



# Judicial Council of California

## Court Facilities Advisory Committee

<https://courts.ca.gov/advisory-body/court-facilities-advisory-committee>  
[cfac@jud.ca.gov](mailto:cfac@jud.ca.gov)

### COURT FACILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING

March 12, 2025

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Public Videocast

**Advisory Body Members Present:** Hon. Brad R. Hill, Chair  
Hon. Eric J. Wersching, Vice-Chair  
Hon. JoAnn M. Bicego  
Mr. Anthony P. Capozzi  
Hon. William F. Highberger  
Hon. Steven E. Jahr (Ret.)  
Hon. Patricia L. Kelly  
Ms. Krista LeVier  
Hon. Elaine Lu  
Ms. Kyria Martinez  
Hon. Gary R. Orozco  
Hon. David Edwin Power (Ret.)  
Mr. Lee Seale  
Mr. Thomas J. Warwick, Jr.

**Advisory Body Members Absent:** Hon. Donald Cole Byrd  
Ms. Melissa Fowler-Bradley  
Hon. Sergio C. Tapia II

**Others Present:** The following Judicial Council staff/others were present:

Hon. Carrie McIntyre Panetta, Presiding Judge, Superior Court of Monterey County  
Hon. Pamela L. Butler, Judge, Superior Court of Monterey County  
Ms. Katy Grant, Court Executive Officer, Superior Court of Monterey County  
Mr. Kris Barkley, Senior Design Principal, Dreyfuss + Blackford Architecture  
Mr. John Zorich, Principal, Dreyfuss + Blackford Architecture

Ms. Laila Waheed, Court Executive Officer and CJER Liaison, Superior Court of Nevada County

Mr. Tamer Ahmed, Director, Judicial Council Facilities Services  
Ms. Kim Bobic, Senior Project Manager, Judicial Council Facilities Services  
Mr. Robert Carlson, Manager, Judicial Council Facilities Services  
Mr. Jack Collins, Manager, Judicial Council Facilities Services  
Mr. Zulqar Helal, Manager, Judicial Council Facilities Services  
Mr. Chris Magnusson, Supervisor, Judicial Council Facilities Services  
Ms. Deepika Padam, Manager, Judicial Council Facilities Services  
Ms. Akilah Robinson, Associate Analyst, Judicial Council Facilities Services  
Mr. Jagandeep Singh, Principal Manager, Judicial Council Facilities Services  
Ms. Erin Stagg, Attorney II, Judicial Council Legal Services  
Ms. Maggie Stern, Attorney II, Judicial Council Legal Services  
Mr. Zlatko Theodorovic, Director, Judicial Council Budget Services

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**OPEN MEETING**

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**Call to Order and Roll Call**

The chair called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m., roll was taken, and opening remarks were made.

**Public Videocast**

A live videocast of the meeting was made available to the public through the Court Facilities Advisory Committee (CFAC) web page on the California Courts website listed above.

**Approval of Minutes**

The advisory committee voted—with abstention of judge William F. Highberger, Ex-Officio non-voting member—to approve the minutes of the CFAC meeting held on November 5, 2024.  
(*Motion: Orozco; Second: Warwick*)

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**DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS (ITEMS 1–2)**

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**Item 1****Monterey – New Fort Ord Courthouse: Performance Criteria Review**

**Summary:** The CFAC received a presentation of the capital project’s Performance Criteria, which was a scheduled milestone review.

As chair of the superior court’s new courthouse committee, Judge Pamela L. Butler, Superior Court of Monterey County, provided opening remarks by thanking Judicial Council staff and the project team as well as the CFAC. She expressed that the justice and community partners have reached out to the court offering support in bringing the project to fruition. She noted the challenges the court continues to face operating in the existing, county-owned Monterey Courthouse, which is nearly 60 years old, has aging infrastructure, and has many deficiencies including seismic, security, and overcrowding, such as seven judicial officers sharing five courtrooms. She also noted that the new courthouse project is planned in a geographic location that will improve access to court services, will significantly improve service to the public through consolidation of court operations and calendars, and will save millions in deferred maintenance to existing facilities. She expressed her gratitude for the project being moved forward to this point in the schedule for the CFAC’s review of the performance criteria milestone.

