



**NEWS RELEASE** OC 33-10  
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## **Architect Selected for New Delano Courthouse**

SAN FRANCISCO—The California architecture firm of LPA Inc. has been selected to design the new Delano Courthouse, the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) announced today. The proposed project will provide a new three-courtroom courthouse that will replace the badly overcrowded and physically deficient Delano/McFarland Branch Courthouse.

This project, with an estimated total cost of \$41.9 million, was ranked as an “immediate need” in the judicial branch’s capital-outlay plan, making it among the branch’s highest-priority infrastructure projects. The Delano/McFarland Branch Courthouse has experienced a caseload increase of more than 80 percent in the last 10 years; it significantly lacks security features critical for safe operation of criminal caseloads and has many physical problems.

“I was very impressed with the efforts of LPA to understand the unique needs of the Delano/McFarland area,” said Terry McNally, Court Executive Officer, Superior Court of Kern County. “Their design proposal creatively balanced the aesthetics of these communities and the functionality necessary to provide quality court services in a safe environment.”

The new Delano courthouse project is currently in the site selection phase. The local Court, AOC, and a project advisory group that includes members of the local community will meet to review a short list of potential sites. Once engaged, the architecture team can begin preliminary space programming, but architectural design must wait until a site is selected and acquisition is approved by the State Public Works Board. Site selection and acquisition typically take a year or more. The project is scheduled for completion in fall 2014.

LPA is a California-based, integrated design firm founded in 1965. The firm has extensive experience with sustainable design and has completed numerous civic architecture projects statewide. LPA was also recently selected by the AOC to design the new Red Bluff courthouse in Tehama County. LPA intends to serve the Kern County project from their Southern California office in Irvine.

The new Delano courthouse is among the first of 41 projects to be funded by Senate Bill 1407, which finances critically needed courthouse construction, renovation, and repair through a portion of judicial branch fees, penalties, and assessments, without reliance on the state’s General Fund.

More information about the project is at:  
[www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/occm/projects\\_delano.htm](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/occm/projects_delano.htm)

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