

# **SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA**

## **COUNTY OF EL DORADO**



### **RESPONSE TO COURT FACILITIES WORKING GROUP SB 1407 PROJECT COMMENT REQUEST**

## INTRODUCTION

This report represents a joint effort containing observations from our justice partners, court staff, project managers, maintenance personnel, county administration, court administration and the Administrative Office of the Courts to justify the critical need to consolidate El Dorado County's unsafe, deteriorating, and inaccessible facilities by constructing one new courthouse. Currently, the court's services are divided between five facilities spread over 72 miles between South Lake Tahoe and Cameron Park. This report mainly focuses on the four facilities that will be consolidated on the West Slope of El Dorado County; however, there are issues to be addressed for retrofitting and renovation at our South Lake Tahoe facility as well.

Diverting SB 1407 funds from their intended purpose to the General Fund would result in the further delay or cancellation of this critical project. This would prolong security risks that are posed to jurors, witnesses, litigants, victims, judges, and court staff. The public would continue to be exposed to hazardous conditions in structurally unsound facilities. In custody defendants would continue to be escorted in chains through the same hallways used by the public, judges, and staff, potentially leading to witness intimidation and contamination of jurors. Seismic deficiencies and inadequate life safety systems would remain a threat to public court users and staff. All of the shortcomings identified within this report hinder this court's ability to provide the safe, efficient, timely due process rights inherent to all court users in El Dorado County.

## **1. SECURITY.**

Describe the security problems in the facility or facilities to be replaced or improved by the SB 1407 project (that can be resolved by the design of the proposed capital project), and the safety, operational, and public service impacts of these security problems.

### **Main Street Placerville Courthouse**

- Our oldest courthouse is immediately adjacent to Highway 50. Judges and staff must park in a non-secure area in full view of this major thoroughfare.
- There is no sallyport or secure parking area for prisoner transportation. Parking is directly next to the judge and staff parking in full view of Highway 50 and the surrounding residential neighbors and businesses.
- Prisoners are brought in through the rear door, which is also used by judges and staff. Upon entry, they are escorted through a public hallway, into the only elevator in the building, through public hallways to the second or third floor courtrooms. This creates significant risk to public safety, and unnecessarily places victims of and witnesses to crimes in proximity to alleged perpetrators.
- There are no holding cells in this courthouse, and prisoners must be kept in courtrooms or jury deliberation rooms until all of the in custody matters are concluded.
- There is no protective barrier at our clerks' counter.
- There are no security personnel assigned to the basement level of the court where family law litigants wait to attend mediation. There is no means to separate these litigants from one another, who are often in contentious disputes.
- The rear door to the facility is only subject to camera surveillance with a feed to the perimeter security staff.
- There are large windows in each of the three courtrooms that present a security risk as proceedings can be viewed from various areas outside the courthouse.
- Family mediators, the self help attorney offices and family law mandatory settlement conferences are in the basement area with limited security. Only panic alarms alert security personnel of a potential issue.
- When a threat occurs that requires us to evacuate the Main Street Courthouse, there is no safe place for staff, witnesses, jurors or judges to congregate. This presents a security risk to all, as currently our evacuation site is the public parking lot next to the courthouse.

### **Building C Placerville Court Facility**

- There is no perimeter security at the main entrance to this shared use facility.
- Access to court administration and accounting space is not secure and can be accessed by anyone.
- The criminal arraignment court is located in the basement and has the only perimeter security for this facility.
- There is no sallyport at this facility. Inmates are observed from the road above and must be transported from the van, up a ramp, and into the court.

- There are two holding cells which will hold 5 inmates at one time. Inmates in holding cells must be segregated by classification. The in custody calendars often have 10 to 30 inmates. Transportation must keep inmates in vans or on a bench in the holding cell area until their matter is called on calendar.
- Inmates are placed in the jury box during their court hearing, causing disruption at times.
- There is only one very small attorney/in custody meeting room, which puts the attorney and defendant in the same room without any security barriers.
- No court facility or courtroom for high profile and extra risk defendants.

### **Department 8 Juvenile/Traffic Court Facility**

- No secure judge parking or entry to the facility.
- Staff parking is at a different facility and personnel must walk on a major roadway in all kinds of weather in order to access the facility.
- No holding cells for in custody juvenile delinquents who are transported from the Juvenile Hall on the upper level of the facility to the lower level court facility area.
- No sallyport for transportation of in custody adults.
- No holding cells for in custody adults on dependency calendar or for adult arrests at the facility.

**Note:** Each of the above listed security problems present safety and security risk to judges, staff, justice partners and the public. The new courthouse facility will provide secure parking for judges, a sallyport for inmate transportation, holding cells and restricted corridors. Clerks' counters will have appropriate security barriers and security for mediators and self help service areas will be addressed. Victims, witnesses and defendants will be separated with adequate victim/witness waiting rooms and secure circulation areas. Courtrooms will be designed to resolve the threat of access to judges, staff or court users through large windows.

### **Cameron Park Courthouse Facility**

This facility will not be replaced by the new courthouse; however it presents the following security risks requiring mitigation, possibly through renovation:

- No sallyport.
- No holding cell.
- Limited security for the additional modular unit that has been installed. Individuals may gain access to the modular through a gate which is monitored by the perimeter security staff in the main facility by closed circuit TV.

## **2. OVERCROWDING**

Describe the overcrowding in the facility or facilities to be replaced by the SB 1407 project, and the related safety, operational, and public service impacts.

### **Main Street Placerville Courthouse**

- No jury assembly area. Jurors must check in at a desk set up in the upstairs lobby and find places to sit or stand in the limited lobby areas and stairwells.
- Crime victims, witnesses and out of custody defendants often must sit in proximity to each other due to the lack of lobby area and witness rooms.
- There are no attorney/client conference rooms in the facility and attorneys are forced to talk with clients in the open lobby areas. We have been sued in federal court due to this issue.
- The clerks' counter area has limited space and the line for assistance at the counter often extends out into the lobby, causing congestion at the main entrance to the courthouse.
- The courtrooms have seating for approximately 50 jurors or spectators. For high profile cases, prospective jurors must be summoned at staggered times during the jury selection process. Often jurors are required to stand in the courtroom during the jury selection process.
- The family law department courtroom has a column in the well in front of the spectator seating area which limits seating for individuals appearing or observing the court proceedings, and presents a safety issue.
- There is one security screening station at the courthouse which is not sufficient when large jury panels are summoned to the court. Potential jurors and court customers must line up outside the courthouse, exposed to varying weather, which can include snow and ice.
- Self-help workshops are held at the El Dorado Law Library as there is not sufficient space at the courthouse for these services.
- The one small elevator at this facility does not adequately accommodate juries, court users and in custody defendants. Walking up and down the stairs presents a liability due to crowds waiting in the stairwells. There have been numerous falls on the stairs the last few years, with resulting claims for injuries.
- Two judicial officers must share Department 5 courtroom for family law and child support proceedings due to lack of adequate courtrooms.

### **Building C Placerville Court Facility**

- Very limited lobby space, victims, witnesses and defendants are in proximity to each other.
- One attorney/client conference room off the lobby which is not adequate for the volume of cases calendared in the criminal pretrial department. There are often over 100 cases on calendar on a single day.
- Holding cells are inadequate for the number of in custody defendants. Each of the two cells will hold up to 5 defendants and our calendars often have up to 30 in custody defendants. Inmates must be segregated due to classification, which results in multiple transport of prisoners due to limited holding cells.
- One perimeter security station is not adequate for the volume of traffic to the criminal pretrial department.

### **Department 8 Juvenile/Traffic Court Facility**

- Parking for 27 individuals requires staggered traffic calendars which is less efficient for the court and staff. If the parking lot is full customers must park at the public library or government center and walk to the court on a road that has no sidewalk or crosswalk.
- Limited lobby space, 17 seats total.

- Limited courtroom seating, approximately 30 seats for traffic court.
- One small conference room for use by children on dependency cases and for attorney/client conference.

### **Cameron Park Courthouse Facility**

- Inadequate parking for jury panels and court users. Individuals must park along a residential road and walk down that road to the courthouse. There are no sidewalks along the road.
- There is no jury assembly room and the lobby area is filled to capacity with jury panels.
- There are no attorney/client conference rooms.
- The public counter allows for assistance of two individuals at one time which is not adequate for the volume of filings, and limits efficiency.

### **3. PHYSICAL CONDITION**

Describe the key physical problems of the facility or facilities to be replaced by the SB 1407 project, and the related safety, operational, and public service impacts of these conditions.

### **Main Street Placerville Courthouse**

- Built in 1911 the facility has several adverse physical conditions. It has a 5 seismic rating and due to condition and cost, retrofit is not an option.
- Water is plumbed with lead piping.
- There is asbestos throughout the building. Areas where there is known asbestos: sprayed on fireproofing, mudding and taping compounds for the sheetrock walls, 9" square vinyl floor tiles, linoleum, and pipe insulation.
- Inadequate HVAC system (air flow, ventilation, heating and air conditioning). There are window air units in several of the clerk office areas to minimize the air flow issue. The window units are failing due to age and continuous use.
- The corbels on the exterior of the building are deteriorating and several have fallen presenting a safety concern and liability issue.
- Mold has been present in the basement file room area. The adjacent creek's proximity to the rear parking lot creates mold in our lower level file and exhibit room, due to groundwater intrusion.
- The paint in the basement area contains lead.
- The facility is not ADA compliant. Individuals with limited mobility must access the facility through the back door under escort of security to the perimeter security station. The courtrooms and access to witness stands, jury boxes, and spectator seating are not ADA compliant. We have staff and bench officers with mobility issues and/or limitations and often times need to seek assistance from others to access areas within the courthouse.
- Access to the bench is also not ADA complaint. Judges and clerk staff must navigate steps to gain access to the bench and clerk workstation.
- Limited accessible parking.
- The parking lot has uneven pavement which presents a trip and fall hazard.
- There are no public restrooms on the third floor, other than jury room restrooms. Jury panel members and the public must go to second floor to use restrooms, or the first floor for use of accessible restroom.
- Restrooms are inadequate for the number of court users.

- Limited parking for staff only, jurors must park at the bus depot which is about ½ mile away, or pay for parking in the downtown area. The transit service often changes their schedule, and adequate bussing for jurors is lacking. Judges must end trials early so that the jurors can get a transit bus back to their cars.
- It is often difficult to hear at Main Street Courthouse due to large number of emergency vehicles traveling from nearby police & fire stations and/or to a nearby hospital. The noise from the sirens and Highway 50 traffic often disrupts and delays court proceedings.
- There is no emergency lighting in the facility in the event of an electrical outage; in the event of an outage, areas in the facility are in total darkness.
- We have had long term utility outages at the courthouse requiring closure for extended periods of time. When this occurs, staff and operations are moved to other west slope facilities.

Information from Bill Errecart, Temporary Facilities Management Analyst, District 11, Office of Court Construction and Management regarding the physical condition of the Main Street Placerville Courthouse:

August 8, 2012

I want to show my support for the new courthouse in Placerville as evidenced by this email. Due to the continued high cost of maintenance and long term issues at the Main Street Courthouse in Placerville, I would like to outline some of the challenges at this facility to be offered as needed in support of the new building.

