

*Gina Setter*  
Executive Officer  
Clerk of the Court  
Jury Commissioner

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA  
COUNTY OF TEHAMA**

Telephone: (530) 527-6198  
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*Historic Courthouse*  
633 Washington Street  
Red Bluff, CA 96080

August 24, 2012

Court Facilities Working Group  
c/o Presiding Justice Brad R. Hill  
Court of Appeal, Fifth District

Via electronic mail only to: [OCCMComments@jud.ca.gov](mailto:OCCMComments@jud.ca.gov)

Re: Tehama County, New Red Bluff Courthouse, SB 1407 Project

Dear Justice Hill and members of the Working Group:

The Tehama Superior Court Judges and I very much appreciate the opportunity to provide new and additional input to the Court Facilities Working Group as to why our SB 1407 project should move forward. We are well aware of the limited funds creating the need for this difficult decision, and we appreciate the difficulty of this daunting task ahead of you.

The following report provides information on the specific criteria identified to be relevant to Tehama's New Red Bluff Courthouse Project.

While the priority of each criterion was not identified by the Court Facilities Working Group, our court has criteria that clearly stand out to us as most relevant and of highest priority to our courthouse project. These criteria are: Security, Access to Court Services, Economic Opportunity, and Physical Condition.

There is not a time during a work week where the phrase, "*we won't have this problem anymore when we finally get into a new courthouse,*" is not uttered by someone working in our court.

We are certain the Working Group will see how a new Red Bluff Courthouse will improve fair and equal access to justice, which in turn will elevate the public's trust and confidence in the Judicial Branch. The Working Group will also see the multiple opportunities for improving the overall efficiency of Judicial Administration and Court Administration with the consolidation of five deficient facilities into one fully functioning courthouse.

Judge Richard Scheuler, Tehama Court's Presiding Judge, and I look forward to our opportunity on September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012, when we are able to make a presentation on our future courthouse. We also appreciate the invitation to sit at the table when the Working Group discusses the future of our New Red Bluff Courthouse.

Respectfully submitted,

Gina Setter  
Court Executive Office

# Superior Court of California, County of Tehama

## Information Supporting Why the New Red Bluff Courthouse Should Move Forward

Richard Scheuler, Presiding Judge

Gina Setter, Court Executive Officer

### 1. Security:

- Currently Department I, Department IV, the Pine Street Self-Help Center, which houses the offices of the Commissioner and the Family Law Facilitator, and most court auxiliary offices are without any security screening.
- Mediators and other family and probate support staff are scattered over various offices which are anywhere from 100 yards up to 15 miles from the court they serve – all, of course, without security. Mediation is a particularly volatile activity in which parents often become angry and even violent. These offices need to be within the confines of one courthouse where security is provided at all times.
- Department 4, which is our Corning branch, has no sally port. Prisoners are transported to this courthouse in Sheriff's vehicles and arrive in the same parking lot where the judge and the court employees park.
- None of the court locations have secured parking for the Judges and there are no secured routes for the judges to get from their parking area to their court building and/or chambers. A number of years ago a person who is now in prison sought to murder the judge in Department 4 by firing on him with a shotgun while he was between the back door of Department 4 (which had locked behind him) and his own locked vehicle that was in the Department 4 parking lot.
- The judge's chambers in Departments II, III and IV are each immediately adjacent to public sidewalks, which proximity poses a serious security threat for judges in those chambers.
- Department 1 is on the second floor of the historic courthouse which means that when prisoners are brought to that courthouse they come through the public lobby, up a flight of public stairs, and along a waist high banister which is the access way to Department 1 and along which many civilians congregate. One prisoner could easily take a guard or an innocent civilian over that banister into a one floor fall.
- In all departments, but especially in Department 4, the delivery of both male and female inmates result in insufficient space, and female inmates must be brought into the Courtroom and seated in the jury box. Sometimes both male and female defendants must be seated in the jury box due to lack of holding space, and this situation, especially with large calendars, enhances security issues.



Inmate in jury box of D-4 courtroom—Emergency exit door must remain locked to deter escaping

- No court has a sally port or any ability to move prisoners into court. Department 1 has no secure holding facility for prisoners even after they are delivered to the courtroom.
- There are many security problems in the historic courthouse which houses administration and Department 1. This is mainly because of the building's age. Some have been listed above.

