



# 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

May 23, 2025

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Public Videocast

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

**Advisory Body Members Absent:** Hon. Brad R. Hill, Chair  
Hon. Donald Cole Byrd  
Ms. Krista LeVier  
Hon. Gary R. Orozco  
Hon. Sergio C. Tapia II

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

Mr. Tamer Ahmed, Director, Judicial Council Facilities Services  
Mr. Robert Carlson, Manager, Judicial Council Facilities Services  
Mr. Zulqar Helal, Manager, Judicial Council Facilities Services  
Mr. Chris Magnusson, Supervisor, Judicial Council Facilities Services  
Ms. Fran Mueller, Deputy Director, Judicial Council Budget Services  
Ms. Deepika Padam, Manager, Judicial Council Facilities Services  
Ms. Michelle Petrushka, Senior Facilities Analyst, Judicial Council Facilities Services  
Ms. Akilah Robinson, Associate Analyst, Judicial Council Facilities Services  
Mr. Jagandeep Singh, Deputy Director, Judicial Council Facilities Services  
Ms. Peggy Symons, Manager, Judicial Council Facilities Services  
Ms. Sadie Varela, Facilities Analyst, Judicial Council Facilities Services

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## OPEN MEETING

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### Call to Order and Roll Call

In the chair's absence, the vice-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 March 12, 2025.  
(*Motion: Kelly; Second: Fowler-Bradley*)

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

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### Item 1

#### Director's Report (No Action Required – Information Only)

**Summary:** The CFAC received an update from Mr. Tamer Ahmed on the following topics:

#### Shasta Courthouse Leak and Closure:

- On Saturday, May 10, 2025, a major water intrusion incident occurred at the New Redding Courthouse in Shasta County, caused by a broken coupling in the chilled water loop that allowed water to flood the second-floor ceiling down to the basement level:
  - Impacted areas included the clerk's office, elevator shafts, information technology room, and second-floor courtrooms and chambers.
  - A command center response team was established that included the court's presiding judge and court executive officer and Judicial Council Facility Operations and Pride, the building's service provider.
  - Initial remediation efforts included water extraction with use of blowers and dehumidifiers for drying affected spaces and inspection of plumbing system couplers.
  - Insurance providers were notified, and inspections/investigations are ongoing.
  - Court operations resumed on Tuesday, May 20th, excluding use of the second floor

#### Fiscal Year 2025–26 May Revise Budget Update:

- The May Revision to the Governor's Budget withdrew \$500,000 for statewide planning and studies and deferred starting the New Tracy Courthouse (\$2.9 million) for the Superior Court of San Joaquin County but did not alter proposed funding for active capital projects as follows:
  - \$5.2 million for working drawings and construction for the Butte County Juvenile Hall Addition and Renovation.
  - \$18.1 million for performance criteria for the New Fresno Courthouse.

- \$7.8 million for performance criteria for the New San Luis Obispo Courthouse.
- \$5.1 million for performance criteria for the New Solano Hall of Justice (Fairfield).

**Judicial Branch Budget Committee (JBBC) Actions:**

- On May 16, 2025, the JBBC recommended the following capital outlay-related Budget Change Concepts (BCCs) to the Judicial Council for development as 2026–27 Budget Change Proposals:
  - Capital outlay funding for fiscal years 2026–27 through 2030–31 (aka, Capital Outlay Budget Change Proposals (COBCPs) for the projects proposed in the five-year plan under agenda Item 2 below); and
  - Capital outlay projects reassessment and prioritization.

**Action:** The advisory committee took no action, as this item had only been presented for informational purposes.

**Item 2**

**Draft Judicial Branch Five-Year Infrastructure Plan and Capital Outlay Budget Change Proposals for Fiscal Year 2026–27**

**Summary:** The CFAC received a presentation on the capital projects proposed in the draft *Judicial Branch Five-Year Infrastructure Plan* and COBCPs for fiscal year 2026–27. This plan informs capital project funding requests for upcoming and outlying fiscal years. For consideration of funding in the 2026 Budget Act (FY 2026–27), submission of the plan and COBCPs are required in advance of the California Department of Finance’s early-August 2025 deadline.

Consistent with the [materials](#) (Tabs 3A–C.9 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 following comments were made:

1. Reassessments of all capital projects have been planned for every 10 years. Since the last reassessment in 2019, Judicial Council Facilities Services’ aim is to request funding in fiscal year 2026–27 to complete the next reassessment by 2029.
2. The *San Joaquin–New Tracy Courthouse* project is the only small project within Budget Year 1 of the five-year plan that has not yet received direction from the committee to reduce cost, and its number of courtrooms is consistent (at two courtrooms) with number of courtrooms of the *Plumas–New Quincy Courthouse* project. The committee and Judicial Council Facilities Services has struggled in keeping small courthouses cost effective, compared to planning for larger courthouses that are more cost effective, and must continue to do everything it can as stewards of the scarce public funds.

**Action 1:** The advisory committee—with abstention of Judge William F. Highberger, Ex-Officio non-voting member—voted to approve the following motion:

1. The *San Joaquin–New Tracy Courthouse* project is reduced from 28,000 gross square feet (GSF) to approximately 23,000 GSF and the costs of its phases adjusted accordingly in its COBCP and in the five-year plan that move forward, along with the other projects' COBCPs, to the Judicial Council for review and consideration of approval.

*(Motion: Highberger; Second: Warwick)*

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

2. Approve the delegation of the review of the committee's report to the Judicial Council to the CFAC Chair and Vice-chair.

*(Motion: Kelly; Second: Highberger)*

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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 September 25, 2025.