



**NEWS RELEASE** OC 57-10  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Project Advisory Group Named for New North Tahoe Area Courthouse**

SAN FRANCISCO—The Superior Court of Placer County and the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) have named the project advisory group for the new courthouse that will be built in the North Tahoe area. The proposed project would replace the court's space in the current Tahoe City courthouse, which is significantly undersized and overcrowded and has numerous deficiencies in security, access, efficiency, and accessibility under the Americans With Disabilities Act.

Members of the project advisory group include local officials and community leaders in addition to representatives of the superior court and the AOC. A list of advisory group members is attached.

The AOC is the staff agency of the Judicial Council, the policymaking body of the California courts. Among its other responsibilities, the AOC manages all courthouses statewide and will work with officials of the Placer County court to manage the proposed new Tahoe area courthouse project.

The project advisory group will provide advice and input to the project primarily during the site selection and design stages. The proposed project is currently in the earliest phase of the site selection and acquisition process, which typically takes one to two years. The AOC and the project advisory group will first establish criteria for potential sites of approximately 1.25 acres for the courthouse and associated parking, then prepare a ranked shortlist of potential sites based on these criteria. The AOC and the court will select preferred and alternate potential sites to be validated by the project advisory group and approved by the State Public Works Board. Following that approval, the AOC will conduct environmental studies in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act and the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency. The public will be invited to review and comment on the draft environmental report.

The AOC is also in the process of selecting an architecture and engineering firm for the project, with the final selection to be announced in late January 2011.

The proposed project, a one-courtroom facility with an estimated total cost of \$27.4 million, is funded by Senate Bill 1407 (2008), which finances new and renovated court facilities using court user fees rather than the state's General Fund. For more information about the project, visit [www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/occm/projects\\_tahoe.htm](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/occm/projects_tahoe.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.*

New Tahoe Area Courthouse, Superior Court of Placer County Project Advisory Group

Mr. Jake Chatters, Court Executive Officer, Superior Court of Placer County

Ms. Megan Chillemi, North Tahoe Regional Advisory Committee

Mr. Dan Flores, Placer County Probation Department (retired)

Hon. Eugene S. Gini, Jr., Judge, Superior Court of Placer County

Mr. Dean Headley, Tahoe City attorney

Mr. Roger Kahn, designee of Placer County Supervisor Jennifer Montgomery

Hon. Alan V. Pineschi, Presiding Judge, Superior Court of Placer County

Lt. Darrell Steinhauer, Placer County Sheriff's Department

Ms. Peggy Symons, Project Manager, Administrative Office of the Courts