**Security continued:**

- Jurors serving on a jury trial in Corning will share the same parking lot with the transportation delivering and picking up defendants and/or witnesses from the jail.
- The Child Support Court (AB1058) location is so remote and so threatening to staff that the court has been temporarily moved with the consent of the County to an old Board of Supervisors room in the historic courthouse where Department 1 is located, which means that it was moved from one unsecure spot to a second insecure spot that is closer to the Sheriff's Department.
- Self-help staff operates out of a rented location a block from the courthouse and completely without any security.

**2. Overcrowding:**

- D-4, Corning Court—frequent occurrences of overcrowding in a facility with no weapon screening



Parking lot of Corning Courthouse, Dept. 4

- Due to limited seating capacity in the courtroom, the Judge has been forced to hold court in the parking lot during blanket advisory of rights for the arraignment calendar. The number of appearances is generally limited to 80-100 so that they can be accommodated in the courtroom, which seats 54, but the court cannot always control their calendar.

- There is no Jury Assembly Room for any of the facilities that comprise the Tehama Superior Court, so the first day of a jury trial will cause overcrowding issues to whichever Department the trial is assigned. There is added concern with security when jury trials are in Departments 1 or 4.



Historic Courthouse, Dept. 1—Witness and Jury Box

- No weapon screening before members of the public access this Dept. 1 courtroom and this courtroom is not ADA compliant

### 3. Physical Condition:

**Historic Courthouse**—Constructed in 1920 and renovated in 1993. While this courthouse is appealing to the eye and the backdrop for hundreds of family photos each year, it has deficiencies which unfortunately create many liabilities for the employees and the public who enter this building.

**Corning Courthouse**—A metal structure built in 1981. This courthouse is designed in a way that in custody defendants must be escorted through the same entrances and corridors the court employees use. This courthouse easily receives the most calls for maintenance repairs and requests for facility modifications.



Corning Courthouse roof has chronic leak problems each year during the rainy season



Corning Courthouse electrical room which doubles as staff break room

4. **Self-Help Center at 435 Pine Street**—One of the many older office buildings in Red Bluff which is currently leased month-to-month for Self-Help as well as offices for the AB1058 Commissioner and Family Law Facilitator. This location has frequent maintenance issues and calls for Court Security to assist with public altercations which occur when parties seeking assistance have emotional reactions associated with their court cases.
  
5. **Storage Building at 416 Pine Street**—Another older building in Red Bluff which is actually a housing complex converted to various business offices; the rooms of this dwelling hold some active case files, inactive court files, historical documents and financial records. This is unfortunately another haven for liabilities such as worker’s compensation injuries.

6. **Departments 2 and 3, also referred to as Annex 2 at 445 Pine Street**—Constructed in 1988, this is the only facility in the Tehama County Court System with weapon screening at the entrance of the building. While this building is in the best condition of all the facilities currently in use, the original Project Feasibility Report considered it to be *functionally marginal* in the master plan. This rating is certainly not going to improve as this building ages.

7. **Access to Court Services:**

- The new Red Bluff Courthouse will be built in a centralized location, in the same business complex area with other County agencies, including the Tehama County Probation Department which houses the Juvenile Justice Center.
- By merging five facilities into one new, fully functioning, safe and secure, ADA compliant building, the numerous roadblocks that currently exist for the Tehama County Court System in regard to fair and equal access to court services will logically be eliminated.
- Currently a common scenario: a court user will attend court in Dept. 3 for their FL case, go to the Historic Courthouse to visit the Civil Clerks' Office to file paperwork or request copies, travel across the street if they need the assistance of the Self-Help Center, and then back to the historic courthouse to get paperwork filed. If the person in the scenario above were to have a physical disability, their time at the court would be increased because of the lack of ADA compliance in historic facilities.
- Because of inadequate storage space, files are stored across the street, which causes unnecessary wait time for someone who needs to view or make copies of a file.

