



Judicial Branch Five-Year Infrastructure Plan for Fiscal Year 2024–25

SUPREME COURT OF CALIFORNIA
CALIFORNIA COURTS OF APPEAL
SUPERIOR COURTS OF CALIFORNIA
JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

I.	INTRODUCTION	1
II.	REASSESSMENT OF TRIAL COURT CAPITAL-OUTLAY PROJECTS	2
	A. Process	2
	B. Statewide List of Capital-Outlay Projects	2
	C. Revision of Prioritization Methodology	3
III.	INTEGRATING CLIMATE CHANGE INTO PLANNING AND INVESTMENT	3
IV.	EXISTING FACILITIES	4
V.	DRIVERS OF INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS	4
VI.	PROPOSAL	5
	A. Trial Court Capital-Outlay Project Funding Requests for FY 2024–25	5
	B. Appellate Court Capital-Outlay Project Funding Requests for FY 2024–25	7
	Attachment A Status Report: Immediate and Critical Need Trial Court Capital-Outlay Projects (July 21, 2023)	8

I. INTRODUCTION

The California judicial branch consists of the Supreme Court, Courts of Appeal, trial courts, and the Judicial Council. The Lockyer-Isenberg Trial Court Funding Act of 1997 (Assem. Bill 233; Stats. 1997, ch. 850) consolidated the costs of operating California’s trial courts at the state level. The act was based on the premise that state funding of court operations was necessary to provide more uniform standards and procedures, economies of scale, structural efficiency, and access for the public.

Following on this act, the Trial Court Facilities Act of 2002 (Sen. Bill 1732; Stats. 2002, ch. 1082) specified that counties and the state pursue a process that would ultimately result in full state assumption of the financial responsibility and equity ownership of all court facilities. To address maintenance costs in existing court facilities and the renovation or construction of new court facilities, the Trial Court Facilities Act required counties to contribute to the ongoing operation and maintenance of court facilities based on historical expenditures for facilities transferred to the state. The act also established a dedicated revenue stream to the State Court Facilities Construction Fund for the design, construction, or renovation of these facilities.

Recognizing the growing demand to replace California’s aging courthouses, additional legislation was enacted. Senate Bill 1407 (Stats. 2008, ch. 311) authorizes various fees, penalties, and assessments to be deposited in the Immediate and Critical Needs Account (ICNA) to support the construction, renovation, and operation of court facilities, including the payment of rental costs associated with completed capital-outlay projects funded with lease revenue bonds. However, these revenues have been lower than expected, which led to the curtailment of the Judicial Council’s capital program.

On June 27, 2018, when the 2018 Budget Act was passed, the judicial branch courthouse construction program was allocated \$1.3 billion for the continuing phases of 10 trial court capital-outlay projects in the following counties: Glenn, Imperial, Riverside (in both Indio and in midcounty regions), Sacramento, Shasta, Siskiyou, Sonoma, Stanislaus, and Tuolumne. This highly encouraging support for the construction program also memorialized a notable change in the program’s source of funding: The sale of lease revenue bonds to finance a project’s construction was backed by the General Fund rather than the ICNA. Since 2008, SB 1407 projects had relied on the ICNA, which is forecasted to have a negative fund balance as early as fiscal year (FY) 2026–27 owing to the continual decline of its sources of revenue of fines and fees. In FY 2021–22, for the State Court Facilities Construction Fund (SCFCF)—the other source from which the courthouse construction program is funded—to remain solvent and the Judicial Council to maintain program service levels, the ICNA and SCFCF were combined.

The Judicial Council completed facility master plans for each of the 58 counties in December 2003. Those plans were consolidated into a statewide plan approved by the Judicial Council in February 2004 as the Trial Court Five-Year Capital-Outlay Plan, which ranked 201 projects for future development. Changes to this initial statewide plan have been approved

incrementally since 2004. The most recently developed statewide list of trial court capital-outlay projects and the five-year plan for trial court capital-outlay projects are described below and attached to this report.

