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Architect Selected for New North Butte County Courthouse

San Francisco—The architecture firm of Tate Snyder Kimsey has been selected to design the new North Butte County Courthouse, the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) announced today. The proposed new courthouse in Chico will house five courtrooms and will consolidate operations from two inadequate facilities—the current Chico Courthouse and the Paradise Courthouse.

This project, with an estimated total cost of \$83.4 million, was ranked as an “immediate need” in the judicial branch’s capital-outlay plan and is among the judicial branch’s highest-priority infrastructure projects.

“We are very pleased that we will soon begin the initial planning and design phases of the project,” said Presiding Judge James F. Reilley, Superior Court of Butte County. “This courthouse is not only critically needed in Northern Butte County; it will also be an important addition to the civic infrastructure of the county as a whole and provide economic benefits to the community for years to come.”

The new North Butte County courthouse project is currently in site selection. The preferred site, approximately 4 acres in the Meriam Park area in southeast Chico north of 20th Street and east of Bruce Road, received state approval on October 12. Alternative sites are still under review. Once engaged, the architecture team can begin preliminary space programming and massing studies in conjunction with the required environmental document. Final architectural design will be completed once site acquisition is approved by the State Public Works Board. Site selection and acquisition can take a year or more depending on the complexities surrounding the location and the environmental process. The project is scheduled for completion in winter 2014.

Tate Snyder Kimsey, with offices in Las Vegas, Reno, and Los Angeles, has nearly 50 years of experience in a broad range of civic, academic, institutional, and commercial/industrial projects in California and Nevada. The firm has designed several award-winning courthouses in Nevada and brings extensive sustainable design experience to the project.

The new North Butte County courthouse is among the first of 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, fines, and penalties. More information about the project is at: www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/occm/projects_butte.htm

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