Since January of this year alone (7 months), the AOC has spent in excess of \$160K on elevator and HVAC issues alone. This 100 year old building has been and will continue to be an ongoing challenge to keep up to ADA, OSHA & Building Code Standards.

The predominance of asbestos in the building materials escalate the cost of maintaining, effecting repairs and insuring a safe environment for the public and court staff. Coupled with the aged structure, ADA standards are not fully met and will continue to be challenging to remedy without extensive renovation.

The AOC is committed to delivering the best possible environment to the public and court but is hampered by diminishing budgets and staff to fulfill this mission. Looking forward, this facility will require extensive asbestos abatement to access and maintain/replace HVAC equipment. The major systems of this facility are not energy efficient and are expensive to operate.

ADA accessibility at this court is poor due to the age and inherent design flaws that were not taken into consideration 100 years ago. The major systems of this facility are aged and will require replacement which will be extremely expensive due to the needs and areas where equipment must be installed.

The exterior materials of the building are deteriorating and the county is struggling to address falling corbels from under the roof eaves. Each corbel is approx 65 lbs and is suspended 40' above the parking lot and entries into the

building. The stone façade, footings, and parking lot are showing their age and in need of major work.

There are many individual issues at this facility that continue to challenge maintenance and court staff. It is my hope that the new courthouse will be built to support the court and the public at large. It is in all of our best interests to have access to our courts in a safe and secure environment.

Respectfully,

Bill Errecart  
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### **Building C Placerville Court Facility**

- The heating and air conditioning unit is failing and provides for inconsistent temperature throughout the building.
- The facility often has bats flying in the interior of the building, entering through exterior openings.
- Non-compliant accessible parking.
- Lack of a lowered clerk counter to assist individuals in wheelchairs.
- Carpets in the facility have not been replaced in several years. There are many areas where the carpet is loose or torn presenting a trip and fall hazard.
- There is no emergency lighting in the facility in the event of an electrical outage; restrooms and the courtroom are in total darkness.
- Acoustic issues exist in Department 7 due to the low ceiling and padded walls. The PA system is inadequate for the courtroom.
- Access to the bench is also not ADA complaint. Judges and clerk staff must navigate steps to gain access to the bench.
- Court and county offices and functions are mingled together throughout the facility. Court public access is on the lower level and court users entering the facility often request information about their court matter from county staff, interrupting county staff that are assisting county customers.

### **Department 8 Juvenile/Traffic Facility**

- Newly remodeled space below the juvenile hall which opened on June 25, 2012.
- Issues with the heating/air conditioning unit have occurred since the opening. The contractor has been called back five times to address the HVAC system.
- Irrigation to the planter areas of the facility is shut off due to a leak and no specifications on where the irrigation pipes run.

## **Cameron Park Courthouse Facility**

- The HVAC system is 30+ years old and failing. The system can't adequately manage the temperature in the facility when there are crowds or jury panels.
- The jury seats have not been replaced in several years and are deteriorating.
- Carpet needs replacing.
- During the past two years this facility has had major repairs including roof repairs; exterior brick façade removal with stucco replacement; landscaping modifications to remove plants that present a security concern and replacement of the irrigation system; and security fencing installation.
- Access to the bench is also not ADA complaint. Judges and clerk staff must navigate steps to gain access to the bench.
- There is no emergency lighting in the facility in the event of an electrical outage; in the event of an outage, areas in the facility are in total darkness.
- We have had long term utility outages at the courthouse requiring closure for extended periods of time. When this occurs, staff and operations are moved to other west slope facilities.

## **4. ACCESS TO COURT SERVICES.**

Describe how the proposed project will improve access to court services for court users. For example, describe how the project will expand or improve access to court services for an underserved population.

- Court users will have one courthouse to service all criminal, family law, civil, probate, juvenile and traffic matters. All self-help services and workshops will be provided in the courthouse eliminating the need for self-represented litigants to travel to the law library for services.
- Court users will not be required to appear for hearings at four separate facilities on the West Slope of the county. This will reduce delays in proceedings and allow for reassignment of cases to a different judge without having to drive 1 to 20 miles to another facility.
- The project will provide a courthouse that is fully ADA accessible eliminating the need for handicapped individuals to enter through a rear door, providing accessible clerk's counters, courtroom witness and jury boxes, benches and providing sufficient and compliant accessible parking.
- Jurors will have on site parking, a jury assembly room with adequate seating, small carrel workstations, table seating, flat screen displays for orientation or TV programming, and PA system linked to jury staff area.
- Courtrooms will support the latest in audio visual (AV) capability for evidence presentation, media output, and notification system to court officer from deliberating juries.
- Safety for the general public accessing court services will be greatly increased as exposure to in custody defendants will no longer be an issue.
- Attorneys will have sufficient conference space to meet with clients.
- Attorneys meeting with in custody defendants will be in secure holding areas with proper security screens and observation.
- There will be separate witness waiting areas so that exposure to defendants is limited.

## **5. ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY**

This criterion is defined in the *Prioritization Methodology for Trial Court Capital Outlay Projects* adopted by the Judicial Council in 2008 (the methodology) as “free or reduced cost of land for new construction, viable financing partnerships or fund contributions by other government entities or private parties that results in lower project delivery costs, cost savings resulting from adaptive reuse of existing facilities, operational efficiencies from consolidation of court calendars and operations, savings from sharing of facilities by more than one court, and building operations cost savings from consolidating facilities.” This should be an opportunity that is already in place or confirmed. Please also indicate if the new project is located adjacent to a county jail facility or police station, and whether or not a direct connection will be provided for prisoner transport, which can result in savings to the county.

There will be no capital outlay by the State for the land acquisition. See attached letter from County of El Dorado Board of Supervisors dated August 14, 2012. This letter is responsive to the economic opportunities for land acquisition. The current authorized amount of \$2,795,000 for site acquisition can be used for other facility projects.

Cost savings will result from the elimination of courier service between the four facilities on the western slope. Courier service is currently \$24,000 annually and would reduce to approximately \$5,000 annually. Consolidation of each facilities copiers and postage meters will also result in a cost savings of approximately \$15,000 annually.

Court staff will not be required to travel between court locations to provide coverage due to staff absences/vacancies. This will provide a cost savings in mileage expense claims and reduce exposure to liability.

The El Dorado County Bar is small and there are significant delays to existing calendars as attorneys are required to travel between court locations. Avoiding these delays will provide a savings of judicial and staff resources, hearings will not need to be continued as often and matters can reach timely disposition.

Liability exposure is minimized with a new courthouse. Lawsuits have arisen due to the physical condition of facilities, with falls on the steps inside and outside the facilities and due to conflicts between litigants and security due to close quarters.

The new Placerville Courthouse will be located adjacent to the county jail facility however, no direct connection will be provided for prisoner transport.

## **6. PROJECT STATUS**

Refers to the current phase or stage of a project. Current project status is categorized as follows, with projects in reassessment noted by the term “Reassess” after the project name:

### **6.1. Site Selection.**

These projects are in the process of identifying two potential sites for the planned new courthouse based upon criteria prioritized, and mutually agreed to, by the court and the AOC. The two sites that meet site selection criteria are submitted to the State Public Works Board (SPWB) for site selection approval. Site Selection activities have been paused and will restart if the project is approved by the Judicial Council to continue. The following projects are in Site Selection:

- 6.1.1. Inyo – New Independence Courthouse – Reassess
- 6.1.2. Kern – New Mojave Courthouse – Reassess
- 6.1.3. Los Angeles – New Eastlake Juvenile Courthouse – Reassess
- 6.1.4. Los Angeles – New Mental Health Courthouse

## **6.2. Site Acquisition.**

These projects have obtained Site Selection approval by the SPWB and are in the process of performing in-depth site due diligence, complying with the California Environmental Quality Act, negotiating acquisition terms, and performing test fit studies to confirm the site will accommodate the court's functional program within the project budget. After the preferred site has been thoroughly vetted and negotiations have been finalized, it will be submitted to the SPWB for acquisition approval and the site will be acquired. Site Acquisition activities have been paused and will restart if the project is approved by the Judicial Council to continue. The following projects are in Site Acquisition with sites not yet acquired:

### **6.2.1. El Dorado – New Placerville Courthouse**

- 6.2.2. Kern – New Delano Courthouse – Reassess
- 6.2.3. Mendocino – New Ukiah Courthouse – Reassess
- 6.2.4. Los Angeles – New Glendale Courthouse – Reassess
- 6.2.5. Los Angeles – New Santa Clarita Courthouse – Reassess
- 6.2.6. Los Angeles – New Southeast Los Angeles Courthouse – Reassess
- 6.2.7. Nevada – New Nevada City Courthouse – Reassess
- 6.2.8. Placer – New Tahoe Area Courthouse
- 6.2.9. Plumas – New Quincy Courthouse
- 6.2.10. Riverside – New Hemet Courthouse – Reassess
- 6.2.11. Sacramento – New Sacramento Criminal Courthouse
- 6.2.12. Santa Barbara – New Santa Barbara Criminal Courthouse – Reassess
- 6.2.13. Stanislaus – New Modesto Courthouse

## **6.3. Property Purchased.**

These projects have acquired all necessary property for the planned new courthouse, but are on hold due to lack of funding for Preliminary Plans and pending outcome of the trial court operations review referred to in the FY 2012–2013 Budget Act. The following projects are in this category:

- 6.3.1. Shasta – New Redding Courthouse
- 6.3.2. Siskiyou – New Yreka Courthouse
- 6.3.3. Sonoma – New Santa Rosa Criminal Courthouse
- 6.3.4. Tuolumne – New Sonora Courthouse

## **6.4. Preliminary Plans.**

These projects have funding for preparation of Preliminary Plans, which includes schematic design and design development drawings. When completed and approved by the AOC and the court, Preliminary Plans are submitted to the SPWB for approval. Preliminary Plans for the following projects have been paused pending outcome of the trial court operations review referred to in the FY 2012–2013 Budget Act:

- 6.4.1. Fresno – Renovate Fresno Courthouse
- 6.4.2. Glenn – Renovation and Addition to Willows Courthouse
- 6.4.3. Imperial – New El Centro Family Courthouse – Reassess
- 6.4.4. Merced – New Los Banos Courthouse

6.4.5. Riverside – New Indio Juvenile and Family Courthouse

6.4.6. Tehama – New Red Bluff Courthouse

### **6.5. Preliminary Plans Completed.**

These projects have received SPWB approval of Preliminary Plans, but cannot move forward because no funding is available for Working Drawings:

6.5.1. Lake – New Lakeport Courthouse

6.5.2. Monterey – New South Monterey County Courthouse – Reassess

### **6.6. Working Drawings.**

These projects are in the process of preparing detailed construction documents, obtaining government agency approvals and preparing bid documents. Once Working Drawings have been completed and agency approvals are obtained, projects will be submitted to the state Department of Finance (DOF) for approval to bid. Each of the following projects, with the exception of the San Diego project, is in the Working Drawings phase and is scheduled to begin construction in FY 2012–2013:

6.6.1. Alameda – New East County Hall of Justice

6.6.2. Butte – New North Butte County Courthouse

6.6.3. Kings – New Hanford Courthouse

6.6.4. San Diego – New San Diego Central Courthouse\*

6.6.5. San Joaquin – Juvenile Justice Center Renovation

6.6.6. Santa Clara – New Santa Clara Family Justice Center

6.6.7. Solano – Fairfield Old Solano Courthouse Renovation

6.6.8. Sutter – New Yuba City Courthouse

6.6.9. Yolo – New Woodland Courthouse

\*Scheduled for construction in FY 2013–2014

### **6.7. Construction.**

These projects have received approval to bid by DOF and will be included in an upcoming bond sale. They are in the process of bidding, awarding the construction contract, or are under construction. Currently no projects are in this category because no SB 1407 projects have actually started the construction phase.

