

Kristine S. Kussman
Court Executive Officer



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The Superior Court of California
County of Imperial

September 26, 2011

Court Facilities Working Group
c/o Hon. Brad R. Hill, Presiding Justice
Court of Appeal, Fifth District
2424 Ventura Street
Fresno, California 93721

Dear Court Facilities Working Group Members:

The Superior Court of California, County of Imperial New Family Courthouse project has been classified as an "immediate" need, and continues to be critical for our Court.

This project includes Juvenile Court services which are currently located in the Imperial County Probation Department. There is no direct public access to the courtroom or clerk's office resulting in a "by appointment only" type service. Security for the courtroom, and the entire building where Juvenile Court is held, is limited to one bailiff. Additionally, security for transportation is limited as well.

We anticipate that acquisition of the properties for the New El Centro Courthouse will be on the agenda for Public Works Board approval on November 10, 2011. It would be detrimental for this project to be delayed as the new facility would allow the public one-stop access to services in a safe and efficient location. Without this project, our Court would not be able to group family issues for the parties involved and thereby increasing the amount of time for the parties.

We are a small to mid sized court and have one Juvenile Judge, one Family Law Judge, and a part-time Family Support Commissioner that are currently located in different buildings. When disqualifications occur, cases must be rescheduled because no other judge is located in the current Juvenile building. Additionally, the project was slated to be completed in 2014 with a delay in construction our citizens would have justice delayed for continuing generations.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,


Kristine S. Kussman
Court Executive Officer

KSK:mg

cc: Hon. Christopher W. Yeager, Presiding Judge

