



NEWS RELEASE OC 42-10
Contact: Teresa Ruano, 415-865-7447

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Architect Selected for New Inyo County Courthouse

SAN FRANCISCO—The California architecture firm of Natoma Architects, Inc. has been selected to design the new Inyo County 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 improve access to justice for the residents of Inyo County. The AOC and the Superior Court of Inyo County are exploring various location options for the project, and no decisions about the location have been finalized.

However, the AOC proceeded with architect selection as it has done with other projects that have been authorized for funding through Senate Bill 1407.

“We are thrilled to have Natoma Architects, Inc. join the Inyo County Courthouse design project,” stated Tammy L. Grimm, Court Executive Officer for the Superior Court of Inyo County. “The firm will be instrumental in helping create and design a facility that will be a symbol of justice in our community while providing for the long-term needs of the Inyo County Superior Court for many decades to come.”

San Francisco-based Natoma Architects, Inc., the firm of design principal Stanley Saitowitz, brings broad experience to the project, having designed a range of buildings throughout California including civic/cultural, educational, institutional, and commercial projects, with a strong emphasis on sustainable design. The firm has received national and international recognition for its work. Also among the firm’s strengths that led to its selection for this project is its experience in open public processes, used to gather public input regarding courthouse architecture and design.

Once engaged, the architecture team can begin preliminary space programming and test fits, 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 spring 2014.

The new Inyo County courthouse is among 41 projects to be funded by SB 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_inyo.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.