



SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF MONTEREY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Court Facilities Working Group
Presiding Justice Brad R. Hill

FROM: Presiding Judge Timothy P. Roberts

DATE: September 20, 2011

SUBJECT: Information on SB 1407 Project – Monterey County

I am writing to you in response to your email request for input regarding SB 1407 courthouse construction projects. The Monterey County Superior Court has been designated to receive funding for a new South Monterey County Courthouse. The site acquisition phase of the new South Monterey County Courthouse project is completed; the City of Greenfield donated land to the State of California for this project. Additionally, the AOC and Court project teams, with the architect firm of Cavagnero and Associates, are currently discussing the schematic design for the courthouse.

The new South Monterey County Courthouse will provide court services to south county residents currently driving from 65 to upwards of 100 miles for these services. Currently, some basic court services are not available to south county residents due to space restrictions: a self-help center, a jury assembly room, a children's waiting room, adequately-sized in-custody holding, an alternative dispute resolution center, and attorney interview/witness waiting rooms. This courthouse project will provide the court with the ability to enhance access to court services by eventually expanding to a full-service courthouse for south county residents, enabling the court to operate more effectively and efficiently in the south county area. This project returns criminal and civil, including jury trials, family law and small claims case processing to the south county area, eliminating the need to drive such distances for these services. Additionally, this will reduce case load processing and overcrowding at the existing Monterey County Courthouse and at the Salinas Courthouse, by shifting criminal, civil, family law and small claims cases to the new courthouse.

This project will also provide the capability to hold proceedings on state prison cases in the same region in which they are derived and within 10 miles from the state prison facilities located in the City of Soledad. The state prison cases are currently conducted at the Salinas Courthouse, some 50 miles away from the state prison facilities.

If this project were delayed or cancelled, south county residents would continue to be subjected to limited and remote access to justice that should be readily available to all. Additionally, the public, attorneys and court employees would continue to be subjected to an aging and substandard courthouse in South Monterey County.

The Monterey County Superior Court urges your support of the new South Monterey County Courthouse.

Thank you.