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## FACT SHEET

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# Improving Trial Court Facilities: Sutter—New Yuba City Courthouse

In October 2008 the Judicial Council adopted an updated Trial Court Capital Outlay Plan and a list of 41 projects to be funded by SB 1407. AOC staff has completed a funding request for 15 projects, 13 of which have initial funding included in the FY 2009-2010 Budget Act. Approval of these projects mark important progress toward implementing needed improvements for courts across California.

Funding request for this project—the Sutter—New Yuba City Courthouse—has been included in the FY 2009-2010 Budget Act.

### New Yuba City Courthouse

A new Yuba City Courthouse is proposed by the AOC for initial funding of \$1.1 million for FY 2009-2010. The new facility will house seven courtrooms. The estimated total cost for this courthouse of approximately 78,701 gross square feet is \$100.6 million (escalated to construction mid-point in spring 2014). This project is ranked in the Immediate Need Project Priority Group of the Trial Court Capital-Outlay Plan and is one of the highest priority capital-outlay projects for the judicial branch.

### Lack of Security, Severe Overcrowding, Poor Physical Conditions, and Reduced Access to Court Services

The Superior Court of California, County of Sutter serves the residents of Sutter County in the central business district of Yuba City. The existing facilities poorly serve the growing needs of the superior court, and the overall lack of basic security features causes unnecessary risk to the staff and public who use these buildings. The court operates out of two very old buildings owned by the county and one leased building. All three locations have significant security problems, severe accessibility deficiencies, are very overcrowded, and have many physical problems, which prevent the court from providing safe and efficient court services to the public.



Holding Area is Not a Secure Enclosed Room. Prisoners are Chained to the Wooden Benches in This Room, Which was Designed as the County Printing Office.

#### Local Government and Organizations Collaborate on Project

The New Yuba City Courthouse project has a valuable economic opportunity of potentially receiving donated land for the court site from the County of Sutter. The property was set aside 25 years ago for court use, when the County developed a jail on an adjacent parcel. When the county jail was built several years ago, the county constructed an underground tunnel at basement level, leading towards the proposed court site. This tunnel was constructed with the intention that it would connect to the future courthouse basement.

Having a connection between the two buildings will make the transport of prisoners to and from court much easier. The option is endorsed by both court and county officials and is in keeping with court and county long-range facility goals.

#### Long-term Funding Needs

The enactment of SB 1407 was the major first step in funding 41 urgently needed courthouse improvement projects across the State of California. The Trial Court Capital-Outlay Plan includes another 112 projects for which funding has not been secured. California judicial branch will continue to explore additional, alternative

means to fund the state's sizable need for courthouse infrastructure improvements while it implements the 41 projects to be funded by SB 1407. More Information

A project feasibility report for the New Yuba City Courthouse, dated July 1, 2008, was prepared by AOC staff. This report documents the poor functional and physical conditions of the existing Yuba City court facilities in Sutter County, explores options for how best to meet the needs of the court and of the public, and estimates the cost to construct a new facility. This document can be downloaded from the following Web site:

[www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/occm/documents/pfr-sutter.pdf](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/occm/documents/pfr-sutter.pdf)

For further information, please email the AOC-Office of Court Construction and Management at [OCCM@jud.ca.gov](mailto:OCCM@jud.ca.gov).