



NEWS RELEASE NR 78-09
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Five New Courthouse Projects Receive Funding Authorization

San Francisco—Five new courthouse projects to be financed by Senate Bill 1407 received initial funding authorization today by the State Public Works Board (SPWB). This approval marks the official start of these projects. The projects include:

- El Dorado—New Placerville Courthouse: 6 courtrooms
- Kings—New Hanford Courthouse: 12 courtrooms
- Los Angeles—New Glendale Courthouse: 8 courtrooms
- Mendocino—New Ukiah Courthouse: 9 courtrooms
- Siskiyou—New Yreka Courthouse: 6 courtrooms

SB 1407 was enacted by the state Legislature last year to provide up to \$5 billion in funding for 41 new and renovated court facilities using court user fees rather than the state's General Fund. These five projects were all ranked as "immediate need" or "critical need," making them among the highest priority capital-outlay projects for California's judicial branch. According to Chief Justice Ronald M. George, "Strengthening the physical foundation of our judicial system is more than a metaphor. Courthouses are as vital a part of California's infrastructure as bridges, highways, and water systems. It is time to adequately fund this fundamental component of the infrastructure of our democracy. Public safety and the interests of 38 million Californians require it."

To initiate each project, the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), must seek funding authorization from the Joint Legislative Budget Committee of the State Legislature as well as the SPWB. This first authorization enables the AOC to proceed with site selection, environmental review, and preliminary plans, which is the initial portion of architectural design. Courthouse construction projects typically take approximately five years from start to finish.

The AOC officially began the first 15 projects funded by SB 1407 in late July of this year. Another six projects were authorized in November. The AOC plans to request funding authorizations for all remaining SB 1407 projects by May 2010. These projects provide valuable economic stimulus in local communities—the five projects just approved are estimated to create more than 13,000 direct and indirect jobs in the affected local communities as they progress through design, construction, and completion. Expediting these projects enables the AOC to take advantage of a unique window of opportunity—afforded by the current recession—for reduced pricing on land, design, and construction.

(more)

More information about SB 1407, including the list of 41 projects approved by the Judicial Council:
www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/occm/sb1407.htm

More information about these projects: www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/occm/projects.htm

More information about the AOC's process for building courthouses in California:
www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/occm/building.htm

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The Judicial Council is the policymaking body of the California courts, the largest court system in the nation. Under the leadership of the Chief Justice and in accordance with the California Constitution, the council is responsible for ensuring the consistent, independent, impartial, and accessible administration of justice. The Administrative Office of the Courts carries out the official actions of the council and promotes leadership and excellence in court administration.