Consistent with the [materials](#) (Tabs 3A–B for agenda Item 1), which were posted online for public viewing in advance of the meeting, Ms. Kim Bobic introduced this item and presented slides 1–5 and 15–20, and Mr. Kris Barkley presented slides 6–14.

**Action:** The advisory committee—with abstention of Judge William F. Highberger, Ex-Officio non-voting member—voted to approve the following motion:

1. Approve the project's Performance Criteria to proceed to the state Department of Finance and State Public Works Board for approval and proceed with the project's Request for Qualifications for Design-Build Entity (DBE) and Request for Proposal for DBE.

(Motion: Wersching; Second: Capozzi)

## Item 2

### **Draft Judicial Branch Five-Year Infrastructure Plan for Fiscal Year 2026–27 and Budget Change Concept**

**Summary:** The CFAC received a presentation on the capital projects proposed in the draft *Judicial Branch Five-Year Infrastructure Plan for Fiscal Year 2026–27* and a Budget Change Concept (BCC) capturing the same proposed capital outlay funding from fiscal years 2026–27 through 2030–31. This plan informs capital project funding requests for upcoming and outlying fiscal years, and the BCC presents the same five-year outlook for the Judicial Council's Judicial Branch Budget Committee (JBBC) to review the proposal in the context of all judicial branch BCCs under consideration.

Mr. Tamer Ahmed provided opening remarks that although review of the capital outlay BCC is new to the advisory committee it does summarize the five-year plan just in a different format, the JBBC will review it in context of all judicial branch BCCs under consideration for funding in 2026–27, and committee review and approval is necessary now for its submission to the JBBC, though staff will return with the complete five-year plan document in May 2025 following release of the May Revision to the Governor's Budget. He also stated activation of the CFAC's Facilities Standards Working Group (FSWG) is recommended to discuss approaches to constructing projects more economically for the smaller courthouses as well as to assist Judicial Council Facilities Services with publishing the next edition of the *California Trial Court Facilities Standards* (the Standards) in 2026.

Consistent with the [materials](#) (Tabs 4A–C for agenda Item 2), which were posted online for public viewing in advance of the meeting, Mr. Chris Magnusson presented all slides.

In addition, the advisory committee made the following comments:

1. On a cost-per-square-foot basis and involving the CFAC's FSWG and Courthouse Cost Reduction Subcommittee (CCRS), project scopes for the smaller courthouses should be developed more cost-effectively. The Standards should be revised to benefit from lessons learned from small projects that have either been completed or are nearing completion, or by making exceptions on a project-by-project basis to reduce the cost-per-courtroom.
2. The aim is for projects that construct smaller courthouses (in the range of 1–4 courtrooms) to become less at risk from not being funded because of their high cost-per-courtroom, skipped over for projects that construct more-economical, larger courthouses. As may be determined by the FSWG and CCRS, such projects could benefit from waivers to the Standards or, given their smaller size, from a different set of standards.

**Action 1:** The advisory committee—with the abstentions of judges Eric J. Wersching and William F. Highberger, Ex-Officio non-voting member, and Ms. Krista LeVier—voted to approve the following motion:

1. That the *Kern–New East County Courthouse* and *Orange–New Orange County Collaborative Courthouse* projects be referred to the CCRS, to work in conjunction with the FSWG and with Judicial Council Facilities Services, for further analysis on modifying the Standards to achieve more cost-effective projects and to report back to the CFAC in October of this year.

*(Motion: Highberger; Second: Jahr)*

**Action 2:** The advisory committee—with abstention of Judge William F. Highberger, Ex-Officio non-voting member—voted to approve the following motion:

2. Incorporating any revision required by the first motion, approve the BCC for JBBC review.

*(Motion: Highberger; Second: Kelly)*

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#### **A D J O U R N M E N T**

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Approved by the advisory body on May 23, 2025.