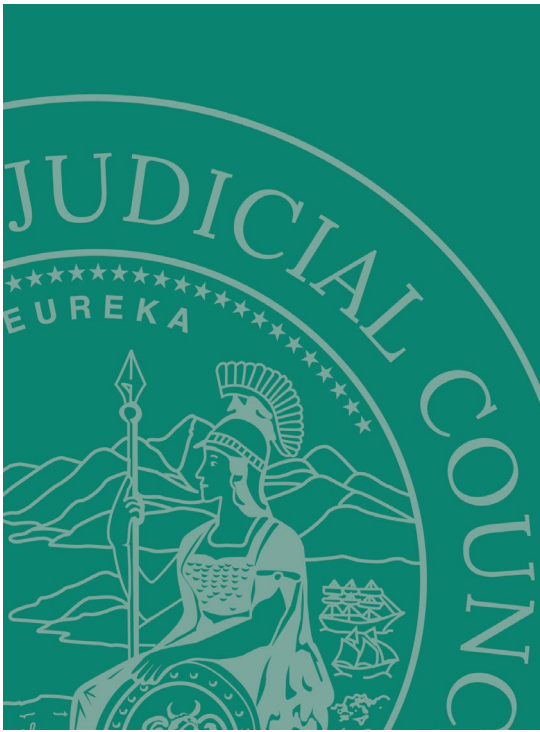




Judicial Branch Five-Year Infrastructure Plan for Fiscal Year 2027–28

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

Adopted by the Judicial Council
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Judicial Council of California

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	4
	A. Trial Court Capital-Outlay Project Funding Requests for FY 2027–28	4
	B. No Appellate Court Capital-Outlay Project Funding Requests for FY 2027–28..	7
	Appendix A: Status Report: Immediate and Critical Need Trial Court Capital-Outlay Projects (July 17, 2026).....	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 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 Budget Act of 2018 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 the Indio and 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. In fiscal year (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 for 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.

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 Budget Act of 2018 (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- and 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. Revise the prioritization methodology—developing needs- and cost-based criteria to rank projects within priority groups—consistent with Government Code section 70371.9;
2. Assess facilities occupied by trial courts for physical condition, security, access to court services, and overcrowding;
3. Develop court facility plans and court needs-based projects;
4. Apply the prioritization methodology to all projects; and
5. Develop 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; substantially renovate a major portion of a facility; comprise a new facility or an acquisition; or change the use of a facility, such as the conversion from noncourt use to court use.

Details of the list are as follows:

- There are 80 projects for 41 of the 58 trial courts.
- These 80 projects affect 165 of the approximate total of 430 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, \$100 million.
- Of the 80 projects, 56 are for new construction and 24 are for renovation or addition.

- The total cost for the 56 new construction projects is estimated at \$10.6 billion. The total cost for the 24 renovation 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:

- The general physical condition of the buildings;
- 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;
- Court security features within buildings;
- Access to court services;
- Overcrowding; and
- 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- 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- 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, operation, and maintenance of the approximately 430 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 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 Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) 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

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.

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 the chambers and workspaces where judicial officers and courtroom staff prepare for proceedings; secure areas, including holding cells; and building support functions. Currently, the Judicial Council administrative facilities are located in San Francisco and Sacramento, with office space totaling approximately 253,000 usable square feet.

The Supreme Court is located in the Ronald M. George State Office Complex in San Francisco (103,300 square feet) and the Ronald Reagan State Building in Los Angeles (7,600 square feet). The Courts of Appeal are organized into six districts, which operate in nine different locations in approximately 508,000 usable square feet. The Fresno and Riverside appellate courts are housed in standalone, state-owned facilities; the other courts are colocated in other leased or state-owned space. The trial courts are located in all 58 counties, in more than 430 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.

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 2027–28

The five-year plan for trial court capital-outlay projects in the table below proposes funding in FY 2027–28 for five projects on the Judicial Council’s approved statewide list of projects as referenced in Appendix A, *Status Report: Immediate and Critical Need Trial Court Capital-Outlay Projects*. This proposal is based on funding support in the Budget Act of 2026 (FY 2026–27), which provides a spending plan that ends FY 2026–27 and FY 2027–28 with positive year-end balances, maintains substantial reserves, and reduces by more than half the operating deficits that had been projected in future years at the time of the Governor’s proposed budget in January. That spending plan provides the judicial branch with a total of \$1.9 billion (\$179.7 million General Fund and \$1.7 billion in Public Buildings Construction Fund) for courthouse capital

outlay projects in FY 2026–27. As a result of that funding, the remaining phases of nine projects in the five-year plan for FY 2026–27 were funded, effectively removing those projects from the table below and allowing four new-start projects to be added into the table from the council’s statewide list of projects: (1) Riverside–New Riverside Juvenile Courthouse in budget year 4 (FY 2030–31), and (2) Tulare–New Tulare North County Courthouse, (3) Los Angeles–New West Covina Courthouse, and (4) Los Angeles–New Eastlake Courthouse in budget year 5 (FY 2031–32).

