



**NEWS RELEASE** OC 56-10

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Potential Sites Selected for Delano Courthouse**

SAN FRANCISCO—Two potential sites are currently under consideration for a new courthouse in Delano, Kern County, the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) announced today. The site short list includes:

- A site between 9th and 11th Avenues and Glenwood and Fremont Streets owned by the Delano Redevelopment Agency; and
- A site at Woollomes Avenue and South Lexington Street, west of the Delano Municipal Airport.

“The construction of a new courthouse, wherever it is ultimately located, can be a catalyst to revitalize that area by creating an anchor and landmark for the community,” said Presiding Judge Robert S. Tafoya, Superior Court of Kern County.

The two potential sites came out of an extensive site selection process conducted by the AOC, which is managing the project, and the Superior Court of Kern County. Following the Judicial Council’s standard site selection policy, the AOC worked with the court to customize a set of objective criteria that will be used to evaluate potential sites. These criteria were then validated by the New Delano Courthouse Project Advisory Group, which represents the community and provides advisory input to the AOC and the court. A list of Project Advisory Group members is attached.

The project team considered and toured several potential sites before narrowing the list to the shortlisted sites, also endorsed by the project advisory group. The most likely sites were scored and ranked against the criteria to make the selection process as objective and thorough as possible. Notably, the site selection process is still in its early stages, and for a variety of reasons, it is possible that none of the current sites under consideration may work out. Should that occur, the project team may revisit other potential sites considered earlier in the process or entirely new sites.

Once the preferred site and alternate sites are selected and approved by the State Public Works Board, the project team will conduct an environmental assessment under the California Environmental Quality Act before acquiring a site. Site selection and acquisition typically take between one and two years, depending on the complexity of the required environmental assessments, but the project team will accelerate the schedule if possible. The process seeks to balance the need for thorough consideration of all potential sites with the need to meet the project’s schedule and budget, as well as the project team’s desire to take advantage of the current favorable construction market and move the project quickly to the stage where it can provide much-needed local construction jobs.

(more)

The proposed project will house three courtrooms in approximately 40,000 square feet. It will replace the existing Delano courthouse, which has experienced a caseload increase of more than 80 percent in the past 10 years. The existing courthouse lacks security features critical for safe handling of criminal caseloads and is badly overcrowded.

The new courthouse project, with an estimated total cost of \$41.9 million, 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 to be funded by Senate Bill 1407, which finances critically needed courthouse construction, renovation, and repair through judicial branch fees, fines, and penalties. Earlier this year, the AOC announced the selection of California-based architecture firm LPA Inc. to design the new Delano courthouse.

The local contacts for questions are Presiding Judge Robert Tafoya and Court Executive Officer Terry McNally, Superior Court of Kern County, 661-868-4957.

More information about the project is at  
[www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/occm/projects\\_delano.htm](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/occm/projects_delano.htm).

The Judicial Council’s Site Selection and Acquisition Policy for Judicial Branch Facilities is at  
[www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/occm/documents/site\\_selection\\_acquisition\\_policy.pdf](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/occm/documents/site_selection_acquisition_policy.pdf).

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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 Delano Courthouse Project Advisory Group

Mr. Vince Adams, Acting Associate Warden, North Kern State Prison

Mr. Jerry Avalos, Project Manager, AOC Office of Court Construction and Management (OCCM)

Mr. Dale Brakebill\*, Acting Captain, North Kern State Prison

Hon. Michael Bush, Assistant Presiding Judge, Superior Court of Kern County

Ms. Maria Castaneda, Regional Operations Manager, Superior Court of Kern County

Ms. Kim Davis, Manager, OCCM

Ms. Martha Florin, Assistant Court Executive Officer, Superior Court of Kern County

Mr. Jeff Frapwell, Assistant County Administrative Officer, Kern County

Hon. David Lampe, Judge, Superior Court of Kern County

Ms. Carla Lapadula, Executive Director, Delano Chamber of Commerce

Mr. Terry McNally, Court Executive Officer, Superior Court of Kern County

Ms. Dyane McPhetridge,\* Court Supervisor, Superior Court of Kern County

Mr. Jon McQuiston, Board of Supervisors, District 1, Kern County

Ms. Bobbie Papion, Court Facilities Manager, Superior Court of Kern County

Hon. Robert Tafoya, Presiding Judge, Superior Court of Kern County

Mr. Kenny Williams, Commander, Kern County Sheriff's Office

Ms. Joanne Williamson, Senior Real Estate Analyst, OCCM

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