8. **Economic Opportunity:**

- A new Tehama Courthouse will allow the safe and ADA compliant consolidation of: three buildings which house courtrooms (one which is 20 minutes south of the other facilities), one building which houses the Self-Help Center, Commissioner's office and the Family Law Facilitator's office, and a fifth building which houses inactive files and other administrative records.
- This consolidation will *immediately* improve efficiencies in:
  1. Court Calendaring
  2. Case Management and Caseflow
  3. Personnel Management
  4. Staff Training and Education
  5. Clerk Processing and Procedures
  6. Customer Service
  7. Court wide Communications
  8. Court Security
  9. Jury Management

- 10. Procurement Processes
- 11. Facility Maintenance and
- 12. Janitorial Services

- When the Judges, court staff, and court security are able to function in a single location, the efficiencies of consolidation will immediately produce positive results not only for the Tehama County Court System, but for the community as a whole.
- With all court employees, all court services and all court calendars able to co-exist under one roof, management staff will be able to direct personnel in efficient, creative ways that are currently impossible.
- The number of times a case file needs to be “touched” by court employee hands will be greatly reduced. And the days of waiting for a case file to be transported from an “alternate” location before being able to complete work on it will be eliminated.
- Financial efficiencies will be achieved when redundant office equipment leases are terminated and/or existing contracts renegotiated. Because of consolidation, more efficient procurement practices may also be established.

#### 9. **Project Status:**

- The New Red Bluff Courthouse Project is in the Preliminary Plans Phase and is currently “PAUSED” for further review.
- **Tehama County’s New Courthouse is ready to move forward with very strong support from public officials and other members of the community.**
- The courts are in breach of contract with the County of Tehama due to a directive that we may not close escrow on courthouse property purchase. The property would have been purchased long ago but for some technical corrections. There is a valid and executed contract. There are valid and executed escrow instructions. All necessary documents are long submitted, all conditions long satisfied. Closure would have been completed last month but the Department of Finance (DOF) directed that nothing further be accomplished on Courthouse construction until the September hearings are completed. It is very probable that the DOF did not intend to place the courts in breach of contract, but it has; the County has suffered serious detriment to make the property available for court use.

#### 10. **Court Usage:**

- Tehama Superior Court has NO unused courtrooms.
- The Court requires the *additional* use of the Juvenile Justice Center Courtroom (located at the County Probation Office) when more than one jury trial goes within the same week, and one of those trials is longer than three days.

**11. Type of Courthouse:**

- The Courthouse planned for Tehama County will be a **Main Courthouse** located in the County Seat of Red Bluff, CA.
- The new courthouse will consolidate 5 existing facilities into one.
- The new courthouse will be the only court facility in Tehama County and will offer a full range of court services to the community it serves.

**12. Disposition of Existing Court Space or Facility:** (AOC to provide this information to the CFWG)

**13. Facilities that would be consolidated into one new facility:**

1. The Corning Courthouse which is State owned.
2. The Self-Help Center which is located across the street from the Historic Courthouse and currently leased month to month.
3. The storage building located across the street from the Historic Courthouse; the Court pays a monthly rent to hold files and other court records here.
4. A portion of the Historic Courthouse (this facility is shared with the County of Tehama).
5. The State owned building housing Departments 2 and 3 and the Criminal Processing Clerks' Office.

**14. Extent to Which Project Solves a Court's Facilities Problems:**

- The problem of not being able to screen ALL court users entering our facilities for dangerous weapons will be solved with a new courthouse, and our Court will be a much safer and more secure environment for not only the Judges and the Court Staff, but also for the community we serve.
- The problem of not being ADA compliant in various areas will be solved with a new courthouse.
- The problem of routinely having one of our IT/Computer Rooms overheat because of having 21<sup>st</sup> century equipment in a building built in 1920 will be solved with a new courthouse.
- The problem of not being as efficient as the Court is capable of being because of conducting related court business through five separate locations will be solved with a new courthouse.
- As mentioned in the cover letter, this is an area which could have pages and pages of scenarios attached to it. We documented a few of the more glaring areas of concern above.