This proposal is also based on budget bill language in the Budget Act of 2026, which allows the Legislature to authorize, subject to appropriation in the Budget Act of 2027, the acquisition, performance criteria, or design-build phases of five projects: (1) Contra Costa–New Richmond Courthouse, (2) Fresno–New Fresno Courthouse, (3) San Francisco–New San Francisco Hall of Justice, (4) Orange–New Orange County Collaborative Courthouse, and (5) Santa Barbara–New Santa Barbara Criminal Courthouse. In addition, budget bill language in the Budget Act of 2026 requires the Judicial Council to submit a report to the Legislature by January 10, 2027, outlining strategies to accelerate and streamline courthouse construction.

At its public meeting on May 29, 2026, the Judicial Council’s Court Facilities Advisory Committee (CFAC) recommended approval of capital-outlay budget change proposals for the projects in budget year 1 (FY 2027–28) of a five-year plan based on support in the January Governor’s Budget for FY 2026–27. Subsequently, that version of the five-year plan was amended to reflect the version herein, which is also based on the capital project funding appropriated in the Budget Act of 2026 (FY 2026–27) and the budget bill language described above. Prior to Judicial Council approval in July 2026, the CFAC recommended approval of the plan herein, which was posted on the CFAC’s webpage on the California Courts website.

Consistent with the Governor’s proposed budget for FY 2026–27 (with no adjustment by the May Revision) and the outcome of the Budget Act of 2026 (FY 2026–27), the judicial branch’s five-year plan for trial court capital-outlay projects is presented in the following table.

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

	County	Project Name	Courtrooms	BY 1: FY 2027–28	Phase	BY 2: FY 2028–29	Phase	BY 3: FY 2029–30	Phase	BY 4: FY 2030–31	Phase	BY 5: FY 2031–32	Phase
BY 1 Cont.	Fresno	New Fresno Courthouse	36	\$1,041,614	B	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
BY 1 Starts	Contra Costa	New Richmond Courthouse	6	\$ 18,842	AS	-	-	-	-	\$ 2,061	D	\$ 163,664	B
	San Francisco	New San Francisco Hall of Justice	24	\$ 70,460	AS	-	-	-	-	\$ 17,851	D	-	-
	Orange	New Orange County Collaborative Courthouse	4	\$ 15,587	AS	-	-	-	-	\$ 1,803	D	-	-
	Santa Barbara	New Santa Barbara Criminal Courthouse	8	\$ 11,438	D	\$ 236,413	B	-	-	-	-	-	-
BY 2 Starts	Los Angeles	New Downtown Los Angeles Courthouse (Mosk Replacement)	100	-	-	\$ 277,437	AS	-	-	-	-	-	-
	El Dorado	New Placerville Courthouse	6	-	-	\$ 8,271	AS	-	-	\$ 2,401	D	-	-
	Fresno	Fresno Juvenile Delinquency Courthouse Renovation	2	-	-	\$ 1,381	PW	\$ 10,396	C	-	-	-	-
BY 3 Starts	Inyo	New Inyo County Courthouse	2	-	-	-	-	\$ 3,528	AS	-	-	\$ 1,802	D
	San Bernardino	New Victorville Courthouse	31	-	-	-	-	\$ 12,844	AS	-	-	-	-
	Mariposa	New Mariposa Courthouse	2	-	-	-	-	\$ 3,007	AS	-	-	\$ 1,431	D
BY 4 Starts	Santa Cruz	New Santa Cruz Courthouse	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$ 10,833	AS	-	-
	San Diego	New San Diego Juvenile Courthouse	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$ 16,531	AS	-	-
	Riverside	New Riverside Juvenile Courthouse	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$ 18,573	AS	-	-
BY 5 Starts	Tulare	New Tulare North County Courthouse	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$ 16,605	AS
	Los Angeles	New West Covina Courthouse	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$ 24,371	AS
	Los Angeles	New Eastlake Courthouse	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$ 50,184	AS
	-	Totals	280	\$1,157,941	-	\$ 523,502	-	\$ 29,775	-	\$ 70,053	-	\$ 258,057	-

Table Legend:
 BY = Budget Year
 S = Study
 A = Acquisition
 P = Preliminary Plans
 W = Working Drawings
 C = Construction
 D = Performance Criteria
 B = Design-Build

B. No Appellate Court Capital-Outlay Project Funding Requests for FY 2027–28

The active Court of Appeal–New Sixth Appellate District Courthouse project is fully funded; therefore, no funding is requested nor five-year plan presented for appellate court capital-outlay projects. This project was authorized in the Budget Act of 2023 (FY 2023–24) for \$2.8 million General Fund for its performance criteria phase and in the Budget Act of 2024 (FY 2024–25) for \$89.5 million Public Buildings Construction Fund for its 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 Monterey, San Benito, Santa Clara, and Santa Cruz 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 Santa Clara County. 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 Court Facilities Advisory Committee’s public meeting on May 26, 2022, the feasibility study and its findings were presented and discussed. Subsequently, at the committee’s public meeting on June 17, 2022, 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 based on the economic, public service, and operational benefits. The updated feasibility study and findings presented at that meeting are available under tab 3 of the [meeting materials](#). Additional information on this project is available on its [webpage](#).

