



NEWS RELEASE OC 33-10
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Architect Selected for New Hanford Courthouse

SAN FRANCISCO—The architecture firm DLR Group has been selected to design the new Hanford Courthouse, the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) announced today. This project, with an estimated total cost of \$142.4 million, will house 12 courtrooms and will consolidate operations from five buildings in Hanford and Lemoore into a single courthouse to handle all types of proceedings and all court operations and services.

“The new courthouse will provide greater flexibility to the public, bar, judges and staff,” said Court Executive Office Todd Barton of the Superior Court of Kings County. “We will see more effectiveness with the judges and staff.”

In May, the AOC received approval from the State Public Works Board (SPWB) for a preferred site for the courthouse, approximately 9.5 acres immediately west of the County Jail, adjacent to 12th Avenue. The AOC is conducting an environmental evaluation of the site. Once engaged, the architecture firm can begin preliminary space programming, but architectural design must wait until site acquisition is approved by the SPWB, expected later this year. The project is scheduled for completion in fall 2014.

DLR Group, formed in 1966, is a full-service, national architecture and engineering firm and a national leader in criminal justice design. The firm has designed numerous federal, state, county, and municipal facilities. In April 2010, DLR was rated third in the nation by *ARCHITECT* magazine. DLR designed the award-winning Sacramento Juvenile Courthouse, completed in 2005. The firm is already working with the AOC on design of the new San Andreas Courthouse, currently in working drawings.

The new Hanford courthouse is among 41 projects to be funded by Senate Bill 1407, which finances critically needed courthouse construction, renovation, and repair through a portion of judicial branch fees, penalties, and assessments, without reliance on the state’s General Fund. A new courthouse for the Superior Court of Kings County is ranked as an “immediate need” in the judicial branch’s capital-outlay plan, making it among the judicial branch’s highest-priority infrastructure projects.

More information about the project is at:
www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/occm/projects_hanford.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.