**15. Expected Operational Impact:**

**12.1 (A) Decreased Costs to the Court:**

**Elimination of:**

Self-Help Center Building Lease	\$10,100 annually
File Storage Building Lease Red Bluff	\$3,200 annually
Sacramento Omni File Storage	\$2,600 annually
Janitorial Services in Corning	\$6,000 annually
Travel Expenses for Court Employee Travel to/from Corning Court	\$2,000 annually
Redundant Copier Leases	\$12,000 annually
Redundant Postage Machine Leases	\$4,200 annually
Redundant Telephone Service Contracts	\$3,500 annually
Redundant Postage Meter Leases (will go from needing 3 to 1 postage meter)	\$4,400 annually

**Total: \$50,000**

**12.2 (B) Increased Costs to the Court: (rough estimates)**

- Court Security Personnel will not be able to function at the current level, but the increase is not expected to be significant in this area.
- Relocating all IT and other communications equipment (one-time) (\$120,000)
- Moving services (one-time) (\$150,000)
- Providing all facility related purchases not covered by the AOC/OCCM (clocks, trashcans, wall hangings, file carts, step ladders, etc.) (one-time) (\$150,000)

**15.2 Funding source(s) planned to be used to address any net cost increases:**

- The Tehama Superior Court **had** reserves that were designated **and** preserved specifically for the increased costs associated with moving into a new courthouse.
- These funds will no longer exist at the close of FY 2013/2014, which is well before a new courthouse would be completed.
- Any costs associated with “Improving Court Automation” would be funded through Tehama County per an agreement for these funds to be provided by them which is bound by statute.
- In light of the current financial situation with the State of California, Tehama Court would continue to work to reduce operations to achieve additional savings for our Court in order to fund these additional cost increases.

**16. Qualitative statement of need to replace a facility or facilities:**

- The Tehama County Chief Administrator and the Tehama County Board of Supervisors unanimously support the construction of a New Red Bluff Courthouse. They restated such in

a recent letter to the CFWG where they again request our County's project be kept a high priority.

- The New Tehama Courthouse is also supported as a high priority for Tehama County by the Tehama County Sheriff, Dave Hencratt, Chief Probation Officer, Richard Muench, District Attorney, Gregg Cohen, as well as many other public agency and business leaders in the community, too numerous to list.
- Our court was originally placed in the "immediate/critical needs" category when the first and updated versions of the County of Tehama New Red Bluff Courthouse Project Feasibility Reports came out.
- The New Red Bluff Courthouse remains an "immediate/critical need" for the County of Tehama and the State of California.

#### **17. Courtroom and courthouse closures:**

- All courtrooms have hearings and/or regular calendars scheduled in them 5 days a week. There are no unused courtrooms in Tehama County.
- The closing of the Corning Courthouse has been considered and evaluated many times over the last few years. There simply is not enough space to move Department 4 to Red Bluff. Most importantly, there is nowhere to safely relocate chambers for a D-4 Judge and there is no space available to create an additional courtroom.

#### **18. "Outside the Box Thinking:"**

- Utilize tilt-up concrete construction for the new Tehama Courthouse, an extremely cost effective and fast construction method. Sitecast tilt-up concrete panels will be the major exterior material providing structure and exterior finish to the new courthouse.
- Utilize tilt-up concrete panels also as internal shear walls providing lateral seismic stability to the new courthouse.
- After Tehama Superior Court's New Courthouse Project Team learned of the additional construction costs associated with a basement level of a building, the architects created a new plan which eliminated the basement level of the building and reorganized all secured areas of the courthouse to ground level. The new courthouse plan still meets the approved program area goals, even with this major reorganization of the building plans.
- The New Red Bluff Courthouse Project is currently **20% below** the original direct cost with the potential for additional cost savings to be made.



Three images of tilt-up construction in action

**If Tehama County’s New Red Bluff Courthouse is selected as one of the AB 1407 projects to move forward to completion, this building will be constructed with the intention to maintain civic stature and presence in the community, while also creating a new model for future, cost efficient courthouses in California.**

**There are many new cost saving ideas that will immediately be considered by the New Courthouse Project Team.**

**Some of these are:**

- Reduce the number of fully flexible courtrooms on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor to 2 instead of 4, which eliminates the need for one of two secure elevators to transport in custody defendants to the courtrooms.
- Consider video conferencing for arraignments.
- Look at new ways to position the control station in the holding cell which could reduce the need for additional security personnel, by creating a less obstructed view of the entire holding cell area.
- Use automatic, sliding doors on the holding cells so cell doors may be opened and closed remotely, via the control station. There is an increased cost for these types of doors, but the long-term savings on security costs achieved by not needing additional security personnel to manually open and close holding cell doors is being analyzed.
- Reorganize the central holding area by reducing the amount of smaller holding cells and adding more of the larger sized cells. This reorganization will be done while maintaining the number of cells needed to properly segregate the various types of inmates brought into central holding.
- Tehama’s New Courthouse Project Team is very aware of the increased costs associated with construction of the **secured areas** of the new courthouse and will look at this particular area in great detail to find any new ways to more efficiently organize this section of the building to further reduce costs to the overall project.