### **6.8. Reassessment.**

In April 2012, the Judicial Council directed the AOC to reassess the scope and budget of 13 projects. These projects will be reassessed to confirm project scope and budget and identify significant ways to reduce costs, including where feasible, reducing square footage, undertaking renovations of existing buildings instead of new construction, evaluating lease options, and using lower cost construction methods. The Judicial Council directed the AOC to reassess the following projects:

6.8.1. Inyo – New Inyo County Courthouse

6.8.2. Imperial – New El Centro Family Courthouse

6.8.3. Kern – New Delano Courthouse

6.8.4. Kern – New Mojave Courthouse

6.8.5. Los Angeles – New Eastlake Juvenile Courthouse

6.8.6. Los Angeles – New Glendale Courthouse

6.8.7. Los Angeles – New Santa Clarita Courthouse

6.8.8. Los Angeles – New Southeast Los Angeles Courthouse

- 6.8.9. Mendocino – New Ukiah Courthouse
- 6.8.10. Monterey – New South Monterey County Courthouse
- 6.8.11. Nevada – New Nevada Courthouse
- 6.8.12. Riverside – New Hemet Courthouse
- 6.8.13. Santa Barbara – New Santa Barbara Criminal Courthouse

## **7. COURT USAGE**

This criterion is determined by the extent to which all courtrooms are used in a county; the size of the estimated population served; and the estimated case load, which is defined as the number of filings, number of dispositions, and number of jury trials.

### **7.1. Courtroom Locations and Judicial Officer Calendar Assignments**

For each courthouse in your county, please provide a listing identifying courtroom by department number and the name of the judicial officer assigned to that courtroom. If a courtroom is unused, please explain the reason for the vacancy (unfilled authorized position, retirement, medical leave, vacation, etc.).

#### **Main Street Placerville Courthouse**

**Department 1:** Hon. James R. Wagoner, criminal pre trial, criminal trial calendar and juvenile drug court, appellate division, and overflow from family law and juvenile assignment.

**Department 2:** Hon. Daniel B. Proud, criminal pre trial, criminal trial calendar and behavioral health court, appellate division, and overflow from family law and juvenile assignment.

**Department 5:** Hon. Kenneth J. Melikian, family law and adoption assignment; Commissioner Dylan Sullivan, Department of Child Support assignment.

#### **Building C Placerville Facility**

**Department 7:** Hon. Douglas C. Phimister, criminal pre trial, drug court and DUI court assignment.

#### **Juvenile/Traffic Facility**

**Department 8:** Hon. Warren C. Stracener, juvenile delinquency, juvenile dependency and adult/juvenile traffic assignment

#### **Cameron Park Courthouse**

**Department 9:** Hon. Nelson K. Brooks, civil, probate, guardianship, conservatorship, and overflow criminal trials assignment..

**Department 10:** Temporary Judge and Dispute Resolution Hearing Officer Steven B.R. Keller, small claims, unlawful detainer and civil dispute resolution assignment.

#### **South Lake Tahoe**

**Department 3:** Hon. Suzanne N. Kingsbury, criminal pre trial, criminal trial calendar and domestic violence compliance court, appellate division, and overflow from misdemeanor criminal, civil, family law, probate and juvenile assignment.

**Department 4:** Hon. Steven C. Bailey, civil pre trial and trial, probate, guardianship, conservatorship, juvenile delinquency and criminal pre trial and trial, appellate and overflow from felony criminal, family law and juvenile dependency assignment.

**Department 11:** Temporary Judge and Dispute Resolution Hearing Officer Steven B.R. Keller, small claims and civil dispute resolution assignment.

**Department 12:** Commissioner Dylan Sullivan, Department of Child Support, family law, juvenile dependency, unlawful detainers and traffic assignment.

**7.2. Estimated Population Served**

The estimated population served by a court may be calculated in several ways:

**7.2.1.** For courthouses serving the entire county, the estimated population served is the 2012 estimated county population. AOC staff will provide data to the CFWG (total estimate and estimate per Judicial Position Equivalent (JPE)).

**7.2.2.** For courthouses serving a portion of the county, the estimated population can be identified using county data on city and unincorporated areas. This information may be adjusted to include estimated population for courts that have seasonal increases in tourist population. The working group requests the court provide this information to the working group.

Sources of data: State of California, Department of Finance, E-1 Population Estimates for Cities, Counties, and the State with Annual Percent Change — January 1, 2011 and 2012. Sacramento, California, May 2012. Local data sources for court service areas may also be used.

Data from State of California, Department of Finance, E-1 Population Estimates for Cities, Counties, and the State with Annual Percent Change — January 1, 2011 and 2012. Sacramento, California, May 2012

State/County/City	Total Population		Percent Change
	1/1/2011	1/1/2012	
<b>El Dorado</b>	180,483	180,712	0.1
Placerville	10,306	10,369	0.6
South Lake Tahoe	21,328	21,343	0.1
Balance Of County	148,849	149,000	0.1

2010 populations: Pollock Pines 6,871; El Dorado Hills 42,108; Placerville 10,389; Cameron Park 18,228

According to the 2010 Census the population for El Dorado County is 181,058. There are two incorporated cities. Placerville, the county seat, with a population of 10,389 and South Lake Tahoe with a population of 21,403. Population increases have been steady for the last 10 years from 2000 to 2010 with an average annual increase of 2%. Between this time period, the population increased 17% overall in the county. Over 78% of the county residents live in unincorporated areas outside of city limits. Major residential communities (El Dorado Hills,

Cameron Park and Shingle Springs) in the western part of the county serve as suburban areas to the booming Sacramento metropolitan region.

El Dorado County is a year round tourist destination for outdoor and indoor activities and events. The west slope of El Dorado County now has an Indian casino which has increased our tourism population and increased our case filings. The increase in population from tourism comes with an additional burden for the court and our justice partners.

**7.3. Number of Filings.** The number of cases filed with the court to initiate legal action. Source of data: Judicial Council of California, 2011 Court Statistics Report, Statewide Caseload Trends, 2000–2001 through 2009–2010. AOC staff will provide data to the CFWG (total estimate and estimate per JPE).

**7.4. Number of Dispositions.** The number of cases that have been resolved by a determination by the court. Source of data: Judicial Council of California, 2011 Court Statistics Report, Statewide Caseload Trends, 2000–2001 through 2009–2010. AOC staff will provide data to the CFWG (total estimate and estimate per JPE).

**7.5. Number of Jury Trials.** A jury trial is counted when the jury is empanelled. Source of data: Judicial Council of California, 2011 Court Statistics Report, Statewide Caseload Trends 2000–2001 through 2009–2010. AOC staff will provide data to the CFWG (total estimate and estimate per JPE).

**7.6. Weighted Filings Data.** 2011 judicial officer study case weights used in evaluating statewide judicial workload and used in the biennial judicial needs assessment. AOC staff will provide data to the CFWG.

**8. *TYPE OF COURTHOUSE*** refers to either Main or Branch courthouses.

The new Placerville courthouse will be the Main Courthouse for the west end of the county, the most populated area.

**9. *DISPOSITION OF EXISTING COURT SPACE OR FACILITY.***

Refers to an agreement between the state and another party, which will be responsible for space currently occupied by a court that will be vacated once the capital project has been completed. AOC staff will provide information to the CFWG.

**10. *CONSOLIDATION OF FACILITIES***

Refers to the replacement or consolidation of disparate leased or owned space that will improve operational efficiencies. Leased or owned spaces, such as modular buildings, should be included.

Due to lack of space in our five court facilities for excess furniture and equipment, the El Dorado Superior Court currently leases a small storage unit for \$973 a year. The New Placerville Courthouse will provide space for storage of excess furniture and equipment allowing for this small saving in storage fees and eliminating the need and associated costs to move furniture and equipment between locations.

We currently pay \$65,000 annually for records storage and maintenance. The new courthouse will include sufficient space for current case records storage, will allow for a reduction in the amount of records stored off site and the cost associated with this storage.

Operationally there will be efficiencies for judicial officers, court staff and court users with the consolidation of the four court facilities on the west slope to two court facilities. With the majority of case types and hearings being consolidated to one facility, judges will be able to provide immediate overflow case assignment assistance, court calendar delays will be minimized as attorneys will be in one facility, court staff will be able to provide better and more immediate coverage during staff absences.

The new courthouse will also provide us with opportunities to utilize bench officers to meet the demands of our court calendars. During periods when the calendars are not as large in our South Lake Tahoe court, we would have the capability of having one of our Tahoe bench officers travel to the new courthouse to assist. With our current west slope facilities, this isn't an option.

#### **11. EXTENT TO WHICH PROJECT SOLVES A COURT'S FACILITIES PROBLEMS**

Refers to the degree to which the court's identified facilities problems in a specific county can be solved by constructing a new courthouse.

Most if not all of the identified facility problems that have been identified above will be solved by constructing a new courthouse. Western El Dorado County will have two court facilities for all case types.

With all of the case types being in one location we eliminate the need for transportation of inmates to four different locations, the need for attorneys to appear in four different locations, the need for court users to travel to four different locations to file documents or for appearances, and we consolidate staff in two location.

Overcrowding is addressed by providing a jury assembly room, adequate lobby space, attorney/client conference rooms, witness waiting rooms, perimeter security screening stations, clerk's counter access, holding cells, courtroom audience seating and well areas, and parking.

All security problems are addressed as outlined in the El Dorado Sheriff's letter of August 13, 2012.

The physical condition problems are addressed with a new courthouse. The new courthouse will not have asbestos throughout the building, will not have lead paint, will not have falling exterior molding/corbels, and will not have mold. The new courthouse will have heating and air conditioning units that are state of the art and adequate for the facility, emergency lighting, sufficient number of elevators for the population within the court, and it will be accessible to individuals with disabilities.

#### **12. EXPECTED OPERATIONAL IMPACT**

Refers to savings or cost increases in areas such as staffing, janitorial, security, and building operations.

**12.1. Estimate** and document one-time and ongoing cost impacts to the court related to moving in and operating the new facility. These estimates will include increased and decreased costs, detailed by each specific cost item (e.g. moving, or janitorial, etc.)

Replace the County provided phone system with a court owned and operated phone system will have a onetime cost of approximately \$175,000 with ongoing maintenance costs of approximately \$12,000. We would realize a saving for ongoing maintenance costs of approximately \$28,000 annually by migrating off of the County system.

