



NEWS RELEASE OC 21-10
Contact: Daisy Yee, 415-865-8929

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 17, 2010

New San Andreas Courthouse Design Approved

San Francisco—The State Public Works Board (SPWB) has approved preliminary plans for the New San Andreas Courthouse, bringing the long-awaited project one step closer to the start of construction. The new building will house four courtrooms in 44,600 square feet, replacing the court's space in the Legal Building, which is shared with the county, and an adjacent modular unit. The new courthouse will be located on a site north of the county government campus, adjacent to the site of a proposed new county jail, to which it will be connected. The site will also include 278 surface parking spaces for court visitors and staff.

"We are very pleased with the progress of the design of our new courthouse and look forward to its completion," said Douglas Mewhinney, Presiding Judge of the Superior Court of Calaveras County. "The new facility will greatly enhance the court's ability to safely and more efficiently serve the needs of our community."

The design, by the architecture firm of DLR, situates the building at the top of a sparsely wooded knoll. To minimize the building's impact to the natural setting and preserve surrounding oak woodlands, the architecture team kept the building's footprint compact with a two-story design. The first floor will include jury assembly, clerk services, and court offices organized around a natural-light-filled, two-story entry lobby and great hall. The four courtrooms and associated spaces will be on the second floor. The building has been designed with attention to sustainability. Energy-efficiency features include a solar panel array on the roof and a system to store ice at night, taking advantage of off-peak power to minimize energy use in the building's air-conditioning system. The building's sustainability features will qualify it to receive LEED Silver certification by the U.S. Green Building Council. The building design has been recognized by the American Institute of Architects' Academy of Architecture for Justice, receiving an award of merit in the *2010 Justice Facilities Review*.

SPWB approval marks completion of design development and enables the project to move into working drawings. Construction is scheduled to begin in spring 2011 and be completed in fall 2012. The \$43.5 million project, managed by the Administrative Office of the Courts, is funded from within the judicial branch by a portion of fees, assessments, and penalties, rather than drawing on the state's General Fund.

Project information, including architect's renderings, can be found on the California Courts Web site: www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/occm/projects_calaveras.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.