



NEWS RELEASE OC 33-10
Contact: Teresa Ruano, 415-865-7447

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 1, 2010

Architect Selected for New Los Banos Courthouse

SAN FRANCISCO—The California architecture firm of Williams + Paddon has been selected to design the new Los Banos Courthouse, the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) announced today. The proposed project, which is in the earliest phase of site selection, will provide a new two-courtroom building to replace the court's space in the current Los Banos Courthouse, a county-owned, shared-use building. The current single-courtroom space is overcrowded, functionally deficient, and significantly lacking in security features to current standards.

"We are very glad to see progress on this new courthouse for the west side of Merced County, and we look forward to working with this architectural firm to begin detail planning," said Kathleen Goetsch, Court Executive Officer of the Superior Court of Merced County.

This project 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 project is currently in site selection. The local Court, AOC, and a project advisory group that includes members of the local community are reviewing 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 winter 2014.

Roseville-based Williams + Paddon brings broad experience to the project, having designed a range of buildings throughout California including civic, educational, corporate, and industrial projects. The firm also has strong focus on sustainable design, and among its projects are some of the very few California buildings to achieve LEED Platinum certification, the highest ranking by the U.S. Green Building Council.

The new Los Banos courthouse is among 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_losbanos.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.