II. REASSESSMENT OF TRIAL COURT CAPITAL-OUTLAY PROJECTS

Government Code section 70371.9 required the Judicial Council to conduct a reassessment of all trial court capital-outlay projects that had not been fully funded up to and through the 2018 Budget Act (FY 2018–19) and to submit the report by December 31, 2019, to two legislative committees. This reassessment produced the [*Statewide List of Trial Court Capital-Outlay Projects*](#) prioritized on needs-based/cost-based scores from the application of the council’s [*Revision of Prioritization Methodology for Trial Court Capital-Outlay Projects*](#).

A. Process

The reassessment of the capital-outlay projects can be summarized by five main endeavors:

1. Revision of the prioritization methodology—developing needs-based criteria and cost-based criteria to rank projects within priority groups—consistent with Government Code section 70371.9;
2. Assessment of facilities occupied by trial courts, including physical condition assessments, as well as assessments related to security, access to court services, and overcrowding;
3. Development of court facility plans and court needs-based projects;
4. Application of the prioritization methodology to all projects; and
5. Development of a statewide list of prioritized projects.

B. Statewide List of Capital-Outlay Projects

The *Statewide List of Trial Court Capital-Outlay Projects* has been developed from the application of the revised prioritization methodology to the capital projects identified by the court facility plans, of which there is one for each county. As defined in the methodology, trial court capital-outlay projects are considered those *that increase a facility’s gross area, such as a building addition; that substantially renovate a major portion of a facility; that comprise a new facility or an acquisition; or that change the use of a facility, such as the conversion from noncourt use to court use.*

Details of the list are as follows:

- There is a total of 80 projects for 41 of the 58 trial courts.

- All 80 projects affect 165 of the approximate total 450 facilities in the judicial branch’s real estate portfolio.
- The total cost of each need group is Immediate, \$2.3 billion; Critical, \$7.9 billion; High, \$1.3 billion; Medium, \$1.6 billion; and Low, \$0.1 billion.
- Of the 80 projects, 56 are for new construction, and 24 are for renovation and/or addition.
- The total cost for the 56 new construction projects is estimated at \$10.6 billion; the total cost for the 24 renovation and/or addition projects is estimated at \$2.6 billion.
- The total cost of all 80 projects is estimated at \$13.2 billion.

C. Revision of Prioritization Methodology

The methodology involves a two-step process:¹ Step 1 identifies (1) the general physical condition of the buildings; (2) needed improvement to the physical condition of buildings to alleviate the totality of risks associated with seismic conditions, fire and life safety conditions, Americans with Disabilities Act requirements, and environmental hazards; (3) court security features within buildings; (4) access to court services; (5) overcrowding; and (6) capital-outlay projects that replace or renovate courtrooms in court buildings where there is a risk to court users due to potential catastrophic events.

Step 2 involves applying the needs-based criteria and cost-based criteria to rank projects within the priority groups.

In the most essential terms, the methodology can be described as:

- Needs-based criteria = Priority Group; and
- Needs-based and cost-based criteria = Rank within Priority Group.

III. INTEGRATING CLIMATE CHANGE INTO PLANNING AND INVESTMENT

The Judicial Council has supported climate adaptation and sustainability practices in the construction, operations, and maintenance of approximately 450 court facilities that house California’s court system. The council’s capital program focuses on proven design approaches and building elements that can improve court facilities and result in cost-effective, sustainable buildings. Strategies include protecting, conserving, and restoring water resources; installing water reuse systems; and improving energy efficiency. Other strategies include promoting a healthy indoor environment, using environmentally friendly building materials, recycling

¹ For more detailed information, see Judicial Council of Cal., Advisory Com. Rep., *Court Facilities: Reassessment of Trial Court Capital-Outlay Projects* (Nov. 5, 2019), agenda item 19-129 of the Judicial Council meeting of Nov. 14, 2019, <https://jcc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=7862663&GUID=C63B6E8E-6A8D-476C-BF8F-634132CB381F>.

materials during construction and demolition, and using flexible designs that anticipate future changes and enhance building longevity. The Judicial Council also designs its buildings to achieve at least LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Silver certification equivalency.

