



NEWS RELEASE OC 28-11
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Two Potential Sites Approved for New Delano Courthouse

SAN FRANCISCO—The State Public Works Board (SPWB) has approved selection of two potential sites for the proposed new courthouse in Delano. The two sites, announced previously and approved today are:

- A site between Glenwood and Fremont Streets owned by the City of Delano, and Delano Redevelopment Agency; and
- Woollomes Avenue and Lexington Street, west of the Delano Municipal Airport, which is privately owned.

Honorable Robert S. Tafoya, Kern County Superior Court Judge stated, “The construction of a new court house in Delano comes at an exciting time in the city’s history. We have witnessed dramatic growth in North Kern over the past ten years and the addition of a modern, functional court facility will enhance the transformation that is occurring here and will allow the Kern County Superior Court to better serve its constituents.”

Site selection approval enables the state Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), which is managing the project, to undertake further due diligence, environmental assessment under the California Environmental Quality Act, and negotiations that will ultimately result in selection of the final site, expected by mid-year. Final site selection will be validated by the Superior Court of Kern County and the project’s advisory group. Site acquisition, which also requires SPWB approval, is expected to be completed later this year, after which architectural design can proceed. The architecture firm of LPA Inc. has been selected to design the new courthouse.

The proposed project will house three courtrooms in approximately 40,000 square feet. It will replace the existing Delano courthouse, which has experienced a caseload increase of more than 80 percent in the last ten years. The existing courthouse lacks security features critical for safe handling of criminal caseloads and is badly overcrowded.

The new courthouse project, with an estimated total cost of \$41.9 million, was ranked as an “Immediate Need” in the judicial branch’s capital-outlay plan, making it among the judicial branch’s highest-priority infrastructure projects. It is among 41 projects to be funded by Senate Bill 1407, which finances critically needed courthouse construction, renovation, and repair through a portion of judicial branch fees, fines, and penalties, without impact on the state’s General Fund.

More about the project may be found on the California Courts website at www.courts.ca.gov/2807.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.