**19. Expended Resources:**

(AOC will provide the CFWG with data on SB 1407 fund expenditures as of June 30, 2012 for each project being evaluated.)

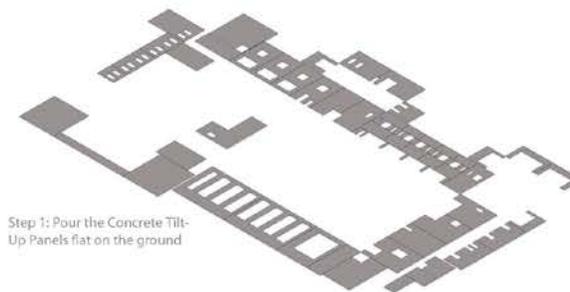
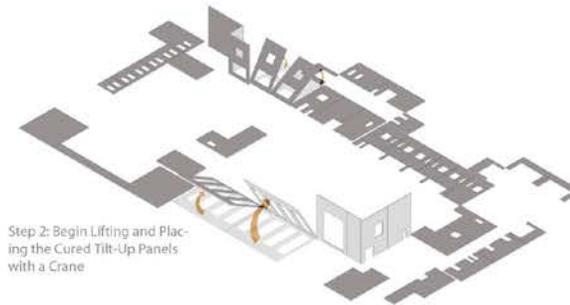
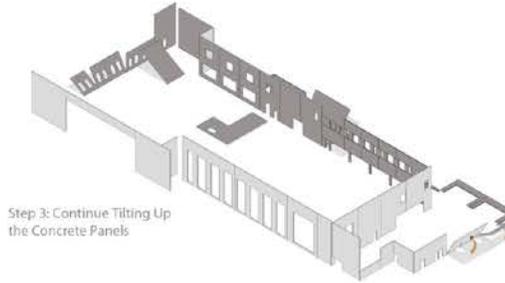
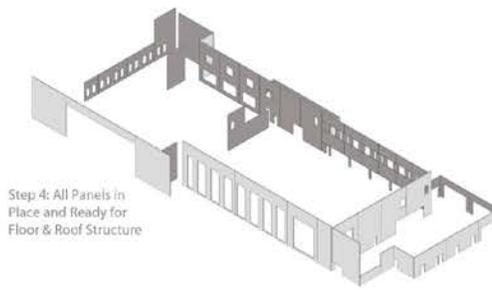
*The final page of this report is an 8 ½ x 11 in. version of the presentation board used to provide details on “tilt-up” construction and how it can greatly reduce the overall cost of the New Red Bluff Courthouse Project.*

### Efficient Construction:

The Red Bluff Courthouse will be a **ground up demonstration project** utilizing cost efficient construction methods typically used for office buildings and warehouses. The building will be constructed utilizing **Tilt-Up Concrete Construction**, an extremely cost effective and fast construction method. By effective organization of the floor plans, massing, and elevations, the building lends itself to sitecast tilt-up concrete panels which will be the major exterior material providing structure and exterior finish to the building. Tilt-up panels will also be used as internal shear walls providing lateral seismic stability. This building will be **comparable to a private sector office building** while maintaining the civic stature and presence necessary for a Superior Courthouse and become a new model for future courthouses in California.

### Efficient Organization & Planning:

This building **does not require a basement**. Because of efficient site and building design, all secured functions are at ground level. The two story building meets the approved program area.



### Efficient Cost:

This building is currently **20% below** the original direct cost with the potential for additional cost savings to be made.