Appendix A:
Status Report: Immediate and Critical Need Trial Court
Capital-Outlay Projects (July 17, 2026)



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	Fully funded; funding authorized in 2023 and 2026 Budget Acts.
Butte	Butte County Juvenile Hall Addition and Renovation	Immediate Need	1	18.6	Fully funded; funding authorized in 2021 and 2025 Budget Acts.
Monterey	New Fort Ord Courthouse	Immediate Need	7	18.5	Fully funded; funding authorized in 2021 and 2023 Budget Acts.
Lake	Clearlake Courthouse Renovation	Immediate Need	1	17.9	Fully funded; funding authorized in 2026 Budget Act (FY 2026–27). Project changed from new construction to renovation.
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	Fully funded; funding authorized in 2022 and 2026 Budget Acts.
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	2	17.2	Fully funded; funding authorized in 2022 and 2026 Budget Acts.
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	Fully funded; funding authorized in 2022 and 2026 Budget Acts.
San Luis Obispo	New San Luis Obispo Courthouse	Immediate Need	12	16.9	Fully funded; funding authorized in 2022, 2025, and 2026 Budget Acts.
San Joaquin	New Tracy Courthouse	Immediate Need	2	16.9	Fully funded; funding authorized in 2026 Budget Act (FY 2026–27).
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	Fully funded; funding authorized in 2026 Budget Act (FY 2026–27).
Placer	Tahoe Courthouse Renovation	Immediate Need	1	16.4	Fully funded; funding authorized in 2026 Budget Act (FY 2026–27). 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 2027–28.
San Francisco	New San Francisco Hall of Justice	Critical Need	24	15.9	Unfunded; proposed for initial funding in FY 2027–28.
Orange	New Orange County Collaborative Courthouse	Critical Need	4	15.8	Unfunded; proposed for initial funding in FY 2027–28.
Santa Barbara	New Santa Barbara Criminal Courthouse	Critical Need	8	15.7	Unfunded; proposed for initial funding in FY 2027–28.
Los Angeles	New Downtown Los Angeles Courthouse (Mosk Replacement)	Critical Need	100	15.5	Unfunded; proposed for initial funding in FY 2028–29. Project increased from 47 to 100 courtrooms, rescored from 15.3 to 15.5, and moved up within Critical Need Group.

County	Project Name	Priority Group	Courtrooms	Group Score	Funding Status
Critical Need, <i>continued</i>					
El Dorado	New Placerville Courthouse	Critical Need	6	15.4	Unfunded; proposed for initial funding in FY 2028–29.
Fresno	Fresno Juvenile Delinquency Courthouse Renovation	Critical Need	2	15.2	Unfunded; proposed for initial funding in FY 2028–29.
Inyo	New Inyo County Courthouse	Critical Need	2	15.2	Unfunded; proposed for initial funding in FY 2029–30.
San Bernardino	New Victorville Courthouse	Critical Need	31	15.2	Unfunded; proposed for initial funding in FY 2029–30.
Mariposa	New Mariposa Courthouse	Critical Need	2	14.9	Unfunded; proposed for initial funding in FY 2029–30.
Santa Cruz	New Santa Cruz Courthouse	Critical Need	9	14.7	Unfunded; proposed for initial funding in FY 2030–31.
San Diego	New San Diego Juvenile Courthouse	Critical Need	10	14.6	Unfunded; proposed for initial funding in FY 2030–31.
Riverside	New Riverside Juvenile Courthouse	Critical Need	5	14.6	Unfunded; proposed for initial funding in FY 2030–31.
Tulare	New Tulare North County Courthouse	Critical Need	14	14.6	Unfunded; proposed for initial funding in FY 2031–32.
Los Angeles	New West Covina Courthouse	Critical Need	15	14.5	Unfunded; proposed for initial funding in FY 2031–32.
Los Angeles	New Eastlake Courthouse	Critical Need	6	14.5	Unfunded; proposed for initial funding in FY 2031–32.
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.
4. The Los Angeles - Chatsworth Courthouse Renovation was reduced from 7 to 6 courtrooms, rescored from 14.9 to 3.8, and moved from Critical Need to Low Need Group.