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FACT SHEET

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Improving Trial Court Facilities: Fiscal Year 2007–2008 Funding Requests

Calaveras—New San Andreas Courthouse

Lassen—New Susanville Courthouse
Los Angeles—New Long Beach Courthouse
Madera—New Madera Courthouse
Riverside—New Riverside Mid-County Region Courthouse
San Benito—New Hollister Courthouse
San Bernardino—New San Bernardino Courthouse
San Joaquin—New Stockton Courthouse
Tulare—New Porterville Courthouse

In April 2007 the Judicial Council adopted an updated Trial Court Capital Outlay Plan that includes 175 new construction, major renovation, and expansion projects estimated to cost \$9.8 billion (January 2007 dollars). In August 2006 the Judicial Council directed staff of the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) to submit, as part of the fiscal year 2007–2008 budget process, funding requests for nine new trial court facilities. The initial funding request for these nine urgently needed projects is \$31.2 million in 2007–2008 with total project costs estimated to be \$1.2 billion, which would be funded by State Court Facilities Construction Funds. If approved, these projects mark important progress toward implementing needed projects for courts across California. As noted below, the judicial branch will additionally pursue alternative revenue sources over the next several years to support the full implementation of the statewide capital plan.

New San Andreas Courthouse

A new San Andreas courthouse is proposed by the AOC for initial funding of \$845,000 for fiscal year 2007–2008. The new facility is planned to have four courtrooms to meet current needs. The estimated total cost for this 39,878-gross-square-foot courthouse is \$43.6 million (escalated to construction mid-point estimated as spring of 2010). The County of Calaveras has indicated willingness to provide property on the site of the Government Center. This project—ranked in the Immediate Need priority group of the Trial Court Capital-Outlay Plan—is one of the highest priority capital outlay projects for the judicial branch.

No Security, Severe Overcrowding, Poor Physical Conditions, and Reduced Access to Court Services

The County of Calaveras is served by only one trial court location. Operating out of the county Legal Building and awkwardly augmented by an adjacent modular building,

the court facilities are functionally deficient, overcrowded, and among the worst in the state in terms of security and physical conditions. The existing facilities will remain incapable of meeting the region's growing demand for court services. The deplorable conditions of the existing facilities and the public's hindered access to court services are among the reasons why the proposed new San Andreas courthouse is urgently needed.



Prisoner escorted through public corridor.

Local Government Collaboration on Project

The Calaveras County Board of Supervisors has indicated its strong commitment to providing land for this project in the Government Center site. The new courthouse fits into the county's master plan for the site and will provide enhanced services to the community through the co-location of county criminal justice partners. This commitment of land reduces the cost to the state and allows the project to move more quickly into the design phase.

Long-term Funding Needs

The California judicial branch is exploring additional, alternative means to fund the state's sizable need for courthouse infrastructure improvements. Options include pursuing bond funding—consideration will be given to both lease-revenue and general obligation bonds. Another potential consideration involves increasing civil filing fees to be contributed to the State Court Facilities Construction Fund for the sole purpose of funding court construction projects. While these initiatives evolve, the council will

pursue annual funding requests to begin to address the most critical deficiencies in the state's courthouses.

More Information

A project feasibility report for the New San Andreas courthouse, dated September 8, 2006, was prepared by AOC staff to document the poor functional and physical conditions of the existing court facilities in San Andreas County, explore options for how best to meet the need for improved facilities, and estimate the cost to construct a new facility. This document can be downloaded from

http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/occm/documents/final_san_andreas_pfr_06_09_07.pdf.

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