Tilt-Up Concrete Construction



# Superior Court of California

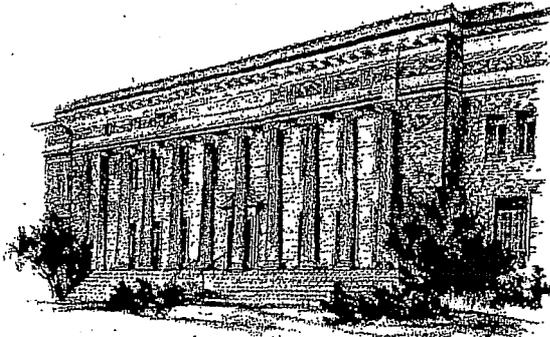
An Efficient New Courthouse for the County of Tehama





*Board of Supervisors*  
COUNTY OF TEHAMA

District 1 – Gregg Avilla  
District 2 – George Russell  
District 3 – Dennis Garton  
District 4 – Bob Williams  
District 5 – Ron Warner



Williams J. Goodwin  
Chief Administrator

*Tehama County Courthouse*

August 7, 2012

Administrative Office of the Courts  
Attn: Comments to Court Facilities Working Group  
455 Golden Gate Avenue, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Subject: Support for Tehama County Courthouse

Dear Sirs:

In October 2011 the Tehama County Board of Supervisors expressed their support that the Tehama County Courthouse remain a high priority project. A letter from Presiding Judge Richard Scheuler was attached to provide specific reasons to replace the historic courthouse and to combine three court venues into one.

The need for a new courthouse has not diminished and the reasons have not changed. Therefore, on behalf of the Tehama County Board of Supervisors I am resubmitting the Board letter of October 18, 2011 with Presiding Judge Scheuler's letter attached as comments for the September 5-7, 2012 hearings.

Thank you for your consideration.

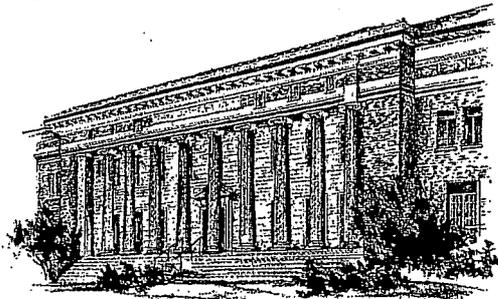
Sincerely,

Williams J. Goodwin  
Chief Administrator

Attachments

*Board of Supervisors*  
**COUNTY OF TEHAMA**

*District 1 – Gregg Avilla  
District 2 – George Russell  
District 3 – Dennis Garton  
District 4 – Bob Williams  
District 5 – Ron Warner*



*Tehama County Courthouse*

*Williams J. Goodwin  
Chief Administrator*

October 18, 2011

Administrative Office of the Courts  
Attn: Comments to Court Facilities Working Group  
455 Golden Gate Avenue, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: Support for Construction of a New Tehama County Courthouse

Dear Sirs:

The Tehama County Board of Supervisors supports construction of a new courthouse in Tehama County and requests that this project remain as a high priority in the Courthouse Construction Program.

We believe that the inability to provide adequate security in the old Tehama County Courthouse is a compelling reason for the courts to move forward with construction of a new building at this time. In addition, we have received and concur with the attached detailed comments provided by Presiding Judge Richard Scheuler.

Sincerely,

Gregg Avilla

Chairman

Attachment

Cc: Senator LaMalfa  
Assemblyman Nielsen

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA  
COUNTY OF TEHAMA**

*The Hon. Richard Scheuler*

Judge of the Superior Court  
Department 1  
633 Washington Street  
P.O. Box 278  
Red Bluff, CA 96080-0278

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**WHY COURT CONSTRUCTION  
IS NEEDED  
(A Partial List)**

Date: October 18, 2011

The State of California will be building new courthouses in a number of counties. We are high on the list for such construction because of the great need noted below. I cannot see that it would ever be possible for the Tehama County Court to construct a new courthouse on its own. Since the state will be expending the money in some county, it may as well be Tehama County, and the use of state funds for such construction is the County's only hope of achieving the long term efficiency, financial savings, and safety which will be achieved through such a state financed, local construction project.

The following are some, but by no means all, of the reasons why the Tehama County Courts are high on the list for new court construction. I wish I had time to organize it better. It is a non inclusive list that can be only a partial introduction to why judges fear for the court's ability to serve the public absent a centralized courthouse.

