



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA • ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS
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NEWS RELEASE OC 55-10

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Project Advisory Group Named for New Modesto Courthouse

SAN FRANCISCO—The Superior Court of Stanislaus County and the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) have named a project advisory group for the proposed new Modesto courthouse. The proposed \$278 million project would replace seven facilities, including the current Modesto Courthouse and Hall of Records, three leased facilities in downtown Modesto, and two small single-courtroom branch courts in Ceres and Turlock.

Members of the advisory group represent a broad base of community officials and leaders, in addition to the superior court and the AOC. A list of project advisory group members is attached.

The project advisory group will provide advice and input to the project, primarily during site selection and design. The proposed project is currently in the earliest phase of site selection and acquisition, which typically takes one to two years. Throughout November 2010, the AOC will be soliciting potential properties of three acres for the proposed 26-courtroom facility and related parking. The project advisory group will validate a list of site selection criteria and a ranking of a short list of potential sites based on those criteria. The AOC and the court 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 AOC is the staff agency of the Judicial Council, the policymaking body of the California courts. Among its responsibilities, the AOC now manages courthouses statewide and, working with officials from the court, is managing all aspects of the proposed new Modesto courthouse project.

The proposed project 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 is available at www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/occm/projects_modesto.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 Modesto Courthouse, Superior Court of Stanislaus County
Project Advisory Group**

Mr. Eric Benson, President, JS West & Companies; Modesto Chamber of Commerce

Ms. Vivian Bowen, Chief Financial Officer, Superior Court of Stanislaus County

Mr. Alan Cassidy, Chief Deputy District Attorney, Stanislaus County

Hon. Ricardo Cordova, Assistant Presiding Judge, Superior Court of Stanislaus County

Ms Maureen Keller, Chief Deputy Public Defender, Stanislaus County

Mr. Tim Fedorchak, Senior Management Consultant, Stanislaus County

Ms. Rebecca Fleming, Assistant Executive Officer, Superior Court of Stanislaus County

Ms. S. Pearl Freeman, Senior Project Manager, AOC

Lt. Cliff Harper, Court Services and Civil Division Commander, Stanislaus County Sheriff's
Department

Mr. Russ Konig, Associate Project Manager, AOC

Hon. Jack M. Jacobson, Presiding Judge, Superior Court of Stanislaus County

Mr. Matthew K. Hawkins, Partner, McCormick Barstow LLP, representing the Stanislaus County
Bar Association

Mr. Steven Mitchell, Principal Planner, City of Modesto

Mr. George Osner, Principal, AICP Urban Planning

Mr. Brent Sinclair, Director of Community and Economic Development, City of Modesto

Ms. Linda Romero-Soles, Assistant Executive Officer, Superior Court of Stanislaus County

Mr. Michael Tozzi, Executive Officer; Superior Court of Stanislaus County

Ms. Patricia Hill Thomas, Chief Operations Officer, Stanislaus County

Hon. Loretta M. Begen, Assistant Presiding Judge, Superior Court of Stanislaus County