The Court currently contracts for janitorial services at our Main Street Placerville Courthouse and Juvenile/Traffic facility. The County provides janitorial service at the Building C Placerville facility. County janitorial costs are approximately \$0.70 cents more per square foot than contract services. The total cleanable square footage will increase from 31,730 to approximately 81,000. The cost for janitorial service will increase by approximately \$15,000 annually due to the increased square footage.

The El Dorado County Sheriff's Department estimates a cost savings of approximately \$237,000. See attached letter from Sergeant Foxworthy dated August 17, 2012.

Moving costs are estimated to be approximately \$20,000. We would be moving all case files, peripheral furniture and equipment from three of our court facilities to the new courthouse.

**12.2. Document** the funding source(s) planned to be used to address any net cost increases.

The Court will request funding from the Judicial Council from the Statewide 2% reserve for the one-time costs associated with moving into the new facility and in obtaining a new court owned and operated telephone system. The court plans to use existing furnishings and equipment, not provided for under the SB 1407 funds, for the new courthouse. Any furnishings or equipment needs will first be obtained through donations or surplus when possible.

**12.3. Document** potential ongoing cost savings through elimination of "court funded" lease costs, consolidation and reduction of staff, etc. Provide quantitative savings estimates whenever possible.

It is estimated that with the reorganization of staffing at the management level the savings will be approximately \$100,000. We have already reduced our general clerical staffing during the current fiscal crisis to critical levels and will likely have minimal savings with the consolidation of staff.

**12.4.** AOC staff to provide data on elimination of AOC funded lease costs and impacts to AOC funded building operational costs, to include offset from County Facility Payment.

### **13. QUALITATIVE STATEMENT OF NEED TO REPLACE A FACILITY OR FACILITIES**

Refers to key aspects of the proposed project that may not be reflected in the project's assignment to a priority need group based on the methodology employed by the Judicial Council in 2008 to select projects for funding by SB 1407.

The distance between our South Lake Tahoe and West Slope facilities is no less than 60 miles. While such a distance may seem negligible when considering court facilities in urban areas accessible by a freeway system, the trip between South Lake Tahoe and Placerville can take more than an hour during periods of good weather. The road is often closed due to storms,

accidents or for construction projects. Travel between South Lake Tahoe and Placerville can often take two or more hours, one way. Our ability to move judges and staff and cases between these geographic locations is limited for this reason. The majority of the population resides in the western part of the county, and we could more readily dispense with court business if we had flexible courtroom space consolidated in Placerville. It is significantly easier to temporarily relocate one judge in order to meet the needs of our calendars rather than inconveniencing law enforcement, attorneys and court users.

Our court has been burdened by a significant number of high profile and/or murder cases, and we do not have a single courtroom appropriate for handling matters of this type. The South Lake Tahoe location comes close to running out of available jurors each year, and if a high profile trial from Tahoe can be moved to the western part of the county, we avoid costly change of venue expenses.

El Dorado County has a high rate of tourism, and our filings fluctuate due to the influx of people who visit our area. At certain times of the year, events are held which bring in a great many visitors who commit crimes, engage in tortuous conduct and otherwise are engaged in behavior that ends up in litigation in the court system.

A casino was built in the western part of our county, and with it we have seen an impact on our court system. The tribe and the court actively partner with one another, and we would like to work together to deal with these issues.

#### **14. COURTROOM AND COURTHOUSE CLOSURES**

These are defined in two ways:

**14.1.** Courthouses or courtrooms that have been officially closed by the court, where the court has issued a closure notice in compliance with Government Code Section 68106 (Budget Act of 2010). All courts' notices are listed and posted at <http://www.courts.ca.gov/12973.htm>. Please provide an explanation of how the closure is affecting court operations. Confirm whether the courtroom or courthouse is needed in the future and if the closure is temporary or permanent. Please explain why a new courthouse is still needed when one or more courthouses or courtrooms have been officially closed by the court.

Not applicable. No courthouses or courtrooms have been officially closed as of the date of this writing.

**14.2.** Courtrooms that are not fully scheduled based on item 7.1. If a courtroom is unused, please explain the reason for the vacancy (unfilled authorized position, retirement, medical leave, room functionality, location, etc.).

Not applicable. Main Street Placerville Courthouse Department 6 does not have an assigned judicial officer and is used only for overflow matters. Family law mandatory settlement conferences and veteran's court are currently scheduled in the department. This is a very small hearing room with seating for 12 in the audience, no jury box and very limited space in the well area.

#### **15. "OUTSIDE THE BOX THINKING"**

Refers to ideas regarding how to reduce project scope and budget, and an examination of creative and potentially less costly ways to address safety, security and functional problems of the courthouse or courthouses to be replaced by the capital project. For example, such ideas to reduce project scope and costs could include renovating rather than constructing a new building, reorganizing services to increase utilization of existing facilities, use of hearing rooms instead of full size courtrooms, use of video conferencing for hearings and arraignments, and limiting the construction of fully flexible courtrooms (no jury boxes or connection to in custody areas).

June 8, 2012 Court Administration, AOC Facility Project Manager, and Architects met to seek further efficiencies in the project program. This resulted in a reduction of the building area of over 5,000 square feet below the original allocation for this building. Additional area reductions may be achieved through the design process. Staff will be assigned workstations at the front clerk's counter reducing the square footage in the clerk's office work space. Courtroom clerks were moved from the judges' chambers area to the clerk's office reducing the space needs in this area. Video conferencing is currently used for small claims hearings, civil case management conferences and Department of Child Support Services hearings with parties appearing in our South Lake Tahoe courthouse and the judicial officer seating at the Cameron Park courthouse for civil matters and the Main Street Placerville Courthouse for DCSS matters. Video conferencing will continue for these hearings and may be expanded to include interpreting and arraignments.

In addition to area reductions and operational efficiencies, this project will realize significant cost savings by utilizing standard commercial quality construction methodologies and building systems, including tilt-up construction. The direct cost of construction will be reduced by at least 14% from the original approved budget.

#### **16. EXPENDED RESOURCES**

Refers to the amount of time and money spent by the AOC, the court, and local communities on the SB 1407 project. Note that the AOC will provide the working group with data on SB 1407 fund expenditures as of June 30, 2012 for each project being evaluated.

We respectfully request that you ensure the SB 1407 court construction funds are preserved for their intended purpose.

# COUNTY OF EL DORADO

330 Fair Lane  
Placerville, CA 95667  
(530) 621-5390  
(530) 622-3645 Fax

**Terri Daly**  
Acting Clerk of the Board



# BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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August 14, 2012

Presiding Judge, El Dorado County  
Honorable Suzanne N. Kingsbury  
1354 Johnson Blvd  
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

Re: New Placerville Area Courthouse, Forni Road/Jail Site

Dear Judge Kingsbury:

In preparation for your August 24, 2012 response to the Court Facilities Working Group and public presentation on or about September 5, we are outlining the reasons why the Judicial Council should proceed with the purchase and closing of escrow for the planned Placerville area courthouse, subject to the completion of the CEQA review process and any procedures required by law.

- 1) Except for completing the environmental documents, staff time and escrow costs, there is no cost to the State of California as we are trading the value in Building "C" for the value in the new court site.
- 2) In addition to relatively no cost for the subject site, the County of El Dorado will deposit into an escrow account \$1,500,000 for the cost associated with the driveway and road improvements for the Forni Road extension.
- 3) The AOC finds the site acceptable with utilities adjacent to the proposed courthouse.
- 4) This site is adjacent to El Dorado County's jail and will help lower cost and improve safety issues with prisoner transportation.
- 5) This particular property and the trade, along with the County's \$1,500,000 contribution, might not be available in the future, thus driving up the total cost of the new Placerville courthouse.

As of June 1, 2012, Jack and I had come to terms with the AOC's personnel on most of the salient points which are outlined below and which will confirm the initial terms of a formal written agreement.

**Acquisition Agreement:**

- a) County to grant fee title to State of 7.7 to 8.7 acres of land (anticipated value at approximately \$1,160,000 improved) on Forni Road adjacent to the El Dorado County Jail in exchange for the State's interest in Building C. Exact size to be determined after final test fits and utility/driveway information. (Subject to ratification of negotiations with the Briggs Family Trust.)
- b) The appraisal amendment for the updated acreage of the Forni Road/Jail site to be reviewed and accepted by Department of General Services.
- c) The agreement will include a provision that the cost of the driveway/utility improvements will be placed into an escrow account by El Dorado County, up to a maximum contribution of \$1,500,000, prior to the recording of deed/close of escrow for courthouse site. Any remaining funds at the completion of improvements to be returned to the County.
- d) All terms to be reviewed and accepted by Department of General Services and Department of Finance prior to State Public Works Board approval of acquisition.

**Access Easement:**

- a) County to grant access easement (or provide irrevocable offer of dedication of road) from Forni Road to courthouse site along future alignment of Ray Lawyer Drive. The temporary connection of Ray Lawyer Drive to Forni Road will be abandoned or removed if/when the County or the City of Placerville constructs the new intersection at the jail driveway as part of the Western Placerville Interchange improvements. Access easement to terminate upon public dedication of Ray Lawyer Drive extension.
- b) AOC to grant County sewer utility easement (or County will reserve sewer easement as part of grant deed).

**Road / Driveway and Utilities:**

- a) AOC to contract for the provision of all required utilities to the courthouse site and pay for same with the \$1.5 million deposited into escrow by the County. All utilities to be verified by utility survey and constructed with minimum necessary improvements for courthouse use to include those shown on updated estimate and drawing to be attached to property acquisition agreement.
- b) AOC shall contract the construction of a two lane roadway (including grading of the full right of way width) along the adopted Ray Lawyer Drive alignment to the courthouse site and pay for the same with funds deposited into escrow by the County. Roadway to be constructed to public road standards acceptable to the City of Placerville, for courthouse use to include those shown on updated estimate and drawing to be attached to property

August 14, 2012

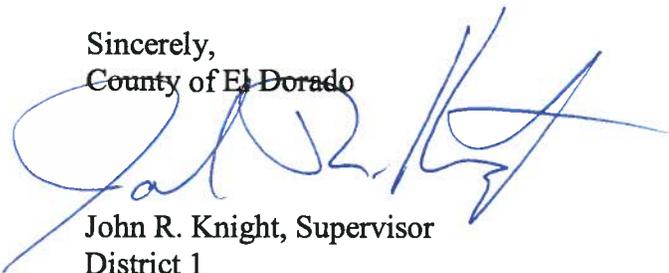
Page 3 of 3

acquisition agreement. Coordination of design to be resolved prior to finalizing of purchase acquisition agreement.

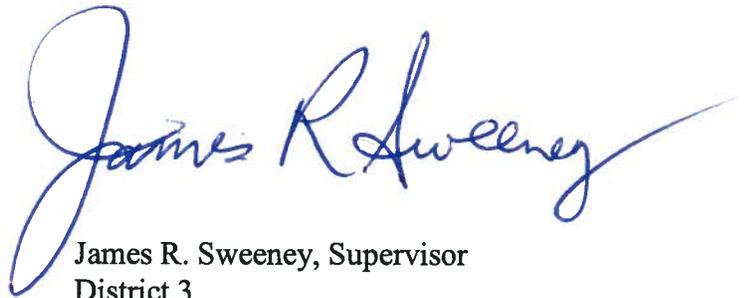
- c) AOC at its sole cost to contract for the construction of on-site parking, on-site utilities, and associated facilities on the courthouse site.

