



NEWS RELEASE OC 25-10
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Environmental Review Completed for Woodland Courthouse Project

San Francisco—The new Woodland courthouse reached another milestone yesterday, with completion of environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) filed its final environmental report and notice on April 20, 2010, and the 30-day statute of limitations ended yesterday. Compliance with CEQA allows the AOC to proceed with site acquisition and construction of the courthouse.

Presiding Judge Dave Rosenberg stated “We have now reached an important benchmark in realizing a new courthouse in downtown Woodland. What an achievement for the citizens of Yolo County; certainly something worth celebrating.”

Court Executive Officer Jim Perry said, “The groundwork is now ready for acquisition of the properties and the design phase of the project.”

The City of Woodland is assisting the AOC in assembling and acquiring the courthouse site on the block bounded by Main, Fifth and Sixth Streets, and Lincoln Avenue. A team that includes the California firm of Dreyfuss & Blackford Architects and the Denver-based firm of Fentress Architects has been selected to design the new courthouse. Once contract negotiations are completed, the architects will validate space and functional needs and develop test fits on the site, but architectural design must await acquisition approval by the State Public Works Board. The AOC expects to complete site acquisition in fall 2010, nearly a year ahead of schedule.

The new Woodland courthouse for the Superior Court of Yolo County will replace seven court facilities which are overcrowded and have poor security and physical/access problems. The project is funded by Senate Bill 1407, which finances critically needed courthouse construction, renovation, and repair through court fees, fines, and penalties, with no impact on the state’s General Fund. Completion is expected in 2014.

More information on the project: www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/occm/projects_yolo.htm

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