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FACT SHEET

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Improving Trial Court Facilities: San Benito-New Hollister Courthouse

A new Hollister courthouse received initial funding approval in fiscal year 2007-2008. This project—ranked in the Immediate Need priority group of the Trial Court Capital-Outlay Plan—is one of the highest priority capital outlay projects for the judicial branch.

The new facility will house three courtrooms and include associated parking for jurors, visitors, and staff. The estimated total cost for this 41,500-square-foot courthouse is \$36.2 million (escalated to construction mid-point estimated as fall of 2010).

The AOC is in the final stages of site acquisition for the project, and the preliminary plan phase has begun. The expected completion date of this courthouse is fall 2012.

Insufficient Security, Severe Overcrowding, Poor Physical Conditions, and Reduced Access to Court Services

The County of San Benito is served by a superior court operating primarily out of a civic center building that is shared with county offices. The court has leased space for the Family Law Facilitator and Mediator because the civic center building is severely overcrowded, with no room for expansion. According to current judicial standards, the court facilities are functionally deficient and among the worst in the state in terms of security and physical conditions. Because the existing facilities are incapable of meeting the region's growing demand for judicial services, a new Hollister courthouse is urgently needed.



Prisoners are regularly escorted through the entrance and corridors designated for judicial, court staff, and county staff.

Local Government Collaboration on Project

Both the County of San Benito and the City of Hollister are collaborating with the AOC on this project. The City and County worked together to provide the State a 3.1-acre site for the new courthouse, in exchange for equity interest in the current courthouse facility. The site is northwest of the intersection of 4th Street and Monterey Street. The City also completed demolition of an empty school building on the site and cleared and leveled the land. The AOC is in final stages of acquiring the site.

More Information

Project Web Page:

http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/occm/projects_sanbenito.htm

Project Feasibility Report:

http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/occm/documents/final_hollister_pfr_06_09_08.pdf.

For further information, please contact Project Manager Jun Quan, at 415-865-4067 or email at jun.quan@jud.ca.gov.