



**TRIAL COURT FACILITY MODIFICATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF OPEN SESSION OF MEETING**

December 2, 2024

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Judicial Council of California – Videocast for Public Access

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**Advisory Body Members Present:** Hon. Donald Cole Byrd, Chair  
Hon. William F. Highberger, Vice-Chair  
Hon. John B. Ellis  
Hon. Jennifer K. Rockwell  
Hon. Vanessa W. Vallarta  
Mr. Jarrod Orr  
Ms. Anabel Z. Romero  
Ms. Nocona Soboleski  
Mr. David H. Yamasaki

**Advisory Body Members Absent:** Hon. Brad R. Hill

**Staff Present:** The following Judicial Council staff were present:

Ms. Pella McCormick, Director, Facilities Services  
Mr. Tamer Ahmed, Deputy Director, Facilities Services  
Ms. Maria Atayde-Scholz, Principal Manager, Facilities Services  
Mr. Harry O'Hagin, Principal Manager, Facilities Services  
Mr. Jagan Singh, Principal Manager, Facilities Services  
Mr. Jeff Anderson, Manager, Facilities Services  
Mr. Robert Carlson, Manager, Facilities Services  
Ms. Mimi Chung, Manager, Facilities Services  
Mr. Jack Collins, Manager, Facilities Services  
Ms. Nanci Connelly, Manager, Facilities Services  
Mr. Andre Navarro, Manager, Facilities Services  
Mr. Javier Camacho, Supervisor, Facilities Services  
Ms. Donna Jorgensen, Supervisor, Facilities Services  
Ms. Jennifer Merrill, Supervisor, Facilities Services  
Mr. Yassen Roussev, Supervisor, Facilities Services  
Mr. Steve Shelley, Supervisor, Facilities Services  
Mr. Randy Swan, Supervisor, Facilities Services  
Mr. Patrick Treanor, Supervisor, Facilities Services  
Mr. Guillermo Urena, Supervisor, Facilities Services  
Mr. Doug Walthour, Supervisor, Facilities Services  
Mr. Edward Gonzales, Security Coordinator, Facilities Services  
Ms. Sadie Varela, Facilities Analyst, Facilities Services  
Ms. Akilah Robinson, Associate Analyst, Facilities Services  
Ms. Chloe Hur, Administrative Coordinator, Facilities Services  
Ms. Kristin Kerr, Supervising Attorney, Legal Services  
Ms. Erin Stagg, Attorney II, Legal Services  
Ms. Maggie Stern, Attorney II, Legal Services  
Ms. Morgan Lardizabal, Legislative Advocate, Governmental Affairs

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**OPEN SESSION OF MEETING**

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**Call to Order, Opening Remarks, and Roll Call**

The chair called the open session of the meeting to order at 12:00 PM, roll was taken, and opening remarks were made.

**Approval of Minutes**

The advisory committee voted to approve the minutes of the open session of its meeting held on October 25, 2024. (*Motion: Rockwell; Second: Highberger*)

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**PUBLIC WRITTEN COMMENTS**

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No public comments were received.

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**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

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The committee received the following update:

**1. Demolition of Los Angeles Mental Health Courthouse:**

- As reported at the committee meeting on October 25, 2024, the vacant, Los Angeles Mental Health Courthouse was severely damaged by fire on September 21, 2024.
- On October 28, 2024, a second fire was reported and extinguished at the courthouse.
- The Department of Building and Safety at the City of Los Angeles has since red-tagged the building to prohibit entry, and Judicial Council Facilities Services has installed barricades and strengthened the anti-climb fencing.
- Despite efforts to secure the site, unauthorized persons continue to enter this unsafe site.
- Judicial Council Facilities Services is actively pursuing demolition of the building:
  - On November 15, 2024, cost proposals were received—with the lowest at \$1.76 million—for developing a demolition plan, determining the extent of hazardous materials and remediation protocol, obtaining permits for demolition, air quality, and street closures, demolishing the building/disposing of the debris, and installing new fencing.
  - The cost to demolish the building has been discussed with the state Department of Finance, who supports a redirection of support funds to a capital outlay demolition project requiring Joint Legislative Budget Committee (JLBC) involvement.
  - If approved, FY 2024–25 facility modification funding will be applied, and those expended funds will be backfilled in FY 2025–26.
  - Owing to the building's instability and public safety risk, approval has been requested to expedite the demolition project, with a decision from the JLBC anticipated by year's end.
  - From the point in time of permits issuance, the demolition project is expected to take approximately two weeks to complete.

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**OPEN SESSION - ACTION ITEMS (ITEMS 1-4)**

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**Action Item 1 – List A – Emergency Facility Modification Funding (Priority 1)**

The committee approved 148 projects for a total of \$2,730,029 to be paid from Facility Modification (FM) program funds previously encumbered for Priority 1 projects.

*(Motion: Vallarta; Second: Orr)*

**Action Item 2 – List B – Facility Modifications Under \$100K (Priority 2)**

The committee approved 130 projects for a total of \$1,349,936 to be paid from FM program funds previously encumbered for Priority 2 projects under \$100K.

*(Motion: Rockwell; Second: Yamasaki)*

**Action Item 3 – List C – Facility Modification Cost Increases Over \$50K**

The committee approved cost increases over \$50K for two projects for a total of \$1,232,421 to be paid from FM program funds.

*(Motion: Romero; Second: Ellis)*

**Action Item 4 – List D – Facility Modifications Over \$100K (Priority 2)**

The committee approved two Priority 2 FMs over \$100K for a total cost to the FM program budget of \$258,767.

*(Motion: Yamasaki; Second: Highberger)*

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**OPEN SESSION - DISCUSSION ITEMS (ITEMS 1-3)  
(NO ACTION REQUIRED)**

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**Discussion Item 1 – List E – Court-Funded Facilities Requests (CFRs)**

The committee received an update on CFR projects approved by the Facilities Services Director since the last meeting and CFR projects cancelled.

**Discussion Item 2 – List F - Funded Facility Modifications on Hold**

The committee received an update on the standard list of previously funded FMs on hold.

**Discussion Item 3 – Facilities Maintenance Performance Report**

The committee reviewed the report on facilities maintenance performance.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

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There being no further open session business, the open session of the meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m., and the advisory committee moved to the closed session of the meeting.

Approved by the advisory body on January 31, 2025.