



Judicial Council of California

Court Facilities Advisory Committee

<https://courts.ca.gov/advisory-body/court-facilities-advisory-committee>
cfac@jud.ca.gov

COURT FACILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE: COURTHOUSE COST REDUCTION SUBCOMMITTEE

MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING

September 22, 2025

12:15 PM – 1:05 PM

Public Videocast

Subcommittee Members Present: Hon. Steven E. Jahr (Ret.), CCRS Chair
Hon. Donald Cole Byrd
Ms. Melissa Fowler-Bradley
Hon. William F. Highberger
Hon. Gary R. Orozco
Mr. Thomas J. Warwick, Jr.
Hon. Eric J. Wersching, CFAC Vice-Chair

Subcommittee Members Absent: None

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

Ms. Tara Leal, Court Executive Officer, Superior Court of Kern County
Mr. Randy Allenbaugh, Deputy Court Executive Officer of Facilities, Superior Court of Kern County

Hon. Scott B. Cooper, Collaborative Courts Supervising Judge, Superior Court of Orange County
Mr. David H. Yamasaki, Court Executive Officer, Superior Court of Orange County
Ms. Jeanne Chen, FAIA, Principal, Moore Ruble Yudell | Architects & Planners
Mr. Bob Dolbinski, AIA, Associate Principal, Moore Ruble Yudell | Architects & Planners
Mr. Don Yamami, AIA, Associate Principal, Moore Ruble Yudell | Architects & Planners
Mr. Charles J. Short, Courts Planner and President, CTS Business Solutions, LLC
Ms. Danielle Short, Courts Planner, CTS Business Solutions, LLC

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

Mr. Tamer Ahmed, Director, Judicial Council Facilities Services
Mr. Robert Carlson, Manager, Judicial Council Facilities Services
Ms. Salena Chow, Chief Operating Officer, Judicial Council Executive Officer
Mr. Jack Collins, Manager, Judicial Council Facilities Services
Mr. Chris Magnusson, Supervisor, Judicial Council Facilities Services
Mr. Harry O'Hagin, Principal Manager, Judicial Council Facilities Services
Ms. Deepika Padam, Manager, Judicial Council Facilities Services
Mr. Troy Pennington, Architect, 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. Erin Stagg, Attorney II, Judicial Council Legal Services
Ms. Maggie Stern, Attorney II, Judicial Council Legal Services
Ms. Sadie Varela, Facilities Analyst, Judicial Council Facilities Services

OPEN MEETING

Call to Order and Roll Call

In the subcommittee chair's absence at the start of the meeting, the CFAC Vice-Chair called the meeting to order at 12:15 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.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS (ITEM 1)

Item 1**Capital Outlay Projects Review**

Summary: The CFAC Courthouse Cost Reduction Subcommittee (CCRS) received a presentation on the reduced building sizes to reduce costs for the Kern–New East County Courthouse and Orange–New Orange County Collaborative Courthouse projects. This was a follow-up item from the CFAC's March 2025 meeting, when the reduction of these projects was determined to assist smaller courthouse projects in the range of 1–4 courtrooms to become more cost-effective on a cost-per-square-foot basis to improve likelihood of funding.

Mr. Tamer Ahmed introduced the item, stating that Judicial Council Facilities Services staff has worked with the superior courts of Kern and Orange counties in developing the reduced building sizes. He indicated the long-term aim is to improve the facilities standards for smaller courthouse projects in the range of 1–4 courtrooms. Consistent with the [materials](#) (Tabs 2A–C for agenda Item 1), 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. The targeted area for siting the *Kern–New East County Courthouse* project is trending toward the east part of the county between Mojave and Rosamond for long-term staffing of the facility. Rosamond seems to be the fastest growing area owing to persons relocating from north Los Angeles County. The targeted service area for the new courthouse are the surrounding communities from Tehachapi to Rosamond.
2. The *New Orange County Collaborative Courthouse* project is likely to need more individual holding cells owing to the need to separate the various in-custody classifications and could benefit from an understanding of the operations/holding facilities lessons learned at the existing Hollywood Courthouse, which houses the Superior Court of Los Angeles County's Mental Health Court.

3. There is concern that in the effort to reduce the building size to reduce cost for the *Kern–New East County Courthouse* project, combining the jury assembly function into the public lobby may not work well practically for administering jury services, such as for juror orientation or to adequately separate prospective jurors from the general public, victims, witnesses, families, etc. With future consideration being that one of the project’s three courtrooms serve as the trial courtroom, a dedicated space for all jury services makes the most sense to incorporate into the existing draft space program to assist the superior court in avoiding future operational issues with administering jury services.

Action: The subcommittee—with abstentions of judges Donald Cole Byrd and William F. Highberger, Ex-Officio non-voting members—voted to approve the following motion:

1. Approve the updated projects’ sizes and budgets of the *Kern–New East County Courthouse* and *Orange–New Orange County Collaborative Courthouse* projects—including amending the *Kern–New East County Courthouse* project’s building size from approximately 24,000 to 26,000 GSF for purposes of including an additional 2,000 SF in the project’s draft space program for space dedicated to jury services and with the project budget adjusted accordingly—to proceed to the CFAC for review and to consider approval for updating the five-year plan and the projects’ budget documents for Department of Finance review.

(Motion: Fowler-Bradley; Second: Warwick)

A D J O U R N M E N T

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

Approved by the subcommittee on September 25, 2025.