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**NEWS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Renovation Plans for Old Solano Courthouse Approved**

SAN FRANCISCO—The State Public Works Board (SPWB) today approved preliminary plans for the renovation of the Old Solano Courthouse at 580 West Texas Street in Fairfield. Designed by E.C. Hemmings in 1911, the courthouse, vacant since 2005, is considered an outstanding example of Beaux Arts architecture and appears in the Central Solano County Heritage Commission’s inventory of “Lasting Heritage” buildings.

“This is wonderful. It will give us space and flexibility that we greatly need,” said Presiding Judge Paul L. Beeman. “This will expand our ability to deliver services to the public.”

Solano County donated the property to the state for the project, which will help resolve a shortage of space for the Superior Court of Solano County. The renovated courthouse, at two stories and 29,900 square feet, will provide three additional courtrooms and associated support spaces for civil cases.

The project includes seismic and accessibility upgrades, updating of all building systems, reconfiguration of nonhistoric parts of the building’s interior, and restoration of many of the building’s beautiful architectural features, such as the marble flooring and staircase, light fixtures, and decorative elements like the original clock in the main entry. The architectural firm of Hornberger + Worstell is designing the renovation consistent with standards of historic preservation, and the plans have been reviewed by the California Office of Historic Preservation.

Approval by the SPWB marks completion of the preliminary plans phase and enables the project to move into working drawings. In the meantime, Plant Construction, selected in October 2011 as the project’s construction-manager-at-risk, will be performing outreach to provide local subcontractors and suppliers the opportunity to participate in prequalification and bidding. All qualified subcontractors, lower-tier subcontractors, and suppliers will be considered.

The new courthouse is expected to generate hundreds of jobs, directly through construction and through indirect benefit to the local economy. Construction is scheduled to begin in mid-2013 and be completed in late 2014.

(more)

The courthouse project was ranked as an “immediate need” in the judicial branch’s capital-outlay plan, making it among the branch’s highest-priority infrastructure projects. It is funded by Senate

Bill 1407, enacted in 2008 to provide up to \$5 billion in funding for new and renovated courthouses using court fees, penalties, and assessments rather than the state’s General Fund.

More information about the project can be found on the California Courts website at [www.courts.ca.gov/facilities-solano.htm](http://www.courts.ca.gov/facilities-solano.htm).

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