



# City of Nevada City

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June 13, 2022

Via United State Mail and Electronic Mail

The Honorable Brad R. Hill  
Chairman of the Court Facilities Advisory Committee  
Administrative Presiding Justice  
Court of Appeal, Fifth Appellate District  
2424 Ventura Street  
Fresno, California 93721

***Re: Item 3 Nevada City Courthouse: Project Study Review***

Dear Judge Hill:

The City of Nevada City is grateful for the continued opportunity to serve on the Project Advisory Group (PAG) for the new Nevada City Courthouse study and appreciates the opportunity to share the position of the City with regard to the Nevada City Courthouse Planning Study and the possible decision before you to recommend a specific option from the study at your June 17, 2022 Court Facilities Advisory Committee Meeting.

In echoing the letter sent on June 7, 2022, from the Judges of the Nevada County Superior Court, the City of Nevada City is happy to see the potential for a new Nevada City Courthouse to be nearing reality. The City has been involved for more than two decades as a partner to the local court and Nevada County in supporting an update or remodel of the existing court or an onsite rebuild to meet the needs of the Superior Court and to serve as a continued economic driver in Nevada City's historic downtown.

The Nevada City City Council has taken a stance since the inception of current study that the courthouse should remain in its current location in downtown Nevada City. Those who live, work, play, visit and thrive in Nevada City have similarly been vocal in their support following the mantra, "Keep Our Courts Down Town!" Given the overall impact, needs of the court and needs of the community it is clear that Option #2, a complete rebuild on the site of the current courthouse, is the ideal option.

While Option #3 as a limited "model" scores higher in some areas and purports to be less expensive, the totality of the cost of Option #3 is not fully evaluated in the study where essentially all aspects of Option #2 are fully evaluated. Option #2 provides all the needs of the Court, as articulated by the Judges of the Nevada County Superior Court while avoiding the oversized elephant in the room created by Option #3, namely what to do with the exiting courthouse once it is vacated.

The City is committed to remaining engaged in offsite development, street and right-of-way improvements, and utility coordination so that Option #2 can be designed, built, and occupied in an expedient, cost-effective, and operationally streamlined fashion. Similarly, the City appreciates the opportunity to remain a stakeholder on the PAG as the projects seeks inclusion in the fiscal year 2023/2024 budget and beyond.

We respectfully and with positive momentum reiterate the position of the City of Nevada City that the CFAC should seek to advance the Nevada City Courthouse project, specifically in recommending Option #2. Thank you for your consideration of the City's input and thank you and the committee for their service to the greater judicial community Nevada City, Nevada County, and throughout California.

Sincerely,



Sean Grayson, City Manager  
City of Nevada City

cc:

Duane Strawser, Mayor  
Bryan McAllister, City Engineer / Public Works Director  
Amy Wolfson, City Planner