



NEWS RELEASE OC 44-10
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Project Advisory Group Named for New Ukiah Courthouse

SAN FRANCISCO—The Superior Court of Mendocino County and the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) have named a project advisory group for the proposed new Ukiah courthouse. The proposed project would replace the current Mendocino courthouse, which is overcrowded, functionally deficient, and significantly lacking in security features meeting current standards, as well as the one-courtroom courthouse in Willits, closed at the end of 2009 due to budget constraints.

Members of the advisory group represent a broad base of community-elected officials and leaders in addition to the Superior Court and the AOC. A list of project advisory group members is attached.

The AOC is the staff agency of the Judicial Council, the policymaking body of the California courts. Among its responsibilities, the AOC now manages all courthouses statewide. The AOC is managing all aspects of the proposed new Ukiah courthouse project, working with officials from the court.

The proposed project is currently in the earliest phase of site selection. The project advisory group will provide advice and input to the project, primarily during site selection and design. The site selection process typically takes one to two years. The AOC and the project advisory group will first establish criteria for site selection. The panel will validate a ranking of a short list of potential sites based on these criteria. The AOC will ultimately select preferred and alternate potential sites to be approved by the State Public Works Board. Following that approval, the AOC will conduct environmental work in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act. The public will be invited to review and comment on the draft environmental report.

The proposed project, for a nine-courtroom facility with an estimated total cost of \$119.9 million, is funded by Senate Bill 1407, which finances new and renovated court facilities using court user fees rather than the state's General Fund.

More information about the project: www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/occm/projects_ukiah.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.

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**New Ukiah Courthouse, Superior Court of Mendocino County
Project Advisory Group**

Hon. Thomas D. Allman, Sheriff-Coroner, Mendocino County Sheriff's Office

Mr. Bret Cooperrider, Ukiah Chamber of Commerce

Ms. Caryn Downing, Acting Court Executive Officer, Superior Court of Mendocino County

Hon. Richard Henderson*, Assistant Presiding Judge, Superior Court of Mendocino County

Hon. Mary Anne Landis*, Councilmember, City of Ukiah

Hon. Cindee Mayfield, Presiding Judge, Superior Court of Mendocino County

Hon. John McCowen, Second District Supervisor, Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

Hon. David Nelson, Judge, Superior Court of Mendocino County

Ms. Anne Ording, Project Manager, Administrative Office of the Courts

Mr. Robert Parrott, Information Systems Manager, Superior Court of Mendocino County

Mr. Tim Pearce, Deputy Sheriff, Mendocino County Sheriff's Office

Hon. Mari Rodin, Councilmember, City of Ukiah

Mr. Pano Stephens, Attorney and Member, Mendocino County Bar Association

Ms. Teri Ullrich*, Board Member, Ukiah Chamber of Commerce

*Alternates