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Architect Selected for New Santa Rosa Criminal Courthouse *Firm Globally Known For Design Excellence*

San Francisco—The architecture firm of Richard Meier & Partners Architects has been selected to design the New Santa Rosa Criminal Courthouse, the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) announced today. The proposed project, which is in the earliest phase of site selection, will provide a new 15-courtroom courthouse in Santa Rosa, replacing the Sonoma County Hall of Justice.

This project, with an estimated total cost of \$240 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. The proposed project will consolidate in one location all criminal, traffic, juvenile dependency, and enhanced drug court support. It will include features and services that the court was previously unable to provide due to space restrictions and will reduce costs through elimination of a leased facility.

“We are very pleased with this selection of a world-class architecture firm for our new courthouse,” said Presiding Judge Gary Nadler, Superior Court of Sonoma County. “This project is not only critically needed by our court, but it will be an important addition to Sonoma County’s civic architecture and an infrastructure effort that will provide economic benefits to the community for years to come.”

The new Santa Rosa courthouse project is currently in site selection. The local court, the AOC, and a project advisory group that includes members of the community are evaluating a short list of sites. Once engaged, the architecture firm can begin preliminary space programming, but architectural design must wait until site acquisition is approved by the State Public Works Board. Site selection and acquisition typically take a year or more. The project is scheduled for completion in winter 2014.

Richard Meier & Partners has completed works in 15 countries during more than 40 years of design experience. With dual offices in New York and Los Angeles, the firm’s projects have spanned a wide range of civic, institutional, corporate, and residential buildings. Signature examples of the firm’s work in California include the Getty Center and the new San Jose City Hall, which opened in 2005.

The new Santa Rosa criminal 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_sonomasantarosa.htm

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