In December 2020, the Judicial Council’s Trial Court Facility Modification Advisory Committee approved a [sustainability plan](#) that focuses primarily on ensuring that new construction practices comply with state sustainability initiatives and help reduce the judicial branch’s impact on climate change. Additional goals include reducing greenhouse gas emissions, energy usage, and utility costs by pursuing energy efficiency measures such as leveraging grant opportunities and third-party financing options; educating staff, key stakeholders, and service providers on specific energy-saving practices and broader sustainability issues; conserving other natural resources through improved data collection and baseline tracking; and improving the power resiliency of the judicial branch’s portfolio through onsite renewable energy generation and storage systems.

IV. EXISTING FACILITIES

The facilities of the Supreme Court, Courts of Appeal, and trial courts encompass not only the public courtroom spaces, but also the chambers and workspace where judicial officers and courtroom staff prepare for proceedings; secure areas, including holding cells; and building support functions.

The trial courts are located in each of the 58 counties, in approximately 450 facilities and 2,100 courtrooms, covering approximately 16 million square feet of usable area and more than 21 million square feet of space under Judicial Council responsibility and management.

The Courts of Appeal are organized into six districts, which operate in nine different locations in approximately 508,000 square feet. The Fresno and Riverside appellate courts are housed in standalone, state-owned facilities with the balance being co-located in other leased or state-owned space.

The Supreme Court is located in the Civic Center Plaza in San Francisco (103,300 square feet) and in the Ronald Reagan State Building in Los Angeles (7,600 square feet).

Currently, the Judicial Council administrative facilities are located in San Francisco and Sacramento, with office space totaling approximately 263,000 square feet.

V. DRIVERS OF INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS

The primary drivers of court facility needs include providing a safe and secure facility, improving poor functional conditions, addressing inadequate physical conditions including seismically deficient facilities, and expanding the public’s physical, remote, and equal access to the courts.

VI. PROPOSAL

A. Trial Court Capital-Outlay Project Funding Requests for FY 2024–25

The five-year plan for trial court capital-outlay projects in the table below proposes funding in FY 2024–25 for five projects on the Judicial Council’s approved statewide list of projects as referenced in the *Status Report: Immediate and Critical Need Trial Court Capital-Outlay Projects* (see Attachment A). This proposal is based on funding support in the Governor’s Proposed Budget for FY 2023–24, which included \$169.5 million (\$16.4 million General Fund and \$153 million Public Buildings Construction Fund) for initial funding of one new capital project and continued funding of two active projects:

1. Monterey–New Fort Ord Courthouse—\$153 million for Design-Build.
2. Nevada–New Nevada City Courthouse—\$8.1 million for acquisition.
3. San Bernardino–San Bernardino Juvenile Dependency Courthouse Addition and Renovation—\$8.3 million for construction.

On May 12, 2023, the May Revision to the Governor’s Budget was released. It included no additional funding for capital projects.

At its public meeting on June 27, 2023, and the Judicial Council’s Court Facilities Advisory Committee (CFAC) approved capital-outlay budget change proposals (COBCPs) for the six projects in year 1 (FY 2024–25) of this five-year plan, including costs for the following:

1. Kern–New East County Courthouse, which was reduced from 4 to 3 courtrooms and now consolidates court operations only in the existing Mojave court facilities; and
2. Placer–Tahoe Courthouse Renovation.

Consistent with the Governor’s Proposed Budget for FY 2023–24, the Judicial Council’s ratification of its CFAC’s actions on June 27, 2023, and the outcome of the 2023 Budget Act (FY 2023–24), the judicial branch’s five-year plan for trial court capital-outlay projects is presented in the table below.

Five-Year Plan for Trial Court Capital-Outlay Projects (Dollars in Thousands)

