



NEWS RELEASE OC 42-11
Contact: Philip Carrizosa, 415-865-8044
Daisy Yee, 415-865-8929

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 13, 2011

Site Finalized for New Santa Clara Family Justice Center

SAN FRANCISCO—The State Public Works Board (SPWB) today approved the acquisition of a parcel from the Valley Transportation Authority in downtown San Jose for the new family justice center for the Superior Court of Santa Clara County. Approval of this parcel completes the overall site, 1.8 acres bounded by North First Street, West Saint James Street, North Market Street, and Devine Street, across from the Downtown Superior Court and the Historic Courthouse.

"The acquisition of this property is a critical step in bringing this desperately needed courthouse to this community," said Presiding Judge Richard J. Loftus, Jr. "We are very pleased to have the support from all of our partners, most notably, the State of California and the Administrative Office of the Courts, and look forward to breaking ground for the Family Justice Center in 2013."

The new 20-courtroom courthouse will occupy approximately 234,000 square feet. It will replace six leased facilities and consolidate all family-related services of the Superior Court of Santa Clara County, including family court, juvenile dependency, and drug court, into a single facility. The planned building will also include a self-help center, family court services, a child waiting area, and space for justice system partners.

Architect ZimmerGunsulFrasca was selected in October 2009 for the project, and architectural design is under way and expected to proceed through early 2013, at which time the project will be ready for construction. When architectural design is further along, the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), which is managing the project, and the court, plan to enable the public to view the design.

The San Jose office of Hensel Phelps Construction Co. was selected in February 2011 as the construction manager at risk (CMAR). The CMAR was retained early in the project for preconstruction services. Following a competitive bid for all subcontracts and the approval to award, the CMAR becomes the general contractor for the project. Construction is scheduled to begin in early 2013 and is scheduled for completion in early 2015.

This project was ranked as a "critical need" in the judicial branch's capital-outlay plan and is among the judicial branch's highest-priority infrastructure projects. The project, with a total estimated cost of \$240.7 million, is being funded primarily through Senate Bill 1407, enacted by the state Legislature in 2008 to authorize up to \$5 billion for 41 new and renovated court facilities using court user fees rather than the state's General Fund.

(more)

This project is a collaboration among the County of Santa Clara, the Superior Court of Santa Clara, and the Administrative Office of the Courts. More information about the project is on the California Courts website at www.courts.ca.gov/2805.htm.

#

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.