The terms outlined herein have been consistent between the AOC's office and the County of El Dorado for the past nine months. The terms are still acceptable for the current time but may not be in the future. Your assistance in the matter is most appreciated and if we can be of any further assistance or provide information please advise.

Sincerely,  
County of El Dorado



John R. Knight, Supervisor  
District 1



James R. Sweeney, Supervisor  
District 3



JOHN D'AGOSTINI

SHERIFF - CORONER - PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR  
COUNTY OF EL DORADO  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

August 13, 2012

Court Facilities Working Group  
455, Golden Gate Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: New Court Capital Project, El Dorado County

Dear Members of the Court Facilities Working Group:

Security issues in the Superior Court of California, County of El Dorado that would be immediately addressed or alleviated by the construction of the new court building include a concentration of court security personnel to one location, provides a secure and manageable structure, increases the efficiency by which in-custody inmates are moved to and from court and allows security needs of jurors and court staff to be effectively addressed.

Courtrooms are currently spread throughout El Dorado County and are contained within five different buildings at four different locations. Each location maintains an entry screening checkpoint which is staffed with two Sheriff's Security Officers. Bailiff's assigned to the individual courtrooms are the only other security personnel located at each site. This leaves a minimal response for any incident within a facility and a limited ability to conduct security checks of locations that present a greater security risk in and around court facilities. These locations consist of hallways, lobby's, parking lots and court staff work area, specifically areas where court employees have direct interaction with members of the public. One security feature the new court building would provide is a concentration of security resources. All court security resources would be stationed within one structure. This allows security resources to be shifted immediately to locations where they are needed including entry screening, interior or exterior security patrols or to respond to any incident located within or around the facility with sufficient personnel to appropriately handle the situation.

A new court structure will also be secure and manageable. All court visitors would enter through one entry point. Anyone who leaves would be required to re-enter the building through the screening checkpoint. Currently in Departments 9 and 10 (Cameron Park), courtrooms are located in two different buildings. Entry is made through the security checkpoint in one building prior to exiting the building and crossing a courtyard to a courtroom in a second building. This courtyard is separated from the

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TAHOE PATROL- 1360 JOHNSON BLVD., SUITE 100, SOUTH LAKE TAHOE, CA 96150

parking lot by a six foot iron fence that weapons could be handed over or through to a person on the inside. An "exit gate" is also located within the courtyard which could either be held open by someone on the inside or accessed from the parking lot while another person is exiting. Being built on a hillside, part of the perimeter fence around Court House 10 is four feet high and easily accessible from outside the perimeter. This area has limited camera coverage with the cameras being monitored by entry screening staff next door (no entry screening staff is assigned to courtroom 10).

The proposed capital project allows for a manageable court building with built-in security features such as surveillance camera coverage, hallways and public areas that are open and visible and the ability to provide regular security checks for a layered approach to security. This layered security will provide measures that do not intrude on court staff. Of the four court facilities located in Western El Dorado County, two have video surveillance and neither of these surveillance systems are adequate. There is limited ability for future growth of court security services and technology in the current facilities due to the age of buildings such as the Main Street Placerville Courthouse which was built in 1912 and the surveillance camera upgrade being put on hold due the discovery of asbestos.

Only one court complex in Western El Dorado County is equipped with holding cells. In-custody transports to other courts often occur with one transportation officer transporting one inmate due to a lack of holding facilities. This creates an inefficient transportation process with delays in getting in-custodies to court as well as transportation officers waiting when court is delayed. The holding cells located in Department 7 are not large enough to handle the in-custody calendar for that court and requires inmates to be shuttled over in small groups, increasing the transportation costs due to numerous trips and reducing efficiency.

Due to a lack of adequate holding cells, in-custody inmates standing by for court wait in unsatisfactory and unsafe waiting conditions during delays, often times in vehicles within an unsecured parking lot. With the proposed capital project in-custody inmates would arrive at court by way of a secured sallyport at the court facility from the jail. Adequate holding cells would be available within the court to hold the inmates in a safe, secure and controlled environment. Inmates would then be moved to their respective court and back to holding cells with little or no delay via secure hallway, secure elevators and no contact with the public.

The safety and security of jurors would also be increased with this project. Depending on the court, jurors are currently required to park off-site of the courthouse. Off-site parking consists of parking along a narrow busy roadway (Cameron Park) or in a distant non-monitored parking lot (Main Street). Jurors are either required to walk a significant distance or take a shuttle to the court. With the capital project, adequate parking would be available for all court visitors, including jurors, allowing for onsite parking in a monitored parking lot. Inside the court facility, jury waiting rooms would limit contact between jurors, members of the public and defendants to reduce the likelihood of confrontation or influence.

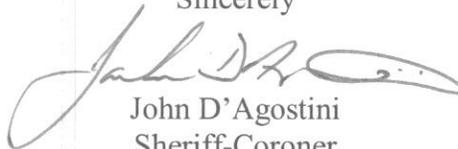
Other safety concerns addressed by this capital project include a reduction in court overcrowding. Overcrowding occurs regularly at all courts located in Western El Dorado County. Departments at the Main Street Court become overcrowded during most high profile trials. Department 5 at the Main Street Courthouse hears family law which often times requires an overflow crowd to wait in the hallway. Few seats are available in the lobby where the hallways are narrow leaving all waiting parties to be in close proximity. Overcrowding occurs at the Cameron Park Courthouse whenever a jury pool arrives due to a small lobby space and a relatively small courtroom.

The capital project contains improved safety considerations for facility evacuations such as a modern fire control system which includes fire detection and suppression and elevator recall systems. Multiple points of evacuation for public spaces and the ability of court employees to evacuate secure areas of the court through exterior doors will also be available.

Parking and building access for first responders at the Main Street Courthouse are also limited. Responding emergency personnel currently park along Main Street blocking traffic or they park in the back parking lot of the facility which also lacks a designated fire lane and availability is dependant on parking lot activity. The capital project will designate fire lanes within parking lots of the court enabling emergency responders to arrive in a more expedient and safe manner with immediate access to building entry points.

The new court facility will greatly reduce or eliminate many of the current security challenges enhancing the safety of the public who visit our courts as well as employees of our court. The capital project will also allow for a more efficient movement of in-custody inmates to and from court which will result in cost reductions in areas such as transportation while improving safety. The pooling of security resources, built in structural security measures as well as the use of technology will result in layered security plan that is both effective and efficient.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John D'Agostini", with a stylized flourish at the end.

John D'Agostini  
Sheriff-Coroner  
Public Administrator



JOHN D'AGOSTINI

SHERIFF - CORONER - PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR  
COUNTY OF EL DORADO  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

August 17, 2012

Court Facilities Working Group  
455, Golden Gate Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: New Court Capital Project, El Dorado County

Dear Members of the Court Facilities Working Group:

With the construction of the new court facility and the consolidation of court services in Western El Dorado County, I would anticipate cost savings for the Courts as well as the El Dorado County Sheriff's Department. These potential cost savings would be the result of the consolidation of court services to one location as well as improved court holding facilities for in-custody inmates and for those who are remanded to custody while in court.

I estimate that any cost savings achieved with the consolidation of perimeter security personnel would be neutralized by the need to staff other positions such as court holding cells and prisoner escort positions. Other staffing cost savings would likely result due to the consolidation of Bailiff's to one location and by a reduction of cost from replacing one sworn Peace Officer with a non-sworn employee. The consolidation of Bailiffs to one facility will undoubtedly result in fewer Extra Help hours and overtime hours created by special set hearings as well as sick time and vacation time coverage. This savings would be the result of having Bailiff's at one location available for coverage due to court dark days and breaks in court calendared events. Though it is difficult to project an exact amount, the reduction of cost from a sworn officer to a non-sworn officer would save the court about \$56,000 annually in salary and benefits. With Bailiff's currently working at various court houses it is not always possible to move them to a location where a vacancy is present. We may reduce Extra Help hours and overtime coverage hours by about 300 hours which equals an approximate saving to the court of \$11,000. These estimates would reduce costs to the Court by \$57,000 a year.

I would anticipate a significant reduction of costs for the El Dorado County Sheriff's Department as well. The primary area costs would be reduced is in transportation costs of inmates. Due to a lack of court holding facilities, inmates are transported back and forth to various courts often one at a time or by multiple trips for transportation officers in order to get all the inmates to court. Transporting inmates one

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at a time and repeated trips between jail and the courts increase transportation costs by way of increased employee hours as well as vehicle mileage. Currently transportation has two to six transportation officers, with four being the average moving inmates to various courthouses daily. By consolidating the courts to one location with a secure Sallyport and adequate holding cells, two transportation officers would be able to transport inmates to court and back to jail daily. This would likely have an average cost savings for the Sheriff's Department of at least \$180,000.00 annually. Additional savings would be made in the area of mileage. The proposed capital project will be located on property adjacent to the jail an estimated ¼ mile away. Transportation mileage to the nearest court currently is 1.2 miles round trip with other courts requiring a 5.2 mile and 22.6 mile round trip. With transports made daily to various courts a proposed one mile daily accumulation will be a significant reduction in mileage.

The proposed court project will not only provide a modern and safe facility, it will also provide for an efficient use of resources that will result in reduced costs for both El Dorado County and the Court by over \$237,000.

