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## **Site Acquisition Approved for Santa Barbara Criminal Courthouse**

SAN FRANCISCO—The State Public Works Board (SPWB) today approved the state’s acquisition of the primary parcel needed to keep the new Santa Barbara Criminal Courthouse downtown. The privately owned parcels at 1015–25 and 1028 Santa Barbara Street, commonly called the “Hayward property,” are next to the Figueroa Courthouse, which the new courthouse will replace.

The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), which is managing the courthouse project in collaboration with the Superior Court of Santa Barbara County, completed environmental review of the downtown site in April, but continues negotiations with the County of Santa Barbara on other parcels needed to complete the site for the new courthouse and related parking. Those acquisitions will need to be approved by the SPWB at a later date.

“Our court is deeply appreciative of the diligent efforts of the AOC to facilitate the construction of a new criminal courthouse that is secure and aesthetically pleasing,” said Presiding Judge Brian Hill of the Superior Court of Santa Barbara County. “Our partners share our commitment to the creation of a court building that is an architectural statement which reflects the unparalleled beauty of Santa Barbara.”

The new criminal courthouse will house eight courtrooms within approximately 97,000 square feet. The project will enable the court to consolidate and improve operations for criminal proceedings and significantly enhance security. Unlike the currently inadequate Figueroa building, the new courthouse will have separate, secure corridors for the public, staff, and in-custody defendants. The new building will also include a larger holding facility for in-custody defendants who are daily transported by the sheriff from the main jail for their court appearances.

The proposed project is ranked as an “immediate need” on the Judicial Council’s list of capital-outlay projects. It is being funded by Senate Bill 1407, enacted in 2008 to provide up to \$5 billion in funding for 41 new and renovated courthouses using court fees, penalties, and assessments rather than the state’s General Fund.

The state Budget Act for fiscal year 2011–2012 contains significant cuts to the judicial branch budget in general and to the account that funds SB 1407 projects in particular. These cuts may cause delays in SB 1407 projects, but are not expected to affect the site acquisition approved today.

More information on the project can be found on the California Courts website at:  
[www.courts.ca.gov/facilities-santabarbara.htm](http://www.courts.ca.gov/facilities-santabarbara.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.*