			1		2		3		4		5	
County	Project Name	Courtrooms	FY 2024–25		FY 2025–26		FY 2026–27		FY 2027–28		FY 2028–29	
BY 1 Continuation	Fresno	New Fresno Courthouse	36	\$ 18,145	D	\$ 875,281	B					
	San Luis Obispo	New San Luis Obispo Courthouse	12	\$ 7,772	D	\$ 305,923	B					
BY 1 Starts	San Joaquin	New Tracy Courthouse	2	\$ 2,645	D	\$ 56,139	B					
	Kern	New East County Courthouse	3	\$ 4,921	AS		\$ 1,844	D	\$ 71,983	B		
BY 2 Continuation	Placer	Tahoe Courthouse Renovation	1	\$ 5,299	AS		\$ 1,027	D	\$ 16,365	B		
	Nevada	New Nevada City Courthouse	6			\$ 1,289	D	\$ 167,428	B			
	Solano	New Solano Hall of Justice (Fairfield)	12			\$ 286,186	B					
	Plumas	New Quincy Courthouse	3			\$ 110,156	B					
	Los Angeles	New Santa Clarita Courthouse	24			\$ 547,827	B					
BY 2 Starts	Contra Costa	New Richmond Courthouse	6			\$ 19,415	AS		\$ 2,357	D	\$ 187,981	B
	San Francisco	New San Francisco Hall of Justice	24			\$ 135,700	AS		\$ 14,770	D	\$ 752,467	B
BY 3 Starts	Orange	New Orange County Collaborative Courthouse	3			\$ 17,979	AS		\$ 2,587	D	\$ 183,797	B
	Santa Barbara	New Santa Barbara Criminal Courthouse	8				\$ 10,588	D	\$ 216,395	B		
	Los Angeles	New Downtown Los Angeles Courthouse (Mosk Replacement)	100				\$ 275,689	AS			\$ 40,894	D
BY 4 Starts	El Dorado	New Placerville Courthouse	6				\$ 8,716	AS			\$ 2,683	D
	Fresno	Fresno Juvenile Delinquency Courthouse Renovation	2						\$ 1,377	PW	\$ 9,105	C
	Inyo	New Inyo County Courthouse	2						\$ 3,921	AS		
	San Bernardino	New Victorville Courthouse	31						\$ 9,983	AS		
BY 5 Starts	Mariposa	New Mariposa Courthouse	2								\$ 3,048	AS
	Los Angeles	Chatsworth Courthouse Renovation	7								\$ 2,011	PW
	Santa Cruz	New Santa Cruz Courthouse	9								\$ 10,589	AS
Totals		299	\$ 38,782		\$ 2,355,895		\$ 465,292		\$ 339,738		\$ 1,192,575	

Table Legend:

- S = Study
- A = Acquisition
- P = Preliminary Plans
- W = Working Drawings
- C = Construction
- D = Performance Criteria
- B = Design-Build

B. Appellate Court Capital-Outlay Project Funding Requests for FY 2024–25

The five-year plan for appellate court capital-outlay projects in the table below proposes funding in FY 2024–25 for one project. This proposal is based on funding support in the FY 2023–24 Proposed Governor’s Budget, which was authorized in the 2023 Budget Act (FY 2023–24) for \$2.8 million General Fund for the New Sixth Appellate District Courthouse’s performance criteria phase. The FY 2024–25 proposal is to fund this project’s Design-Build phase.

A permanent location is needed for the Sixth Appellate District of the Court of Appeal, which handles cases from the counties of San Benito, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, and Monterey from a leased facility. The court decides over 900 appeals annually, in addition to disposing of 500 writ petitions.

Since it was established in 1984, the Sixth Appellate District has adjudicated cases out of leased space in a commercial office building in downtown San Jose in the county of Santa Clara. With the court’s lease expiring in the near term and the impending significant rate increases in a highly competitive rental market with limited vacancy, making relocation an inevitability, a feasibility study was developed. The study compared the costs of continuing the long-term lease with construction of a permanent building on a state-owned property available for redevelopment in the city of Sunnyvale in Santa Clara County. At the CFAC’s public meeting on May 26, 2022, the feasibility study and its findings were presented and discussed. Subsequently, at the CFAC’s public meeting on June 17, 2022, based on the economic, public-service, and operational benefits, the committee included costs for a capital-outlay project in this five-year plan for construction of a new courthouse on the state-owned property in Sunnyvale. The updated feasibility study and findings presented at that meeting are available under Tab 3 of the meeting materials at www.courts.ca.gov/documents/cfac-20220617-materials.pdf.