Respectfully

Sergeant Matthew Foxworthy  
Court Services Unit  
El Dorado County Sheriff's Department

El Dorado County Superior Court

Western Slope Facilities

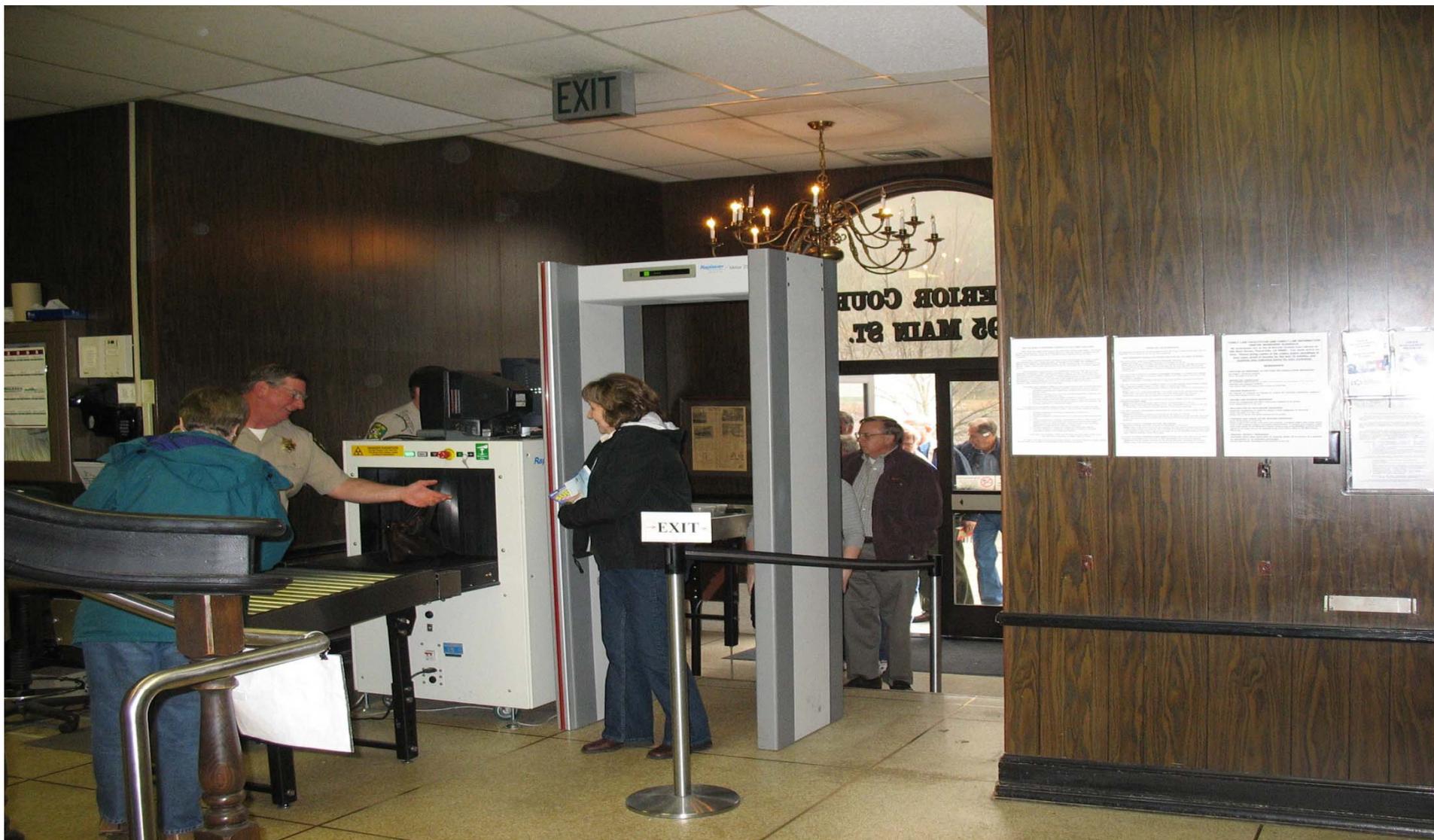
# MAIN STREET PLACERVILLE COURTHOUSE



# Jurors Arrive by Bus at Main Street Court from Off-Site Parking Lot



# Jurors & Public Enter Main Street



# Jurors & Public Enter Main Street



# Jurors & Public Enter Main Street



# Main Street – Main Floor Lobby/Jury Waiting, Approximately 800 sq. ft.



# Main Floor Lobby/Jury Waiting



# Main Floor Lobby/Jury Waiting



# Main Floor Lobby/Jury Waiting



# Juror Check In Main Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Approximately 700 sq. ft.



# 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Lobby/Jury Waiting



# Main Street Clerk's Counter No Security Barrier



# Main Street ADA Access



# Main Street Parking w/Security, 26 parking spaces for judges, staff, security & service



# Main Street – No Sallyport for Prisoner Transport



# Main Street – Prisoners Escorted through Public Hallways



# Main Street – Prisoner Escort in Public Elevator



# Main Street Defendant Transport to Courtroom



# Main Street Defendant Transport to Courtroom



# Main Street – No Holding Cells, Defendants seated in Jury Box



# Main Street – Dept. 5 Family Law, Inadequate Seating, Column in Center of Courtroom



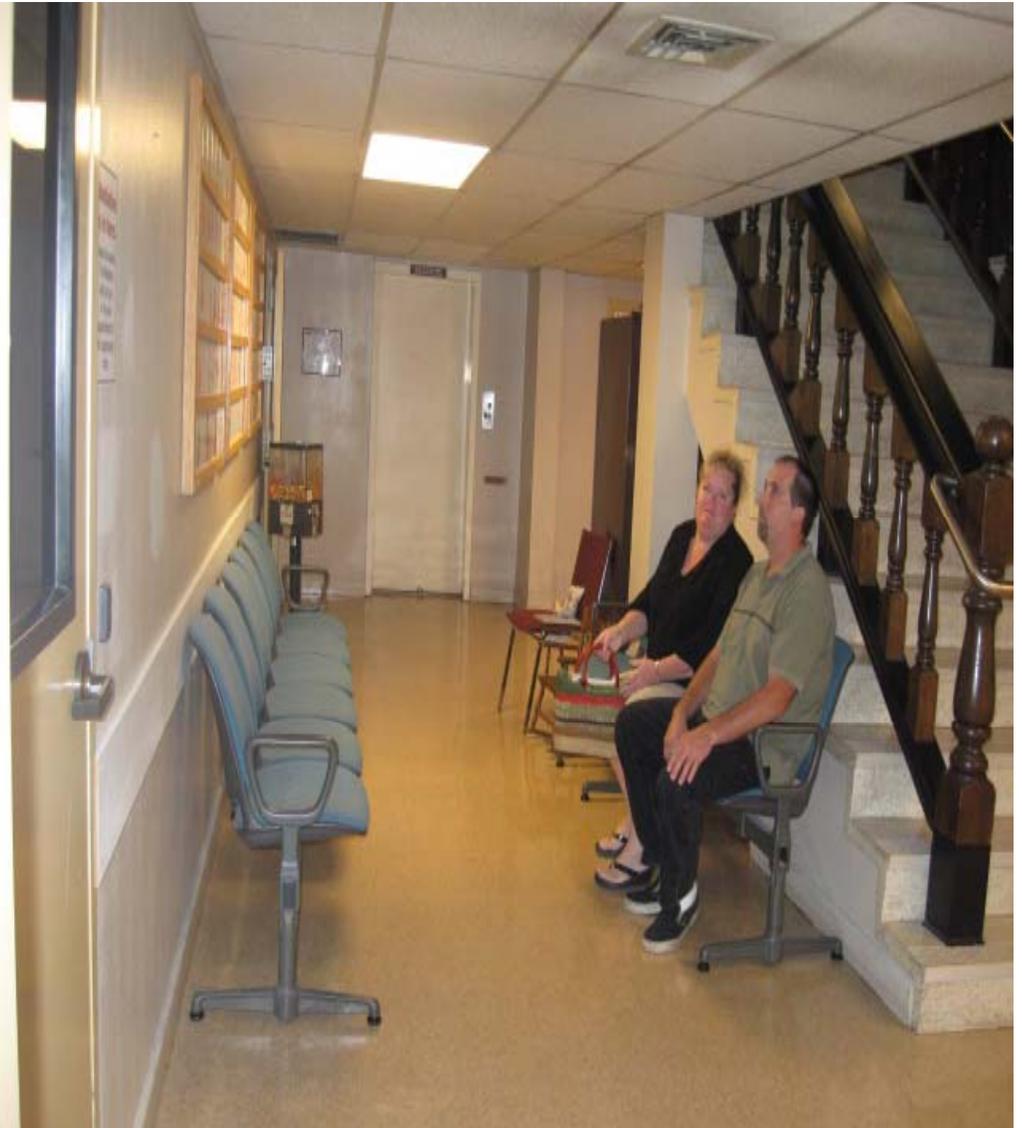
# Dept. 5 Courtroom w/Column & Clerk Workstation



# Dept. 6 Overflow Hearing Room



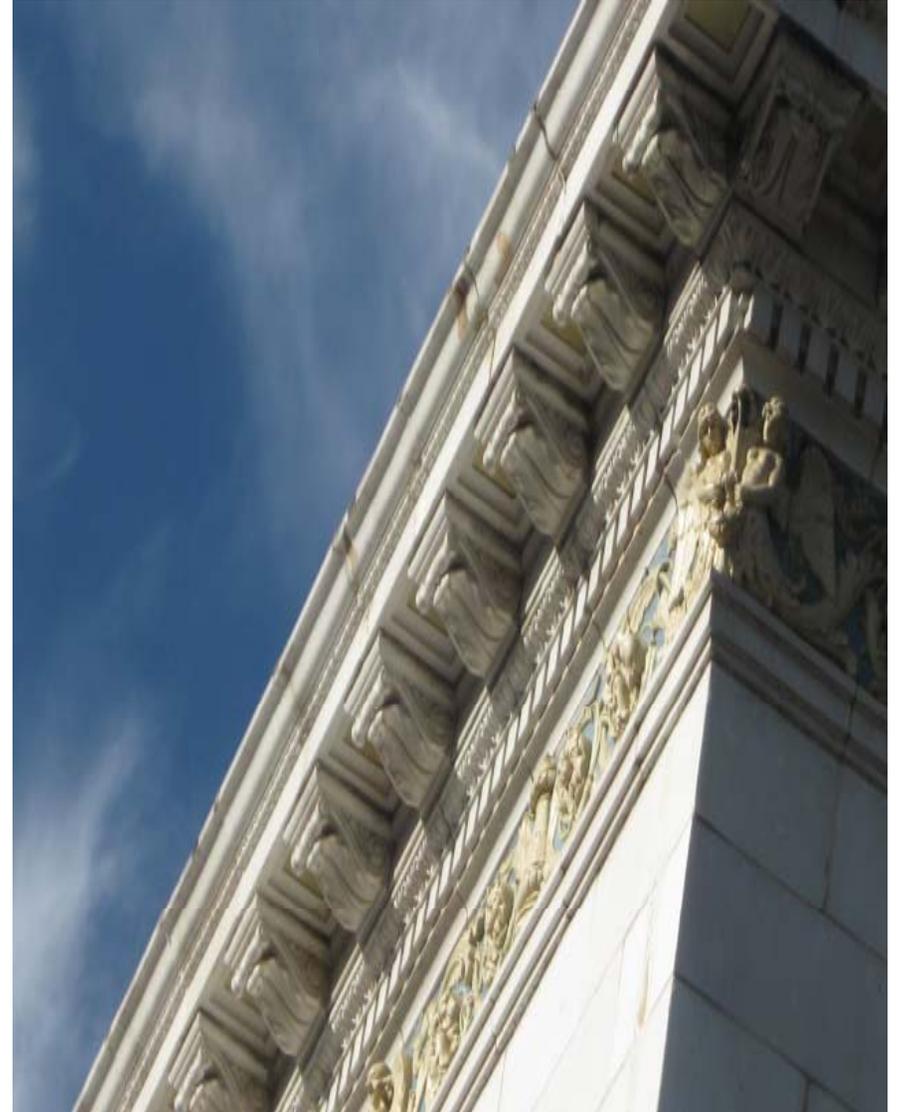
# Main St. Lower Floor Lobby, Approximately 500 sq. ft. & Mediator Waiting



