



NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING & PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD

October 31, 2011 THROUGH **January 31, 2012**

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
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Draft EIR for the New Ukiah Courthouse in the City of Ukiah in Mendocino County, California

This Notice of Availability (NOA) has been prepared as required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The purpose of an NOA is to inform interested parties that the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), the staff agency of the Judicial Council of California, has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed New Ukiah Courthouse in Ukiah, California. The AOC is soliciting public input on the Draft EIR document. Details are provided below.

PROJECT LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The Draft EIR considers two sites for the proposed project, including:

1. **The “Library Site” – near the existing county public library, bounded by E. Perkins Street, N. Main Street, Mason Street, and including properties fronting Smith Street**

This site is comprised of 14 parcels within the immediate downtown area of Ukiah. The site is approximately six acres in size and is bounded by E. Perkins Street on the south, N. Main Street on the west, and Mason Street on the east. The Mendocino County Assessor Parcel Numbers (APNs) include: 002-191-20, -21, -22, -23; 002-192-1, -2, -3; -11; -14; -17; -18; -22; -24; and -25. The city of Ukiah owns six of the 14 parcels; the remaining parcels are privately-owned. Gibson Creek flows through the northeastern portion of the site; however, the Creek is contained by a culvert and is situated primarily underground. The site is currently improved with a number of structures.

2. **The “Railroad Depot Site” – bounded by E. Perkins Street, Leslie Street, Clay Street, and railroad tracks, located adjacent to 309 E. Perkins Street**

This site was utilized as the former Ukiah rail yard. The approximate 10-acre site is located south of E. Perkins Street and west of Leslie Street. The Mendocino County APNs for the site include 002-232-12, -13, and 002-282-18 and-19. The site is owned by the North Coast Railroad Authority (NCRA), which is located in Ukiah. Inactive railroad tracks form the western boundary of the site. Gibson Creek flows through the northeastern portion of the site. The site is no longer an active rail yard, and is primarily vacant, with the exception of a historic train depot (which would not be removed), and two small warehouses.

The proposed project includes the construction of a three-story (maximum), approximately 114,000 square-foot courthouse with a basement, and nine courtrooms.

SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

The proposed project has the potential to result in the following significant project or cumulative impacts: Aesthetics (visual character for both sites, and lighting and glare for the Railroad Depot Site), Cultural Resources (historic resources for both sites), Greenhouse Gases (project-generated GHG emissions for the Railroad Depot Site), and Traffic and Circulation (intersection level of service for both sites).

WHY THIS NOTICE?

The purpose of this notice is to: 1) inform you that the Draft EIR is available, 2) notify you where you can obtain a copy, and 3) inform you of how you can provide comments on the document.

HOW DO YOU PARTICIPATE?

The AOC encourages your participation and held a public meeting at the Ukiah City Council Chambers/City Hall on Wednesday, November 30, 2011 from 6:00 to 7:00 PM to discuss the Draft EIR and receive public comments.

Please note: At the request of the community, the AOC has extended the public comment period through Tuesday, January 31, 2012.

To request additional information or to provide written comments on the Draft EIR, please contact:

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All comments must be postmarked by 5 PM on January 31, 2012. The deadline for e-mailed comments is 5 PM on January 31, 2012.

You may view and/or download the Draft EIR from the following website:
<http://www.courts.ca.gov/facilities-mendocino.htm>.

Additional copies of the Draft EIR and/or CDs have been sent and are available for review/check-out at the following locations:

**City of Ukiah
Planning and Community Development Dept.
300 Seminary Avenue
Ukiah, CA 95482**

**Mendocino County Library
105 North Main Street
Ukiah, CA 95482**