

**Superior Court of the State of California
County of Nevada**

THOMAS M. ANDERSON
Presiding Judge

CANDACE S. HEIDELBERGER,
Assistant Presiding Judge

G. SEAN METROKA
Court Executive Officer



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September 26, 2011

Hon. Brad R. Hill
Presiding Justice
Court of Appeal, Fifth District
2424 Ventura Street
Fresno, CA 93721

Re: Letter of Support for Continuing the Nevada City Courthouse Project

Dear Justice Hill:

In response to your request for information dated September 9, 2011, I am writing to express support for the New Nevada City Courthouse and to provide information that may be useful in the upcoming courthouse project review by the Court Facilities Working Group.

Our current Nevada City courthouse facilities are woefully inadequate in size, security, configuration, and structural soundness. Most significant among these inadequacies are:

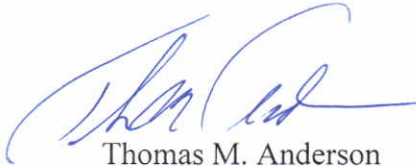
- Much of the current space is not useable for court functions due to structural instability and configuration as a jail. A large portion of the historic courthouse is condemned for occupation.
- The buildings do not contain any queuing space for security screening which leaves the public waiting outside to clear entrance screening – in this county (during six months of the year) that limitation exposes citizens to rain and snow while awaiting their turn at the screening station.
- In-custody defendants and juveniles must be moved from holding to courtrooms through public spaces in the absence of secured hallways. This increases the number of transport officers needed to perform this function in order to clear these corridors of the public. It also presents additional security risks to all staff and public present.
- Two of our six courtrooms are less than half the minimum standard courtroom size and all of them have significant configuration issues.

- The historic courthouse has evolved from a two-story stone and brick structure (built in 1864) to a patchwork four-story stone, brick, and reinforced and unreinforced concrete building that was last substantially modified in 1937. Parts of the building are disintegrating and apparently unsolvable rain leaks are a perennial problem.

We believe this project should continue to move forward as the only feasible means of solving these and many other issues. Without this project, Western Nevada County will, as a matter of course, make do with the status quo; however, the risk of a significant security failure will continue to increase. The public will continue to be inconvenienced by the inadequacies of the current structures. This risk is compounded by ongoing budget reductions and the resulting reductions in staffing.

We believe that a new courthouse will allow for savings in the areas of staffing, building maintenance, and janitorial services and will create opportunities for improvements in efficiency and service to the public; opportunities that do not currently exist due to the physical limitations of the present buildings.

Sincerely,



Thomas M. Anderson
Presiding Judge



Candace S. Heidelberger
Assistant Presiding Judge



G. Sean Metroka
Court Executive Officer