# Main St., Stair or Elevator Access Required Except for Lower Floor



# Main St., Exterior Corbels Deteriorating and Falling



# Building C Placerville Court Facility



# Building C Main Entrance No Security



# Building C, Shared Court/County Workstations and Open Court Files



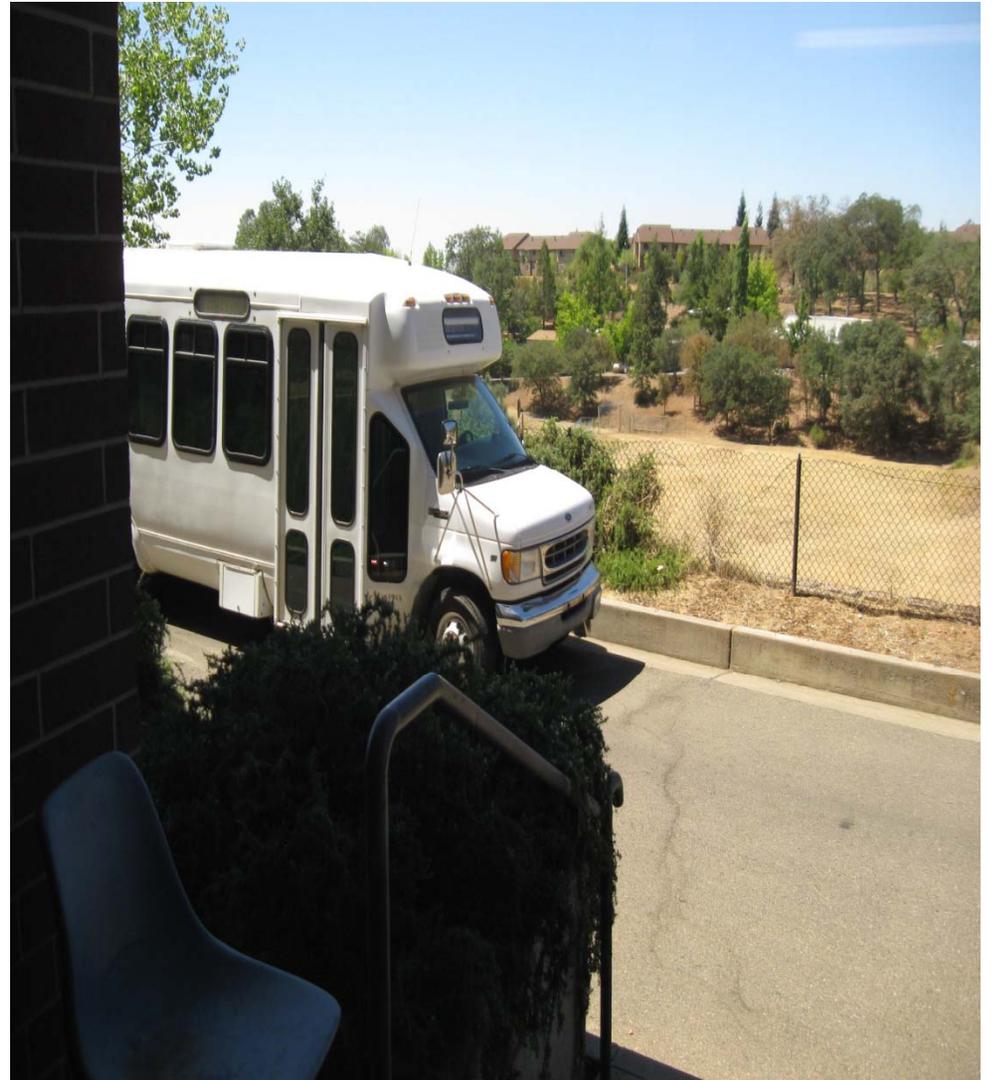
# Building C, Shared Court/County Work Area and Open Court Files



# Building C, Department 7 Security



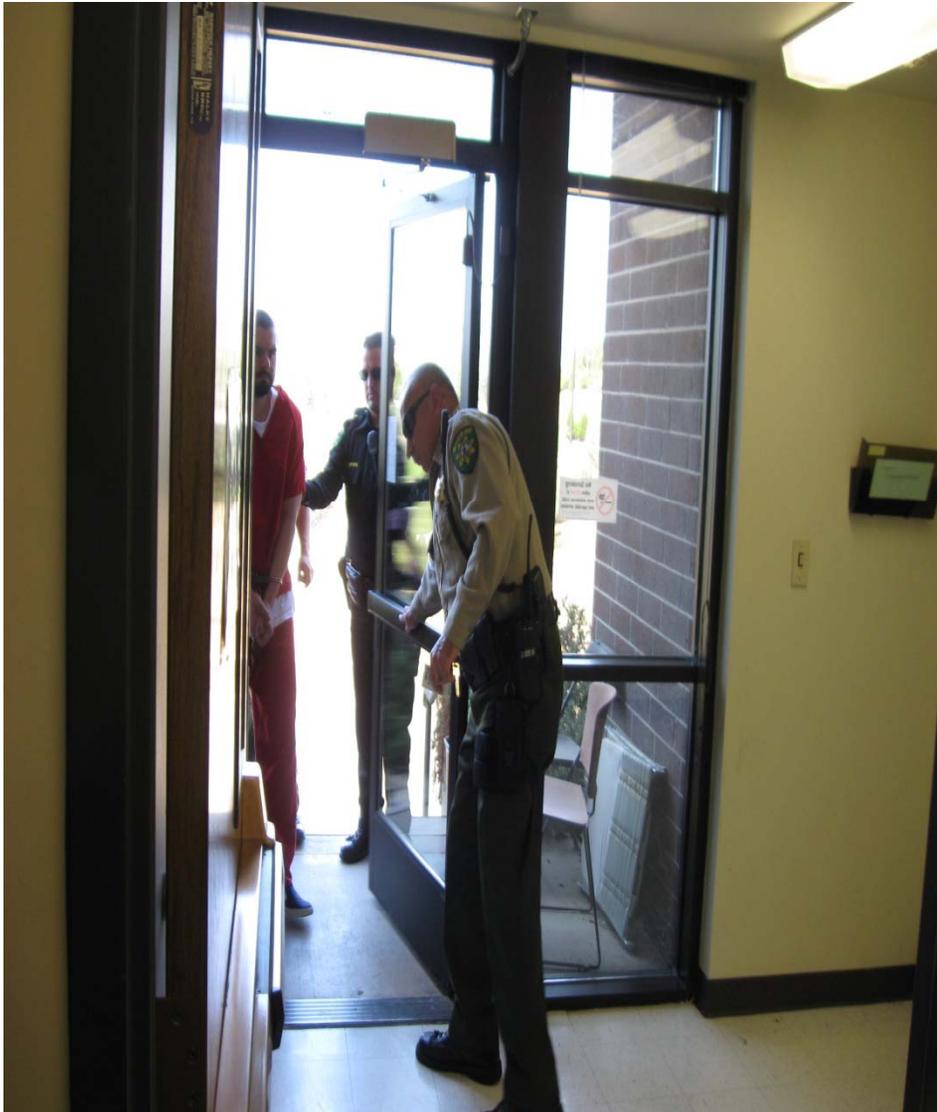
# Bldg. C, No Sallyport – Open Transportation Parking



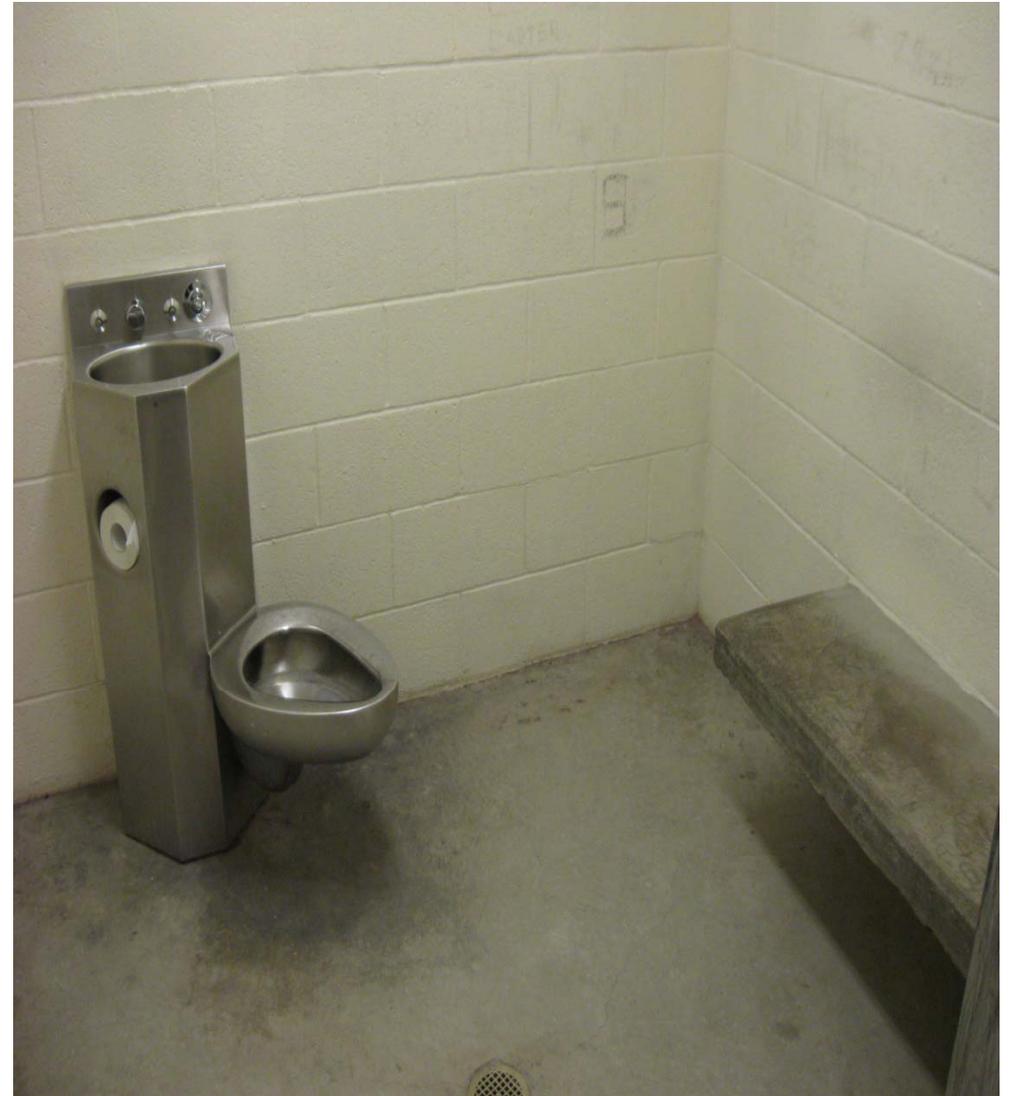
# Bldg. C, Prisoner Transport Into Facility



