Judicial Council *of* California

COURT FACILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING

August 31, 2026

12:00 p.m. – 1:20 p.m.

Public Videocast for Open Meeting

Members Present: Hon. Brad R. Hill, Chair
Hon. Eric J. Wersching, Vice-Chair
Hon. JoAnn M. Bicego
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
Ms. Kyria Martinez
Hon. Gary R. Orozco
Hon. David Edwin Power (Ret.)
Hon. Lisa M. Rogan
Hon. Sergio C. Tapia II
Mr. Thomas J. Warwick, Jr.

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Hon. Tana L. Coates, Presiding Judge, Superior Court of San Luis Obispo County
Mr. Michael Powell, Court Executive Officer, Superior Court of San Luis Obispo County

Ms. Katy Grant, Court Executive Officer, Superior Court of Monterey County
Mr. Darrell Lee, Project Manager, Hensel Phelps
Mr. Sean McGreal, Principal ZGF Architects
Mr. John Petty, Operations Manager, Hensel Phelps

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. Zulqar Helal, Manager, Judicial Council Facilities Services
Mr. Satyendra Jenamani, Manager, Judicial Council Facilities Services
Mr. Gunther Kastenholz, Senior Project Manager, Judicial Council Facilities Services
Ms. Kristin Kerr, Supervising Attorney, Judicial Council Legal Services
Mr. James Koerner, 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. Sadie Price, Facilities Analyst, Judicial Council Facilities Services
Ms. Akilah Robinson, Associate Analyst, Judicial Council Facilities Services
Ms. Laine Rugen, Senior Project Manager, Judicial Council Facilities Services
Mr. Jagandeep Singh, Deputy Director, Judicial Council Facilities Services
Ms. Erika Sperbeck, Chief Administrative Officer, Judicial Council Executive Office
Ms. Maggie Stern, Attorney, Judicial Council Legal Services
Ms. Nirlip Syan, Attorney, Judicial Council Legal Services
Ms. Peggy Symons, Principal Manager, Judicial Council Facilities Services

OPEN MEETING

Call to Order and Roll Call

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

Public Videocast

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

Approval of Minutes

The advisory committee voted—with abstentions of judges Donald Cole Byrd and William F. Highberger, Ex-Officio non-voting members—to approve the minutes of the CFAC meeting held on May 29, 2026. *(Motion: Kelly; Second: Tapia)*.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS (ITEMS 1–3)

Item 1

Monterey – New Fort Ord Courthouse: 100 Percent Schematic Design Review

Summary: The CFAC received a presentation of the completed 100 percent Schematic Design of the Monterey–New Fort Ord Courthouse project located in city of Seaside. This presentation was a scheduled project milestone review. Mr. Gunther Kastenholz introduced this item and presented slides 1–3, Mr. Sean McGreal presented slides 4–31, and Mr. Darrell Lee presented slides 32–35 consistent with the materials (Tabs 3A–B for agenda Item 1), which were posted online for public viewing in advance of the meeting.

In addition, the following comments were made:

- On the first floor, a jury deliberation room was included for the courthouse's future flexibility in caseload should a jury box be added to the courtroom for civil trials.
- The building's exterior skin includes hand-laid bricks for durability because of the marine environment and for cost effectiveness within the project budget compared to a decorative precast product.
- Deviations to the facilities standards include smaller holding cores owing to the limited number of in-custody defendants and two additional seats (from 14 to 16 seats) in the jury boxes of the large/standard civil courtrooms.
- The project does not include a basement owing to the site's high water table nor wood on the exterior because of the marine environment. The performance criteria specifies exterior materials, such as aluminum panels, to be resilient to the marine environment air.

Action: The advisory committee—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 project's completed 100 percent Schematic Design and to proceed with Design Development. (*Motion: Highberger; Second: Orozco)*

Item 2
San Luis Obispo – New San Luis Obispo Courthouse: Site Acquisition Review

Summary: The CFAC received a presentation of the site acquisition of the San Luis Obispo–New San Luis Obispo Courthouse project located in the city of San Luis Obispo. This presentation was a scheduled project milestone review.

