



New Indio Juvenile and Family Law Courthouse County of Riverside

Facility ranked the #1 most immediate replacement need out of the 41 SB 1407 projects. The AOC prioritization methodology score is 20 out of a possible 20.

The Superior Court of California, County of Riverside recommends the AOC to complete the current phase of preliminary design for this capital improvement project, and fund the working drawings portion without further delay. The AOC has already purchased the property from the County and construction costs will continue to increase in the future, so it makes sense to continue this immediate need capital project.

Statement of Project Need

The proposed new courthouse will accomplish the following immediately needed improvements to the Superior Court and enhance its ability to serve the public:

- Replace the unsafe, substandard, and overcrowded Indio Juvenile Courthouse;
- Improve court operational efficiency, access to justice, and overall public service through consolidation of all juvenile and family court operations in one location, and;
- Expand court services by allowing one new judgeship from proposed Senate Bill (SB) 1150 (Corbett) to occupy the new courthouse, and two new judgeships from Assembly Bill (AB) 159 (Ch. 722, Statutes of 2007) to occupy the space vacated by family law in the Larson Justice Center.
- Appropriately-sized ADA accessible courtrooms and chambers, jury deliberation rooms, an adequately-sized self-help center, mediation services and offices, a children's waiting room, adequately-sized in-custody holding, and attorney interview/witness waiting rooms to support a full service court.

Security Deficiencies

The current facility has an AOC security rating of 80, the highest possible rating for deficiencies. The court is currently unsafe, substandard in size, and overcrowded. It has numerous deficiencies that create critical security concerns, including the following:

- Substandard security screening equipment due to lack of space
- No secure parking for judicial officers; judicial parking that is fully accessible to the public
- In-custody holding / waiting area located in a corridor used by judicial officers and staff
- Non-secure, make shift adult holding.

Building Deficiencies

- The sizes of the two juvenile courtrooms are significantly undersized and do not meet current design standards. **The courtrooms are 339 square feet in size, approximately 80% less than the smallest courtroom size of 1,600 square feet**, per the approved California Trial Court Facilities Standards.
- Lobby waiting area overcrowded and small; current lobby is 1000 sq. ft., 60% smaller than the current approved design of 2,460 sq. ft.
- Front clerk counter is inadequate to serve the public. Customers at the public clerk's window stand next to those waiting for court so there is no confidentiality possible.
- Due to overcrowding, people often wait outside in extreme temperatures as there is not enough room to sit in the lobby. Average temperatures in Indio range from 102 to 107 during the summertime months.

A new facility will be more efficient to operate due to consolidation, improved systems and use of space. This will result in lower operating costs.

This project will allow consolidation of all juvenile and family court functions in one location which corrects operational inefficiencies for the court and improves access to justice. The new facility will house a child care room, **The new project will solve the current substandard space shortfall, increase security, replace inadequate and obsolete buildings, as well as provide for consolidation.** This option will best serve the current needs of the public and the justice system, as well as provide the foundation for long-term needs.

This project, ranked in the Immediate Need priority group in the Trial Court Five-Year Infrastructure Plan adopted by the Judicial Council in April 2008, is one of the highest priority trial court capital-outlay projects for the judicial branch.



New Hemet Area Courthouse County of Riverside

Facility ranked the #16 most immediate replacement need out of the 41 SB 1407 projects. The AOC prioritization methodology score is 16 out of a possible 20.

The Superior Court of California, County of Riverside recommends the AOC to complete the current phase, site selection and acquisition, for this capital improvement project. In addition, the court strongly urges the committee fund the property purchase and begin preliminary design without further delay due to the immediate need in this region of Riverside County. If this Hemet area project is delayed or halted by this exercise, no other AOC capital project is in planned for the mid-county region of Riverside County in the future, and the citizens who reside there will continue to be at a disadvantage when it comes to access to justice. (Pursuant to the AOC's Judicial Branch AB 1473 Five-Year Infrastructure Plan for Trial Court Capital Outlay Projects, dated August 27, 2010, there are no capital projects slated for the mid-county region, besides 1 courtroom for Temecula in 2022).

Statement of Project Need

The proposed new Hemet Courthouse will accomplish the following immediately needed improvements to the Superior Court and enhance its ability to serve the public:

- Serve the fastest growing region not only in Riverside County, but one of the fastest growing areas in the state and the nation
- Greatly increase access to justice and overall public service in the mid-county area
- Bring a civil and probate presence to the region where there is currently none; residents must travel to Riverside for civil and probate proceedings
- Replace the existing Hemet Courthouse, which is physically deficient, substandard in size, and overcrowded
- Create courtrooms for four new judgeships
- Provide basic services not currently provided to mid-county residents due to space restrictions such as: appropriately-sized ADA accessible courtrooms and chambers, jury deliberation and assembly rooms, an adequately-sized self-help center, a children's waiting room, adequately-sized in-custody holding, and attorney interview/witness waiting rooms to support a full service court.

Security Deficiencies

- The building has no central security control.
- A secure path of circulation separating judicial officers and staff from in-custody defendants does not exist.

- The circulation path from the central holding area is a convoluted route through a server closet and judicial and staff corridors.

Other Building Deficiencies

- The courthouse is too small to support the operational needs of the court and the need for additional civil court services. The existing courthouse contains five courtrooms, while nine judicial officers are needed to address the caseload of the Hemet area.
- The building has had two separate additions that have created awkward and confusing circulation for the public and staff.
- The building has an undersized entrance screening queuing and lobby area, resulting in lines extending outside the building on a regular basis. The remaining public lobby space beyond the court screening magnetometer is small and confined.
- Due to the constrained lobby configuration, security is unable to monitor public windows as they are physically out of view, creating the need for additional roving security.
- The existing Hemet courthouse is difficult to access. It is located approximately 15 miles from any major freeway (inlets include Banning from the North, Ramona Expressway from the West and Highway 79 from the South). Road conditions are often poor and routes convoluted. Furthermore, inclement weather often results in flooding resulting in delayed court proceedings.

The Court currently provides limited services to the residents of mid Riverside County at the existing Hemet Courthouse. The existing courthouse houses five courtrooms serving civil, small claims, family law, probate and traffic cases, and is physically deficient, substandard in size, and overcrowded. The facility lacks secure circulation and an adequate holding facility and does not accommodate criminal trials. Four additional courtrooms are required to support new judgeships and the heavy caseload for this area.

This project—ranked in the Immediate Need priority group in the Trial Court Five-Year Infrastructure Plan that was adopted by the Judicial Council in October 2008—is one of the highest priority trial court capital-outlay projects for the judicial branch, and was selected by the Judicial Council in October 2008 as one of 41 projects to be funded by Senate Bill (SB) 1407 revenues.