



**NEWS RELEASE OC 43-11**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Preferred Site Approved for New Sonora Courthouse**

SAN FRANCISCO—The State Public Works Board (SPWB) today approved the selection of a potential site in Tuolumne County for the proposed new Sonora courthouse for the Superior Court of Tuolumne County. The site is approximately 4.33 acres bound by Old Wards Ferry Road and Highway 108.

The potential site, south of Highway 108 just beyond the Sonora city limits, is currently owned by Tuolumne County. It is in an area where the county plans a law and justice center that will also accommodate the jail, offices for the Sheriff and California Highway Patrol, and juvenile facilities.

Before selecting the site, the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), which is managing the project, conducted an open market search and worked with the Project Advisory Group (listed below) to identify site selection criteria. Sites were rated and ranked according to the site criteria, and the PAG then validated selection of the county site as the preferred location. Approval of the site by the SPWB clears the way for the AOC to proceed with negotiations with the County on acquisition and other issues, such as infrastructure, and to determine what environmental assessment is needed under the California Environmental Quality Act. The AOC expects to complete site acquisition by the end of 2011, after which architectural design by the Sacramento firm of Lionakis can proceed.

The proposed new building will house 5 courtrooms in approximately 66,700 square feet, will consolidate operations from three buildings and centralize criminal, civil, traffic, juvenile, and probate proceedings. It will also provide adequate space for services such as jury assembly and deliberation rooms, the self-help center, the children's waiting room, family court mediation, and waiting rooms.

The courthouse project, scheduled for completion in late 2014, is being funded by Senate Bill 1407, enacted by the state Legislature in 2008 to authorize up to \$5 billion for 41 new and renovated court facilities using court user fees rather than the state's General Fund. More information about the project can be found on the California Courts website: [www.courts.ca.gov/2810.htm](http://www.courts.ca.gov/2810.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.*

**New Sonora Courthouse, Superior Court of Tuolumne County  
Project Advisory Group**

Mr. Greg Applegate, City Administrator, City of Sonora

Ms. Jeanne Caughell, Court Executive Officer, Superior Court of California, County of Tuolumne

Hon. Eric L. Du Temple, Presiding Judge, Superior Court of California, County of Tuolumne

Mr. Jon Koster, Administrative Office of the Courts, Office of Court Construction and Management

Mr. Keith Lunney, Tuolumne County Undersheriff, Tuolumne County

Mr. Craig Pedro, County Administrative Officer, Tuolumne County

Mr. Donald Segerstrom, District Attorney, Tuolumne County

Ms. Kate Segerstrom, Attorney, Tuolumne County Bar Association