woodland City Council approved sale of the 3.75-acre property for \$3.4 million, its appraised value, to the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), the agency responsible for building the new courthouse. The Woodland Redevelopment Agency has expedited the state's purchase of the land to create a convenient, accessible location in downtown Woodland for the new courthouse.

“This important milestone means we're another big step closer to building the much-needed new courthouse in downtown Woodland,” said David Rosenberg, Presiding Judge of the Superior Court of Yolo County. “We've worked hard with our city and county partners and the AOC to reach this midpoint in the process. The people of Yolo County will be well served when, in due course, we open their new courthouse.”

Court Executive Officer James B. Perry said, “We owe our success to the leadership of the project advisory group (PAG).” The California Rules of Court require the AOC, in consultation with the leadership of the local court, to establish and work with an advisory group on all issues involved in the construction of a new courthouse, from site selection to occupancy. Members of the PAG are Presiding Judge David Rosenberg, Judge Timothy L. Fall, Court Executive Officer James B. Perry, Assistant Court Executive Officer Shawn Landry, Woodland City Manager Mark Deven, Project Manager Mike Smith from the AOC Office of Courthouse Construction and Management, and now-retired Ray Groom, General Services Department Head for Yolo County. Mr. Perry added, “We look forward to designing a courthouse that will provide adequate security and access for all court users.”

The new 14-courtroom courthouse will be approximately 163,000 square feet, consolidating seven unsafe and overcrowded court facilities into a single building, with adjacent parking. The AOC is also finalizing negotiations with Union Pacific Railroad for a parking lot at Lincoln Avenue and Sixth Street, across the street from the new courthouse.

SPWB approval clears the way for close of escrow on the property, expected by mid-April 2011. The AOC is proceeding with architectural design, for which it has engaged the partnership of Fentress Architects, in association with Dreyfuss & Blackford Architects.

(more)

Design is expected to proceed through 2012, with construction scheduled to start in early 2013. The courthouse project, with a total estimated cost of \$165.3 million, is scheduled for completion in late 2014 or early 2015. The new Woodland courthouse is among 41 projects funded by Senate Bill 1407 (2008), which finances critically needed courthouse construction, renovation, and repair through a portion of judicial branch fees, penalties, and assessments. These projects do not draw from the state's General Fund.

More information about the project can be found on the California Courts website at www.courts.ca.gov/2793.htm.

#

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.