# Bldg. C, Prisoner Transport to Holding Cells, Court Staff Corridor



# Bldg. C, 2 Small Holding Cells



# Bldg. C, Prisoner Bench Outside Dept. 7 Courtroom, Holding Cell Overflow



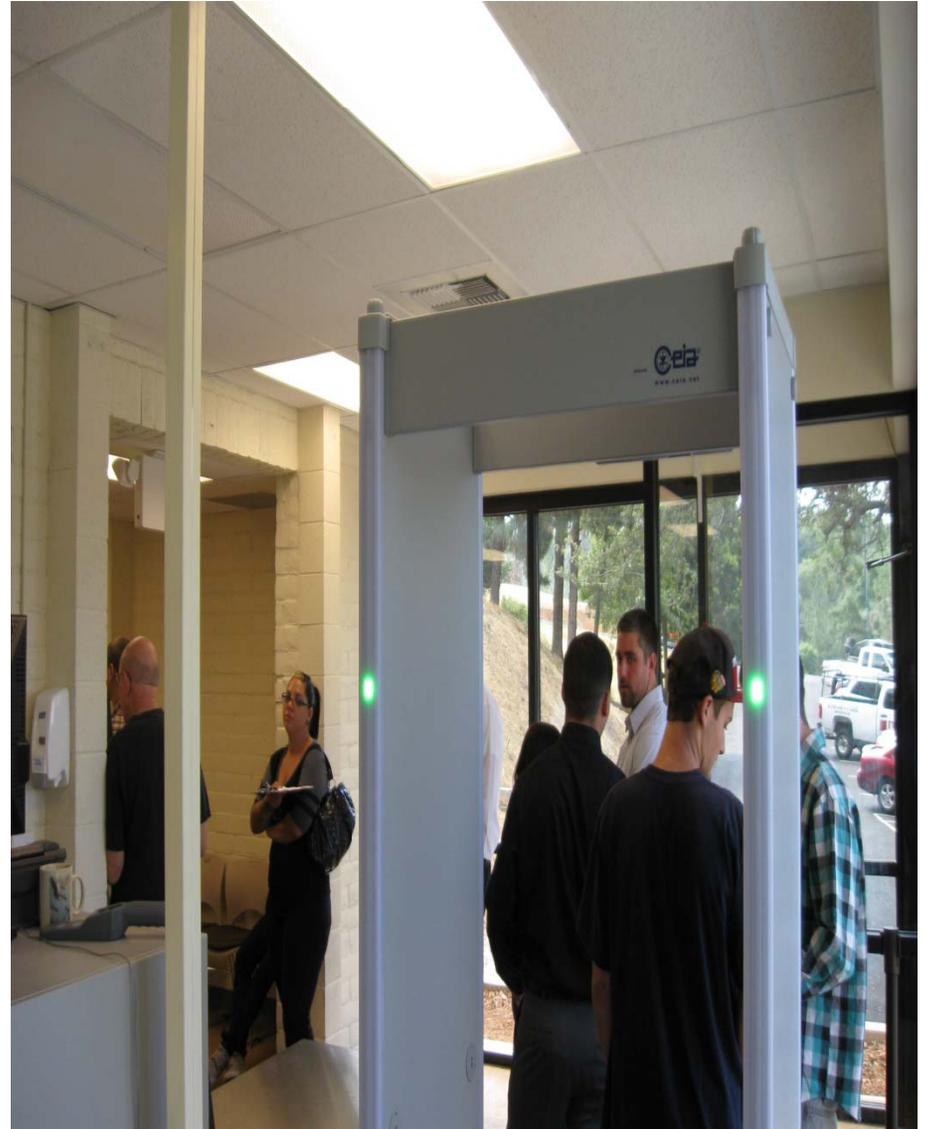
# Bldg. C, Dept. 7 Courtroom, Prisoner Holding in Jury Box



# Department 8, Juvenile/Traffic Court Facility



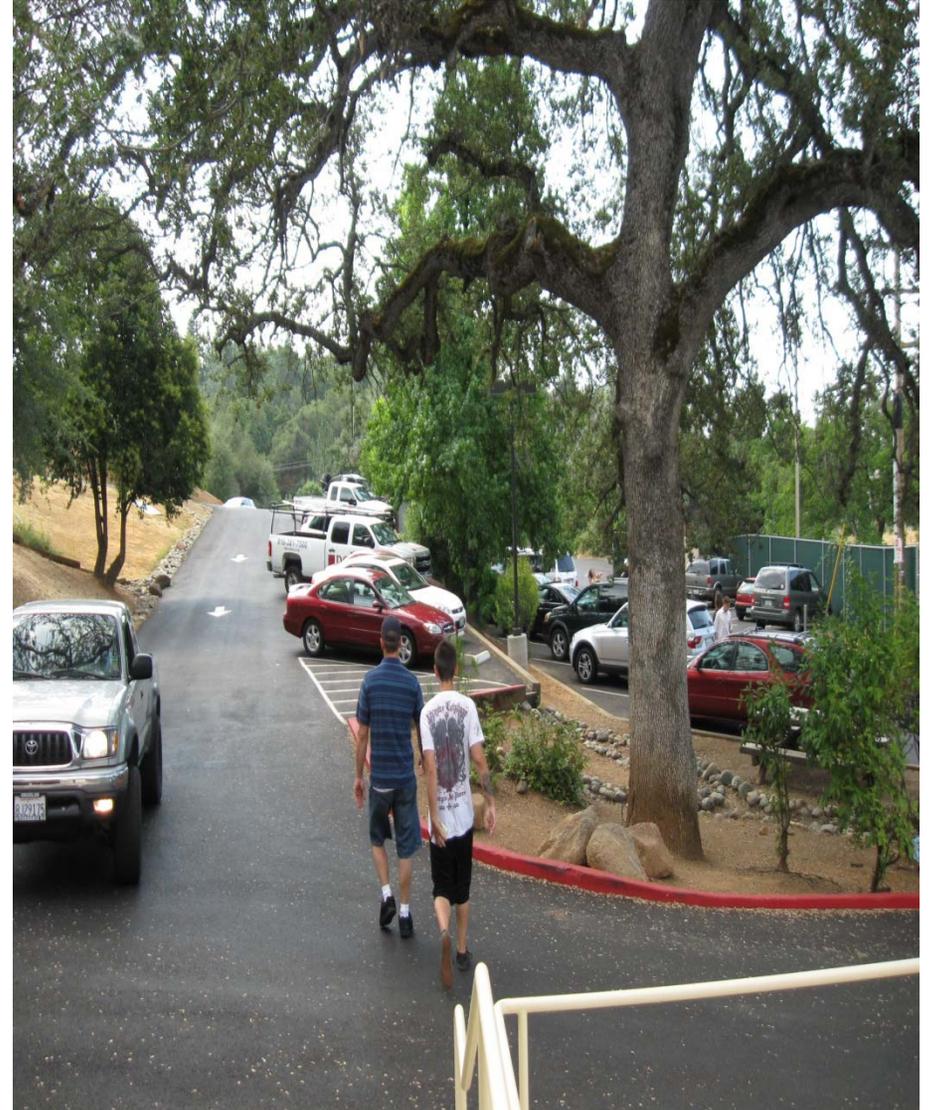
# Dept. 8, Perimeter Security



# Dept. 8, Clerk's Counter and Lobby



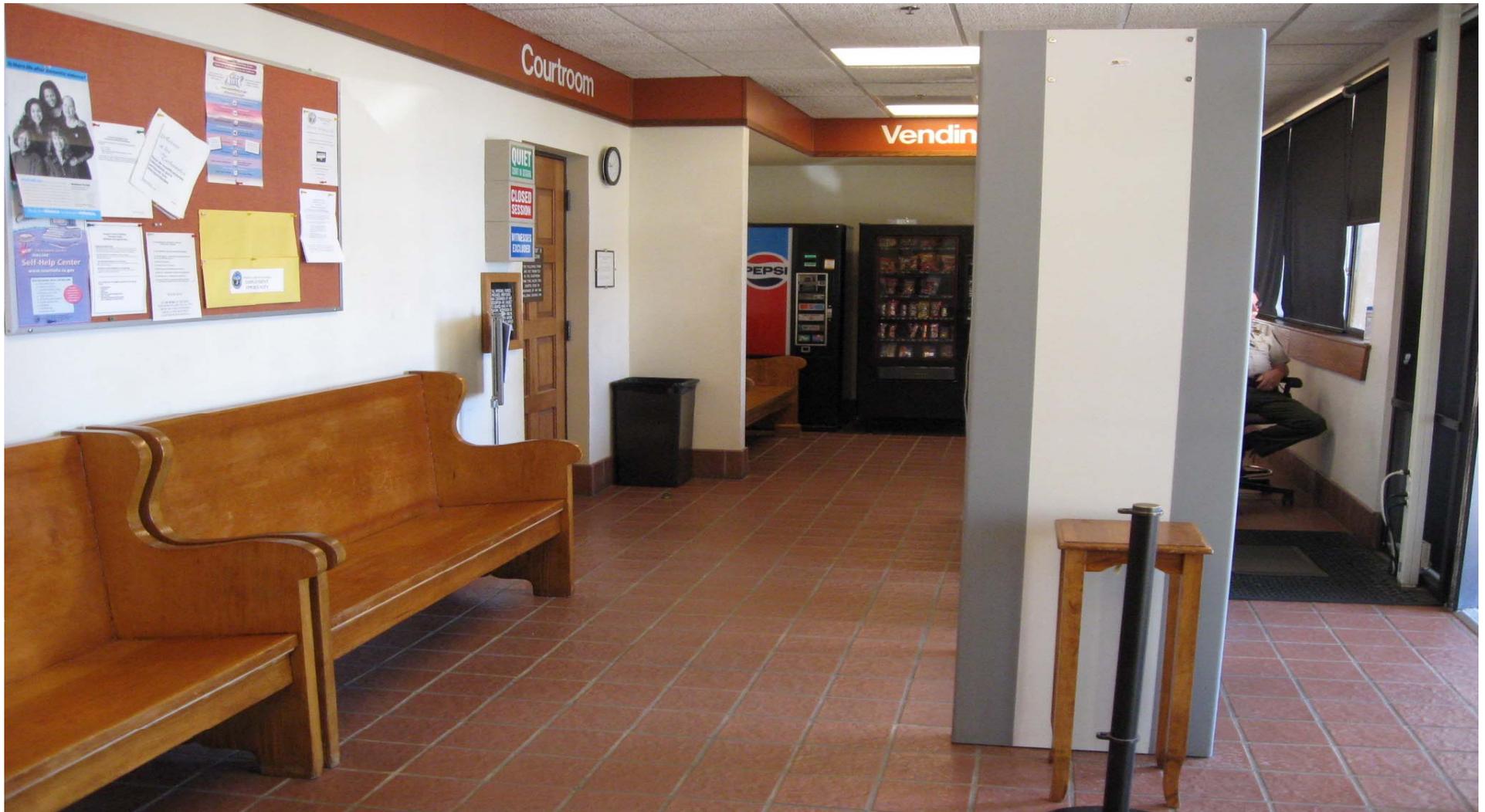
# Dept. 8, Walkup Clerk Window and 27 Stall Parking Lot



# Cameron Park Courthouse



# Cameron Park, Perimeter Security & Lobby/Jury Assembly – 710 Sq. Ft.



# Cameron Park, Clerk's Counter



# Cameron Park, Unsecure Gate to Modular Facility



# Cameron Park, Civil & Probate File Room