Previously at its public meeting in June 2023, the CFAC reviewed and approved the site selection for the 1.4-acre Kimball Property site in downtown San Luis Obispo. The project site is across the street (Santa Rosa Street) from the existing main courthouse. As required, Judicial Council Facilities Services returned to present site acquisition details for direction prior to requesting State Public Works Board (SPWB) review and approval.

Presiding Judge Tana L. Coates, of the Superior Court of San Luis Obispo County, expressed her gratitude for the new courthouse being planned in proximity to the existing courthouse for ensuring the community's access to justice and for all the committee's and Judicial Council staff's work and support on the project.

Ms. Kim Bobic presented this item consistent with the materials (Tabs 4A–B for agenda Item 2), which were posted online for public viewing in advance of the meeting.

In addition, the following comment was made:

- Through purchase of the property for the project site, the County of San Luis Obispo will relocate all existing, onsite county staff parking spaces to other locations as determined by the county.

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

1. Recommend this project is submitted to the SPWB for site acquisition approval.

   (Motion: Wersching; Second: Warwick)

Item 3
Update to the California Trial Court Facilities Standards

Summary: The CFAC received a presentation on the draft update to the *California Trial Court Facilities Standards* for 2026. The update incorporates changes to codes and best management practices since the 2023 edition.

The facilities standards define the minimum space and the functional, technical, and security requirements for the design of new court facilities in the state of California. They reflect best practices and successful solutions as the basis for design and construction of functional, durable, maintainable, efficient, and secure contemporary court facilities. Many of the design criteria and performance standards may be applicable to substantial court renovation projects or building

system upgrades in existing court buildings, buildings shared with other related justice agencies, leased facilities, and tenant improvements.

Judge Eric J. Wersching, CFAC Vice-Chair, introduced the item, and Ms. Deepika Padam presented this item consistent with the materials (Tabs 5A–C for agenda Item 3), which were posted online for public viewing in advance of the meeting.

Judge Wersching noted that as the Standards provide important guidance to architects and builders, conveying Judicial council expectations with respect to every aspect of courthouse construction, they require revising over time to reflect code updates and incorporate lessons learned from projects. He emphasized savings to the project schedule and budget through the application of the courtroom templates (under the Standards' section titled, *Catalog of Courtroom Layouts for California Trial Courts).* He also recognized efforts made by Judicial Council staff, consultants, Information Technology Advisory Committee leadership and staff, and the CFAC's workgroup to develop the draft update to the Standards.

Ms. Padam indicated the need for publicly posting the draft update to the Standards to collect any comments and returning to the advisory committee to present those comments along with a final draft for a recommendation to present it to the Judicial Council for adoption.

In addition, the following comment was made:

- In new construction projects, electrical panels are sized to account for electric vehicle charging stations and other onsite demands, while when such charging stations or other onsite demands are planned for an existing courthouse site, building electrical panels are assessed to determine whether upgrade is required through a facility modification. Discussion should be had with local utilities for understanding how increasing site power demands should be accommodated through power from the local grid.

Action: The advisory committee—with abstentions of Administrative Presiding Justice Brad R. Hill, who had stepped away temporarily from the meeting, and judges Donald Cole Byrd and William F. Highberger, Ex-Officio non-voting members—voted to approve the following motion:

1. Approve the draft *California Trial Court Facilities Standards, 2026 Edition* for a two-week public comment period and return a final draft to the advisory committee for a review and recommendation to the Judicial Council through an action-by-email.

   (*Motion: Kelly; Second: Lu)*

Adjournment to Closed Education Session

There being no further business, the open meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:20 p.m., and the advisory committee moved to its closed education session.

Approved by the advisory body on November 4, 2026.