



COURT FACILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING

September 25, 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. Donald Cole Byrd
Mr. Anthony P. Capozzi
Ms. Melissa Fowler-Bradley
Hon. William F. Highberger
Hon. Harry E. Hull, Jr.
Hon. Steven E. Jahr (Ret.)
Hon. Patricia L. Kelly
Ms. Krista LeVier
Hon. Elaine Lu
Hon. David Edwin Power (Ret.)
Hon. Sergio C. Tapia II
Mr. Thomas J. Warwick, Jr.

Advisory Body Members Absent: Hon. JoAnn M. Bicego
Ms. Kyria Martinez
Hon. Gary R. Orozco
Hon. Lisa M. Rogan

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

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

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

Mr. Tamer Ahmed, Director, Judicial Council Facilities Services
Mr. Robert Carlson, Manager, Judicial Council Facilities Services
Mr. Jack Collins, Manager, Judicial Council Facilities Services
Ms. Kristin Kerr, Supervising Attorney, Judicial Council Legal Services
Mr. Chris Magnusson, Supervisor, Judicial Council Facilities Services
Ms. Fran Mueller, Deputy Director, Judicial Council Budget 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. Akilah Robinson, Associate Analyst, Judicial Council Facilities Services
Mr. Jagandeep Singh, Deputy Director, Judicial Council Facilities 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

The chair called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m., roll was taken, and opening remarks were made. The chair thanked the superior courts of Kern and Orange counties for all their efforts with this item and the members of the Court Facilities Advisory Committee’s (CFAC) Courthouse Cost Reduction Subcommittee (CCRS) for reviewing the item in advance to provide a recommendation to the full committee as noted below under the item’s summary.

Public Videocast

A live videocast of the meeting was made available to the public through the CFAC web page on the California Courts website listed above.

Approval of Minutes

The advisory committee voted—with abstentions of judges Donald Cole Byrd and William F. Highberger, Ex-Officio non-voting members, and Justice Harry E. Hull, Jr.—to approve the minutes of the CFAC meeting held on May 23, 2025, and the minutes of the CCRS meeting held on September 22, 2025. (*Motion: Warwick; Second: Lu*)

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS (ITEM 1)

Item 1

Capital Outlay Projects Review

Summary: The CFAC 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.

In advance of this CFAC meeting, the CCRS reviewed this item at its public meeting on September 22, 2025, recommending the reduced projects’ sizes and budgets proceed to the CFAC for review and to consider approval. This recommendation included amending the Kern 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.

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 and that these reduced projects’ sizes and budgets presented to the CFAC are recommended by the CCRS. He indicated the long-term aim is to improve the facilities standards for smaller courthouse projects in the range of 1–4 courtrooms. He noted that this effort, starting in January 2026, would be part of the larger update to the *California Trial Court Facilities Standards* being made through the input of the CFAC’s Facilities Standards Working Group.

Consistent with the [materials](#) (Tabs 3A–C for agenda Item 1), which were posted online for public viewing in advance of the meeting, Mr. Chris Magnusson presented all slides.

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

1. Based on the CCRS’ recommendation, approve the reduced building sizes and budgets of the future *Kern–New East County Courthouse* and *Orange–New Orange County Collaborative Courthouse* projects for updating the *Judicial Branch Five-Year Infrastructure Plan* and projects’ budget documents for FY 2026–27 for state Department of Finance review.

(Motion: Highberger; Second: LeVier)

A D J O U R N M E N T

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