



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
OF THE COURTS
455 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, CA
94102-3688
Tel 415-865-4200
TDD 415-865-4272
Fax 415-865-4205
www.courtinfo.ca.gov

FACT SHEET

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Improving Trial Court Facilities: Tehama—New Red Bluff Courthouse

In October 2008 the Judicial Council adopted an updated Trial Court Capital Outlay Plan and a list of 41 projects to be funded by SB 1407. AOC staff has completed a funding request for 15 projects, 13 of which have initial funding included in the FY 2009-2010 Budget Act. Approval of these projects mark important progress toward implementing needed improvements for courts across California.

Funding for this project—the Tehama—New Red Bluff Courthouse—has been included in the FY 2009-2010 Budget Act.

New Red Bluff Courthouse

A new Red Bluff Courthouse is proposed by the AOC for initial funding of \$16.3 million for FY 2009-2010. The new facility will house five courtrooms. The estimated total cost for this courthouse of approximately 52,300 gross square feet is \$78.1 million (escalated to construction mid-point in spring 2011). This project is ranked in the Immediate Need Project Priority Group of the Trial Court Capital-Outlay Plan and is one of the highest priority capital-outlay projects for the judicial branch.

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

The County of Tehama is served by six trial court locations. These court facilities are functionally deficient, overcrowded, and among the worst in the state in terms of security and physical conditions. The existing facilities will remain incapable of meeting the region's growing demand for court services. The overcrowding and security issues at the existing facilities and the public's hindered access to court services are among the reasons why the proposed new Red Bluff Courthouse is urgently needed.



Judge Holds Court in Parking Lot Due to Lack of Space in Existing Courtroom

Local Government and Organizations Collaborate on Project

The Tehama County Board of Supervisors and the City of Red Bluff support the need to replace the existing Tehama Courthouse with a new facility in Red Bluff. The AOC will work collaboratively with the county and city to select a site for the new facility and develop a project that meets the goals of the local community.

Long-term Funding Needs

The enactment of SB 1407 was the major first step in funding 41 urgently needed courthouse improvement projects across the State of California. The Trial Court Capital-Outlay Plan includes another 112 projects for which funding has not been secured. California judicial branch will continue to explore additional, alternative means to fund the state's sizable need for courthouse infrastructure improvements while it implements the 41 projects to be funded by SB 1407.

More Information

A project feasibility report for the New Red Bluff Courthouse, dated December 20, 2007, was prepared by AOC staff to document the poor functional and physical conditions of the existing court facilities in Tehama County, explore options for how best to meet the need for improved facilities, and estimate the cost to construct a new facility. This document can be downloaded from the following Web site:

http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/occm/documents/final_tehama_pfr_07_12_20_dof_update.pdf

For further information, please email the AOC-Office of Court Construction and Management at OCCM@jud.ca.gov.