Consistent with the FY 2023–24 Proposed Governor’s Budget, the Judicial Council’s ratification of the CFAC’s actions on June 27, 2023, and the outcome of the 2023 Budget Act (FY 2023–24), the judicial branch’s five-year plan for appellate court capital-outlay projects is presented in the table below.

**Five-Year Plan for Appellate Court Capital-Outlay Projects
(Dollars in Thousands)**

County	Project Name	Courtrooms	1		2		3		4		5	
			FY 2024–25		FY 2025–26		FY 2026–27		FY 2027–28		FY 2028–29	
Santa Clara	New Sixth Appellate District Courthouse	1	\$ 89,491	B								
	Totals	1	\$ 89,491		\$ -		\$ -		\$ -		\$ -	

BY 1 Continuation

Table Legend:
B = Design-Build

Attachment A
**Status Report: Immediate and Critical Need Trial Court Capital-
Outlay Projects (July 21, 2023)**



Status Report: Immediate and Critical Need Trial Court Capital-Outlay Projects

County	Project Name	Priority Group	Courtrooms	Group Score	Funding Status
Immediate Need					
Lake	New Lakeport Courthouse	Immediate Need	4	22.0	Fully funded; funding authorized in 2021 Budget Act (FY 2021–22).
Mendocino	New Ukiah Courthouse	Immediate Need	7	19.2	Fully funded; funding authorized in 2021 and 2022 Budget Acts.
Nevada	New Nevada City Courthouse	Immediate Need	6	18.6	Partially funded; initial funding authorized in 2023 Budget Act (FY 2023–24).
Butte	Butte County Juvenile Hall Addition and Renovation	Immediate Need	1	18.6	Fully funded; funding authorized in 2021 and 2022 Budget Acts.
Monterey	New Fort Ord Courthouse	Immediate Need	7	18.5	Fully funded; funding authorized in 2021 and 2023 Budget Acts.
Lake	New Clearlake Courthouse	Immediate Need	1	17.9	Project removed from the five-year infrastructure plan for alternative scope.
San Bernardino	San Bernardino Juvenile Dependency Courthouse Addition and Renovation	Immediate Need	2	17.6	Fully funded; funding authorized in 2021 and 2023 Budget Acts.
Solano	New Solano Hall of Justice (Fairfield)	Immediate Need	12	17.6	Partially funded; initial funding authorized in 2022 Budget Act (FY 2022–23).
Fresno	New Fresno Courthouse	Immediate Need	36	17.5	Partially funded; initial funding authorized in 2022 Budget Act (FY 2022–23).
Kern	New Ridgecrest Courthouse	Immediate Need	2	17.4	Withdrawn at the court's request/court may make future request to restore.
Plumas	New Quincy Courthouse	Immediate Need	3	17.2	Partially funded; initial funding authorized in 2022 Budget Act (FY 2022–23).
Stanislaus	New Modesto Courthouse Courtroom Renovation	Immediate Need	3	17.1	Fully funded; funding authorized in 2020 Budget Act (FY 2020–21).
Los Angeles	New Santa Clarita Courthouse	Immediate Need	24	17.0	Partially funded; initial funding authorized in 2022 Budget Act (FY 2022–23).
San Luis Obispo	New San Luis Obispo Courthouse	Immediate Need	12	16.9	Partially funded; initial funding authorized in 2022 Budget Act (FY 2022–23).
San Joaquin	New Tracy Courthouse	Immediate Need	2	16.9	Unfunded; proposed again for initial funding in FY 2024–25.
Kern	New Mojave Courthouse	Immediate Need	3	16.4	Consolidated into New East County Courthouse.
Kern	New East County Courthouse	Immediate Need	3	16.4	Unfunded; proposed again for initial funding in FY 2024–25.
Placer	Tahoe Courthouse Renovation	Immediate Need	1	16.4	Unfunded; proposed for initial funding in FY 2024–25. Project changed from new construction to renovation.
Critical Need					
Contra Costa	New Richmond Courthouse	Critical Need	6	16.1	Unfunded; proposed for initial funding in FY 2025–26.
San Francisco	New San Francisco Hall of Justice	Critical Need	24	15.9	Unfunded; proposed for initial funding in FY 2025–26.
Orange	New Orange County Collaborative Courthouse	Critical Need	3	15.8	Unfunded; proposed for initial funding in FY 2025–26.
Santa Barbara	New Santa Barbara Criminal Courthouse	Critical Need	8	15.7	Unfunded; proposed for initial funding in FY 2026–27.
Los Angeles	New Downtown Los Angeles Courthouse (Mosk Replacement)	Critical Need	100	15.5	Unfunded; proposed for initial funding in FY 2026–27. Project increased from 47 to 100 courtrooms, rescored from 15.3 to 15.5, and moved up in Critical Need Group.

