



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA • ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

October 4, 2010

## **Public Meeting and Invitation to Comment on Proposed New Hanford Courthouse**

**What:** The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) will hold a public meeting to discuss the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) draft report and receive public comments.

This meeting is a necessary step in the CEQA process. At the meeting, the public and other interested parties will have an opportunity to review and comment on the AOC's Draft Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration.

The review period extends through 5 p.m. on October 28, 2010. The AOC's draft CEQA document and other project information, as well as instructions for submitting comments, are available on the California Courts Web site: [www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/occm/projects\\_hanford.htm](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/occm/projects_hanford.htm).

**When:** Wednesday, October 20, 2010, 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Where:** Kings County Government Center  
Administration Building Multi-Purpose Room  
1400 W. Lacey Blvd., Hanford, CA 93230

**Who:** The AOC's Office of Court Construction and Management will present project information and a brief overview of the draft environmental report, and interested parties may present public comments or submit written comments.

**Why:** Severe space restrictions have forced the court to spread operations in Hanford among four separate buildings in the downtown government center. The proposed project would replace these facilities and consolidate all court operations in a modern, secure, full-service courthouse. The new facility would be designed to handle all types of proceedings. It would also consolidate all family law proceedings and support services currently spread out of over three locations in three different towns into a centralized location. The new facility would also enable the court to provide services currently not possible due to space restrictions. The project, with an estimated total cost of \$142.4 million, will be funded by Senate Bill 1407, which finances critically needed courthouse construction, renovation, and repair through a portion of judicial branch fees, fines, and penalties, with no impact on the state's General Fund.

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*The Judicial Council is the policymaking body of the California courts, the largest court system in the nation. Under the leadership of the Chief Justice and in accordance with the California Constitution, the council is responsible for*

*ensuring the consistent, independent, impartial, and accessible administration of justice. The Administrative Office of the Courts carries out the official actions of the council and promotes leadership and excellence in court administration.*