1. Over the years the legislature has added yearly to the required service which the Court must give without providing adequate funding. The court has had to spread itself over borrowed and rented facilities such that we now have a Department in Corning, three Red Bluff Courts which are not adjacent and only two of which have secure facilities for prisoners, one rented space on Pine Street, several rented locations for storage, and numerous offices in the County building at 633 Washington Street (wherein the historic courthouse is located).
2. Currently Department I, Department IV, the mandated child support court on Pine Street, and most court auxiliary offices are without any security screening.
3. The Child Support Court (AB1058) location is sufficiently remote from security and so threatening to staff that the court has been temporarily moved with the consent of the County to an old Board of Supervisors room in the historic courthouse where Department 1 is

located, which means that it was moved from one unsecure spot to a second unsecure spot that is closer to the Sheriff's Department.

4. Self help staff, mandated by law, operate out of a rented location a block from the courthouse and completely without any security. This building is supposed to serve as a child support court but is so inadequate in size that citizens had to stand outside, in the rain or whatever weather may prevail. As said, that court temporarily sits in borrowed space.
5. Mediators and other family and probate support staff are scattered over various offices which are anywhere from 100 yards up to 20 miles from the court they serve – all, of course, without security. Mediation is a particularly volatile activity in which parents often become angry and even violent. These offices need to be within the confines of one courthouse where security is provided at all times, this not only for the safety of staff but for the safety of the citizens who use the facilities.
6. None of the court locations have secured parking for the Judges and there are no secured routes for the judges to get from their parking area to their court building and/or chambers. A number of years ago a person who is now in prison sought to murder the judge in Department 4 by firing on him with a shotgun while he was between the back door of Department 4 (which had locked behind him) and his own locked vehicle that was in the Department 4 parking lot.
7. The judge's chambers in Departments II, III and IV are each immediately adjacent to and their windows face onto public sidewalks, which proximity poses a serious security threat for judges in those chambers.
8. The Department 1 judicial chambers is accessible from the public lobby, as are all administrative offices other than the Criminal Department Clerks and one secretary who are housed in the only court building that does have court security.
9. There are no holding cells for Department 1. Inmates are brought through the public area into the courtroom. A storage room in the back of Department 1 is used in emergency situations, where inmates may be housed, but this, of course, does not meet security standards.
10. Department 1 is on the second floor of the historic courthouse which means that when prisoners are brought to that courthouse they come through the public lobby, up a flight of public stairs, and along a waist high banister which is the access way to Department 1 and along which many civilians congregate. One prisoner could easily take a guard or an innocent civilian over that banister into a one floor fall.
11. Department 4, which is our Corning branch, has no sally port and prisoners are transported to this courthouse in Sheriff's vehicles and arrive in the same parking lot where citizens, the judge, and the court employees park.
12. Department 4 also has inadequate holding cells for inmates, and the prisoners are delivered to the holding cells through the staff hallway and enter through the same door the judge and the

employees use. They walk directly by the staff eating area and directly by the jury room which itself has access directly to the courtroom.

13. In all departments, but especially in Department 4, the delivery of both male and female inmates result in insufficient space, and female inmates must be brought into the Courtroom and seated in the jury box. Sometimes both male and female defendants must be seated in the jury box due to lack of holding space, and this situation, especially with large calendars, enhances security issues.
14. The only courthouse that is ADA compliant is the court building that houses Departments 2 and 3. The jury room in Department 1 is not only ADA incompliant, it is just plain dangerous, accessed by a very narrow, steep set of stairs and consisting of a series of rooms which have enjoyed nothing but deterioration since the historic courthouse was built.
15. The Corning Branch (Dept. 4) is not ADA compliant, noncompliance including the restrooms, the parking lot, and other high-use areas of the building.
16. The non ADA compliant historic courthouse is home to overflow of court offices which the courts cannot afford to house. Such overflow court offices in this building include Court Reporter Offices, Court Mediator Facilities, all of the Court Executive Offices, the Civil Clerks, the Law Library, and many county offices. If anyone in this building requires an ADA accessible restroom, he or she must go to the Annex Court Building previously mentioned, where Depts. 2 and 3 are located.
17. There are many security problems in the historic courthouse which houses administration and Department 1. This is mainly because of the building's age. Some are listed herein.
18. All court buildings lack fire sprinkler systems and proper exit route signage.
19. There are no emergency exits for the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of Department 1.
20. The Corning Court electrical room functions as a staff break room.
21. There are many roof leaks in Department 4 during the rainy season.
22. The Department 4 emergency exit in the courtroom must be locked in order to eliminate an escape route for inmates.
23. The Annex in which Departments 2 and 3 are located is the most updated facility the court has, but it is also deficient in safety and security.
24. Nowhere in the court system is there a Jury Assembly room. Since a jury trial could go in any of the four departments of the court (and possibly in other remote locations such as the Juvenile Justice building a mile away) potential jurors who report to the court to serve on a jury may appear in a location that does not have security screening. They may also report to a courtroom that is not ADA compliant. If a trial is to be held in a department other than that