County	Project Name	Priority Group	Courtrooms	Group Score	Funding Status
Critical Need, continued					
El Dorado	New Placerville Courthouse	Critical Need	6	15.4	Unfunded; proposed for initial funding in FY 2026–27.
Fresno	Fresno Juvenile Delinquency Courthouse Renovation	Critical Need	2	15.2	Unfunded; proposed for initial funding in FY 2027–28.
Inyo	New Inyo County Courthouse	Critical Need	2	15.2	Unfunded; proposed for initial funding in FY 2027–28.
San Bernardino	New Victorville Courthouse	Critical Need	31	15.2	Unfunded; proposed for initial funding in FY 2027–28.
Mariposa	New Mariposa Courthouse	Critical Need	2	14.9	Unfunded; proposed for initial funding in FY 2028–29.
Los Angeles	Chatsworth Courthouse Renovation	Critical Need	7	14.9	Unfunded; proposed for initial funding in FY 2028–29.
Santa Cruz	New Santa Cruz Courthouse	Critical Need	9	14.7	Unfunded; proposed for initial funding in FY 2028–29.
San Diego	New San Diego Juvenile Courthouse	Critical Need	10	14.6	Unfunded; proposal to be determined.
Riverside	New Riverside Juvenile Courthouse	Critical Need	5	14.6	Unfunded; proposal to be determined.
Tulare	New Tulare North County Courthouse	Critical Need	14	14.6	Unfunded; proposal to be determined.
Los Angeles	New West Covina Courthouse	Critical Need	15	14.5	Unfunded; proposal to be determined.
Los Angeles	New Eastlake Courthouse	Critical Need	6	14.5	Unfunded; proposal to be determined.
Kern	New Bakersfield Superior Courthouse	Critical Need	33	14.4	Unfunded; proposal to be determined.
Sonoma	New Sonoma Civil Courthouse	Critical Need	8	14.4	Unfunded; proposal to be determined.
San Luis Obispo	New Grover Beach Branch Courthouse	Critical Need	1	14.2	Unfunded; proposal to be determined.
Alameda	New Alameda County Community Justice Center	Critical Need	57	14.1	Unfunded; proposal to be determined.
Imperial	Winterhaven Branch Courthouse Addition and Renovation	Critical Need	1	14.1	Unfunded; proposal to be determined.
Los Angeles	Los Angeles Metropolitan Courthouse Renovation	Critical Need	14	14.1	Unfunded; proposal to be determined.
Los Angeles	New North Central Los Angeles Courthouse	Critical Need	12	14.1	Unfunded; proposal to be determined.
Riverside	New Palm Springs Courthouse	Critical Need	9	13.6	Unfunded; proposal to be determined.
Orange	New Orange South County Courthouse	Critical Need	16	13.6	Unfunded; proposal to be determined.
Los Angeles	Foltz Courthouse Renovation	Critical Need	60	13.4	Unfunded; proposal to be determined.

Notes:

1. The Los Angeles - New West Los Angeles Courthouse was reduced from 32 to 20 courtrooms, rescored from 16.6 to 13.3, and moved from Immediate Need to High Need Group.
2. The Los Angeles - New Inglewood Courthouse was reduced from 30 to 13 courtrooms, rescored from 16.3 to 8.7, and moved from Critical Need to Medium Need Group.
3. The Los Angeles - New Van Nuys Courthouse (East/new + West/renovation) was reduced from 55 to 42 courtrooms, rescored from 15.4 to 10.7, and moved from Critical Need to High Need Group.