



NEWS RELEASE OC 49-11
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Two Potential Sites Approved for New North Tahoe Courthouse

SAN FRANCISCO—The State Public Works Board (SPWB) today approved selection of two potential sites for the proposed new courthouse in North Tahoe. The two sites are:

- The Tahoe Tree Company site, which is the preferred site for the project. The site is bounded by West Lake Boulevard and Granlibakken Road in Tahoe City, in a commercial area near other government facilities. The single parcel is privately owned.
- The Dollar Hill site is bounded by North Lake Boulevard and Lake Forest Road in Tahoe City. The site, currently two privately owned parcels, is located near the existing courthouse/sheriff station building in a commercial area.

“We are pleased the State Public Works Board has approved the potential sites for the new North Tahoe Courthouse,” stated Placer Superior Court Presiding Judge Alan V. Pineschi. “We also want to express our appreciation for the time and effort put into the site selection process by our project advisory group. Their input was invaluable to ensure that we consider not only the needs of the court and legal community but also those of our local citizens, business owners, and visitors. While this is only an initial step, we remain excited about the future facility and the improved access it will bring for the residents and visitors of the North Tahoe area.”

Site selection enables the state Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), which is managing the project, to undertake further due diligence, environmental assessment under the California Environmental Quality Act, and negotiations that will ultimately result in selection of the final site. Final site selection will be validated by the Superior Court of Placer County and the project’s advisory group, which includes representatives from the local business, legal, and resident communities. Site selection, environmental review, and site acquisition, which also requires SPWB approval, is expected to be completed by August 2012, after which architectural design can proceed. The architecture firm of Williams+Paddon has been selected to design the new courthouse.

The proposed project will replace the current Tahoe City courthouse, which is severely undersized and overcrowded and has numerous deficiencies in security, access, efficiency, and accessibility under the Americans with Disabilities Act. The proposed new single-courtroom building will provide adequate space for criminal, civil, traffic, and family law proceedings for Tahoe area residents, as well as self-help services, improvements in court security and holding facilities, and court operations.

The new courthouse project was ranked as an “Immediate Need” in the judicial branch’s capital-outlay plan, making it among the judicial branch’s highest-priority infrastructure projects. It is among 41 projects funded by Senate Bill 1407, which finances critically needed courthouse

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construction, renovation and repair through a portion of judicial branch fees, fines, and penalties, without impact on the state's General Fund.

More about the project may be found at the California Courts website at:

www.courts.ca.gov/5431.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.