



# **NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT & NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING & PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD**

**July 8, 2011 THROUGH August 22, 2011**

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## **Draft EIR for the New Nevada City Courthouse in the City of Nevada City in Nevada County, California**

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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 acquisition and construction of the New Nevada City Courthouse in Nevada City, California. The AOC is soliciting public input on the Draft EIR document. Details are provided below.

### **Project Location and Description**

The AOC is currently considering two sites in Nevada City for the location of the proposed New Nevada City Courthouse:

- **Existing Courthouse Site (201 Church Street, Nevada City).** The existing site, which includes the courthouse and courthouse annex, is almost one-acre. In addition, there are two adjacent parcels being considered as part of a feasibility analysis, including 1) 215 Washington Street; and 2) the county-owned surface parking lot located at the northeast corner of Main and Washington streets. With these additional two parcels, the existing courthouse site could total approximately 1.83 acres. It is not known yet whether or not the adjacent parcels will be needed, but in an effort to identify worst-case impacts, this site is analyzed including the adjacent parcels.
  - **Temporary Court Site.** Locating the proposed project at the Existing Courthouse site would require temporary relocation of the existing court functions during demolition and construction. Temporary facilities would be constructed using prefabricated modular buildings immediately north and east of the Wayne Brown Correctional Facility (Correctional Facility) at the Nevada County Government Center (Government Center), in Nevada City.
- **Cement Hill Site (northwest corner of Cement Hill/SR-49, Nevada City).** This property includes vacant land and one small residence. The vacant land consists of a 2.2-acre privately-owned corner parcel and a five-acre parcel currently owned by the City. The site is directly across the street from the Correctional Facility.

The AOC proposes to construct a six-courtroom, full-service courthouse for the Superior Court. The project is estimated to be approximately 84,000 square feet. The new courthouse will replace the court space and functions in the existing Nevada City Courthouse and courthouse annex, and will include

court support space for court operations, court administration, criminal/civil/traffic/family law divisions, collaborative court, jury assembly and jury services, self-help, court security operations and holding, and building support space. No expansion in the number of courtrooms or staffing is proposed. The proposed project will include surface parking spaces for staff, jurors, and the general public, and secure parking spaces in the basement of the courthouse. The specific building design and plan will depend on the final site selected and may vary in the number of floors and the need for a mechanical penthouse.

### **SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS**

The proposed project has the potential to result in the following significant project or cumulative impacts (at both sites, unless specified): aesthetics (scenic resources and visual character-Existing Courthouse site only), air quality (construction emissions), historic and archaeological resources, and noise (construction noise).

### **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 will hold a public meeting at the location listed below on **Tuesday, August 9<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM** to discuss the Draft EIR and receive public comments. Persons who need reasonable accommodation for the meeting must contact Ms. Laura Sainz at (916) 263-7992. Please provide twenty-four hour advance notice for assistance.

#### **Public Meeting Location:**

Nevada City Courthouse (Department VI—Third Floor)  
201 Church St, Nevada City, CA

Parking is available at the jury parking lot on the corner of Washington and Main streets; entrance is off of Main Street.

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

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Office of Court Construction & Management  
Judicial Council of California /Administrative Office of the Courts  
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**All comments must be postmarked by 5 PM on August 22, 2011. The deadline for e-mailed comments is 5 PM on August 22, 2011.**

You may download the Draft EIR from the following website: <http://www.courts.ca.gov/facilities-nevada.htm>, under the “background” tab.

A copy of the Draft EIR document will be available for review at the following locations:

City of Nevada City Planning Department  
City Hall  
317 Broad Street  
Nevada City, California 95959

Nevada County Library- Madelyn Helling Branch  
980 Helling Way  
Nevada City, CA 95959