to which they were summoned, they must walk through public areas from one courthouse to another or be told to go back to their cars and drive to the other location; it has occurred that juries have been moved as much as 20 miles.

25. Jurors serving on a jury trial in Corning will share the same parking lot with the transportation delivering and picking up defendants and/or witnesses from the jail.
26. The Superior Court of Tehama could better serve the community with an ADA, safety and security compliant courthouse.
27. Efficiency is impossible with courts and offices spread over distances and places as noted above. While the duties given to courts by the legislature increase every year, the court has suffered a 30% budget cut over the last three years and will suffer another 15% cut in the fiscal year 2012/2013. The court system is on the verge of having insufficient staff to perform its assigned functions, and the economies of centralization are an important part of the court's plan to remain fully functional.
28. While work has been going up and budget down, the court has shrunk to the point that it is 15% below the level of staffing it had four years ago. In addition, the position of Assistant Court Executive Officer was just abolished. The court system cannot continue decreasing our staff and abolishing staff positions and still do its job. Each inefficiency eliminated makes it more possible for the court to continue to provide mandated services with fewer staff doing the work.
29. In addition to trials and hearings, the court system handles many law and motion calendars on which a hundred or more cases may be called. Each case has at least one file, and files are moved thousands of times a year in order to accommodate the increased court load. Remote storage and distance of travel are currently a serious draw on court personnel time, a draw which cannot be afforded and which would be shortened by having a centralized courthouse.
30. More specifically and as a subset to the item above, the overwhelming majority of active civil, criminal, juvenile and probate files are housed in or in the vicinity of the historic courthouse. When a case is set for trial/hearing in Department 4, files must be transported by the bailiff or staff some 20 miles and then transported back to Red Bluff. Not only is this inefficient and costly but it also results in a judge often not having sufficient time to review files before they come up in court.
31. The court reporters have their offices in the historic courthouse which is 20 miles from Department 4, and that distance causes inflexibility in court calendaring, loss of efficiency, and expense.
32. For every file used in court, staff must not just transport that file to and from court; staff must make computer entries and minutes for each appearance; staff must both retrieve and return the files; staff must make copies for parties and counsel involved; and staff must handle a constant stream of public inquiries about those files and requests for copies. Each time the file goes to court another wave of such duties is generated. The possibility of efficiencies

through consolidation of certain tasks is made impossible by the lack of a centralized courthouse.

33. The consolidation of janitorial, maintenance, communications, computer servers, and other services will assist the court with the financial crisis described.
34. The court is charged with the duty of providing fair and adequate access to the public, and that charge is not manageable without the economies of centralization.
35. As a specific example of the general information provided above, in 2011 a deputy narrowly escaped going over a balcony railing outside of Department 1 in a struggle with an inmate.

No system can continue to grow without occasionally re-organizing and consolidating. The Tehama County Court system has been forced by legislative mandate to grow yearly while being given no opportunity to reorganize and centralize. The result is a spread out, inefficient, and unsafe system which can only be cured by the development of a centralized courthouse in which not only judges but all clerks, all administrative staff, all mediators, all investigators, and all support staff by any other name are allowed to be housed under one roof.

I remain available for further detail as does Gina Setter, our Court Executive Officer.

Sincerely,



Richard Scheuler  
Presiding Judge  
Tehama County Superior Court