



NEWS RELEASE OC 22-10
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Preferred Site Approved for New Redding Courthouse

San Francisco—The State Public Works Board (SPWB) today approved selection of the preferred site for a proposed new courthouse in downtown Redding for the Superior Court of Shasta County. The site is approximately five acres at Oregon and Yuba Streets, less than a block from the current courthouse, the Shasta County Jail and Justice Center, and county administration offices. It is in close proximity to other justice partners and served by nearby public transportation.

“The new Shasta County Courthouse represents one of many branchwide efforts to provide all Californians with safe and efficient access to justice. Today’s approval of the Oregon Street site represents another important step in moving closer to the completion of a much needed, and long overdue, modern courthouse in this community,” said Presiding Judge Stephen Baker of the Superior Court of Shasta County. “We especially appreciate the efforts of the City of Redding and the County of Shasta helping to obtain SPWB approval, and we look forward to the completion of site acquisition as soon as possible.”

The preferred site involves seven parcels currently owned by Shasta County, one parcel owned by the Union Pacific Railroad, and five individually owned parcels. Today’s approval by the SPWB enables the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), which manages the project, to begin environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act and to initiate formal acquisition negotiations with the city and county, with the assistance of the Redding Redevelopment Agency.

The property is within the Market Street Redevelopment project area. The City of Redding Redevelopment Agency has offered to secure acquisition rights to the privately owned parcels and assign those rights to the AOC, enabling the AOC to acquire those parcels for the courthouse site. The county has offered to relocate the County Public Safety Building at 1525 Court Street and relinquish parking space on the remaining parcels. The state will enter into an equity exchange agreement with the county. The proposed equity exchange will be based on the fair market values of the county parcels and the state’s equity in the current Main Courthouse and Annex. The AOC expects to complete site acquisition in spring 2011.

The site selection process began last summer with a list of 18 potential sites, later narrowed to four sites, which were recommended by the Project Advisory Group. The AOC process typically includes a preferred and alternate site until environmental reviews are complete and a final site decision is made. The AOC expects to submit an alternate site for SPWB approval at a later date, but no action on the alternate site will be taken unless some unforeseen obstacle prevents the AOC from completing acquisition of the preferred site.

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The proposed new courthouse will consolidate all adult and juvenile court operations from the Main Courthouse and Annex, the Justice Center, and the Juvenile Court into one location housing 14 courtrooms in approximately 173,350 square feet. The proposed project is ranked as an “immediate need” on the Judicial Council’s list of capital-outlay projects. It will be funded by Senate Bill 1407, enacted in 2008 to provide up to \$5 billion in funding for 41 new and renovated courthouses using court user fees rather than the state’s General Fund.

The architecture firm of NBBJ has been selected to design the new Redding courthouse. Once contract negotiations are completed, the architecture firm will begin validating space and functional needs and developing test fits on the proposed site, but architectural design must await acquisition approval by the SPWB. The courthouse project is scheduled for completion in fall 2014.

More about the project can be found on the California Courts Web site at www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/occm/projects_shastaredding.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.