

**EXECUTIVE OFFICE
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF TEHAMA**
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Subject: Requested Information for the Court Facilities Working Group

Tehama Superior Court is in line to receive a new 5-courtroom courthouse in early 2015. The following information will point out many of the specific reasons this project should move forward.

Security:

- There are currently only 2 of 4 departments without security screening. Departments 2 and 3 are currently the only departments **with** security screening in place.
- Our Child Support Court (AB1058) currently operates out of an old Board of Supervisors room in the historic courthouse where Department 1 is located—therefore there is no security screening available for anyone appearing for this calendar. Previously this court operated out of our Self-Help center on Thursday mornings, which is located across the street from the courthouse. Not only is there no screening at that location, it was also often over-crowded with many court users having to wait outside in the elements until their case was called.
- None of the court locations have secured parking for the Judges and there no secured routes for the judges to get from their parking area to their court building and/or chambers.
- The Department 1 Judicial Chambers is accessible from the public lobby.
- There are no holding cells for Department 1. Inmates are brought through the public area into the courtroom. A storage room in the back of Department 1 is used in emergent situations, where inmates may be housed, but this, of course, does not meet security standards.
- Department 4, which is our Corning branch has no sally port and prisoners are transported to this courthouse in Sheriff's vehicles and arrive in the same parking lot where the judge and the court employees park.
- Department 4 also has inadequate holding cells for inmates, and the prisoners are delivered to the holding cells through the staff hallway and enter through the same door the judge and the employees use.

ADA Compliance:

- The only courthouse that is ADA compliant is the court building that houses Departments 2 and 3.
- The Corning Branch (Dept. 4) is not ADA compliant, including the restrooms, the parking lot and other high-use areas of the building.
- The historic courthouse is not ADA compliant. This is a building that is shared with some County offices and Court Administration/Executive Offices/Court Reporters. If anyone requires an ADA accessible restroom, they must go to the Annex Court Building previously mentioned, where Depts. 2 and 3 are located.

Safety:

Historic Courthouse:

There are many security problems in the historic courthouse which houses administration and Dept. 1. This is mainly because of the building's age.

There is no fire sprinkler system and poor exit route signage.

There are no emergency exits for the 2nd floor.

Corning Branch:

The electrical room functions as a staff break room.

There are many roof leaks reported during the rainy season.

The emergency exit in the courtroom must be locked in order to eliminate an escape route for inmates.

Superior Court Annex (Depts. 2 & 3):

Although this is the one facility that does have a manned security screening station, there are still multiple areas of this building that are deficient in the areas of safety and security.

Additional comment:

There is no Jury Assembly Room in any of the Tehama Superior Court facilities. Since a jury trial could go in any of the four departments of the court, potential jurors who report to the court to serve on a jury may appear in a location that does not have security screening. They may also report to a courtroom that is not ADA compliant. If they are serving on a jury trial in Corning, the defendant will be transported to the same parking lot where they will park. The ramifications of trying to check-in and orientate potential jurors in an inadequate space can go on and on.

General comments:

The Superior Court of Tehama could better serve the community with an ADA, safety and security compliant courthouse.

Consolidating the 4 Departments and the Child Support Court into one new court location will allow the court to operate safely and serve the public more efficiently. The consolidation of janitorial, maintenance and other services will assist the court in balancing its budget.

All of this will assist the court in the overall goal of improving access and fairness to justice and will also help to improve trust and confidence in the Judicial Branch.

Seeing what I see day in and day out at the various court buildings that make up the Tehama Superior Court System, it would be a disservice to the community and to the state of California to cancel or delay the progress of this new courthouse project.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for any additional information that may be needed or any clarification on what was covered in this document.



Signature



Date