

New Fresno Courthouse Project

Draft Environmental Impact Report

Fresno, California

Thursday, July 30, 2026



Our Team



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Meeting Agenda

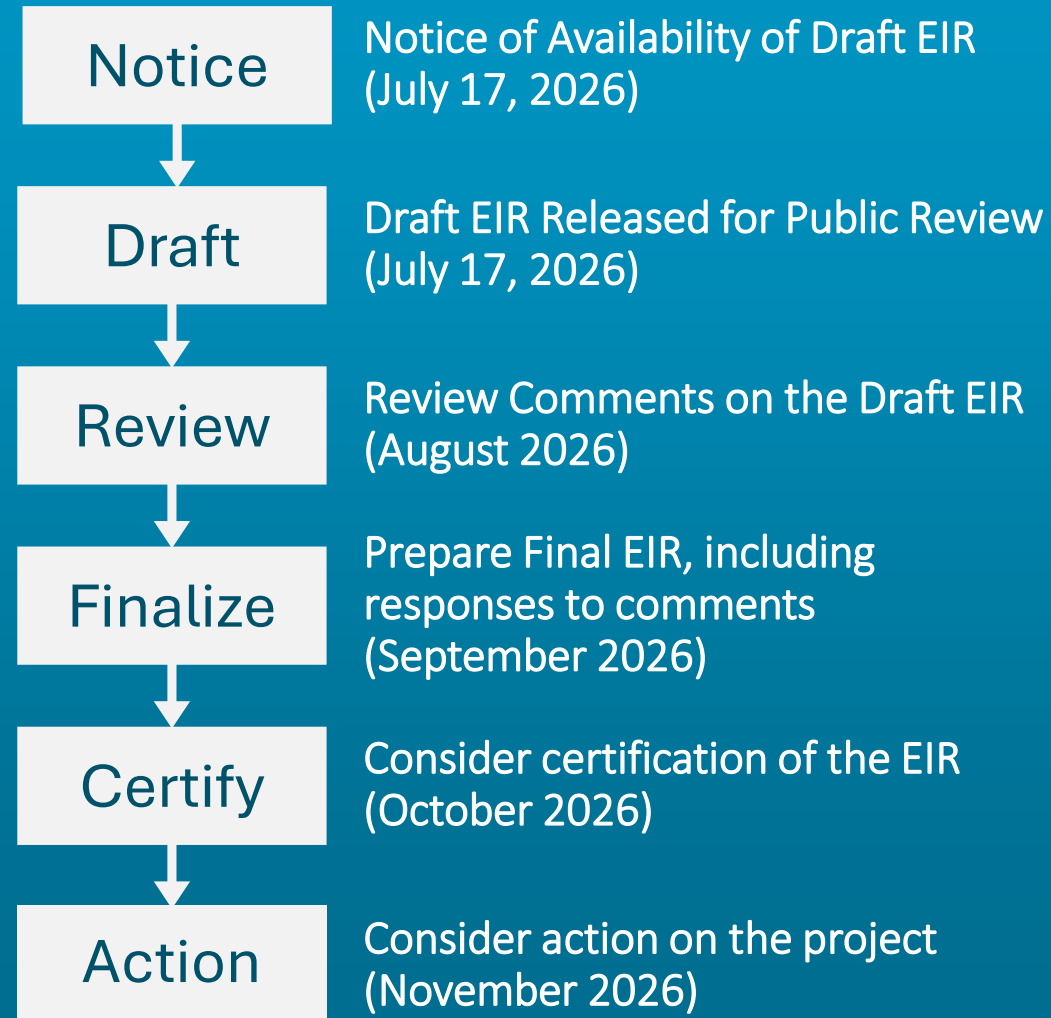
1. CEQA Purpose and Process
2. Overview of the Proposed Project
3. Overview of the Draft EIR
4. Overview of the Alternatives Analysis
5. How to Submit Comments and Questions

Basic Purpose of CEQA (Section 15002)

- Information and disclosure of environmental impacts
- Identify feasible mitigation to reduce potential effects
- Provide a range of alternatives that could reduce impacts
- If there are significant impacts – explain overriding social, economic, or other benefits

Environmental Review Process & Timelines

Public Comment Period
July 17 – August 30, 2026
(45-day period)



Project Location

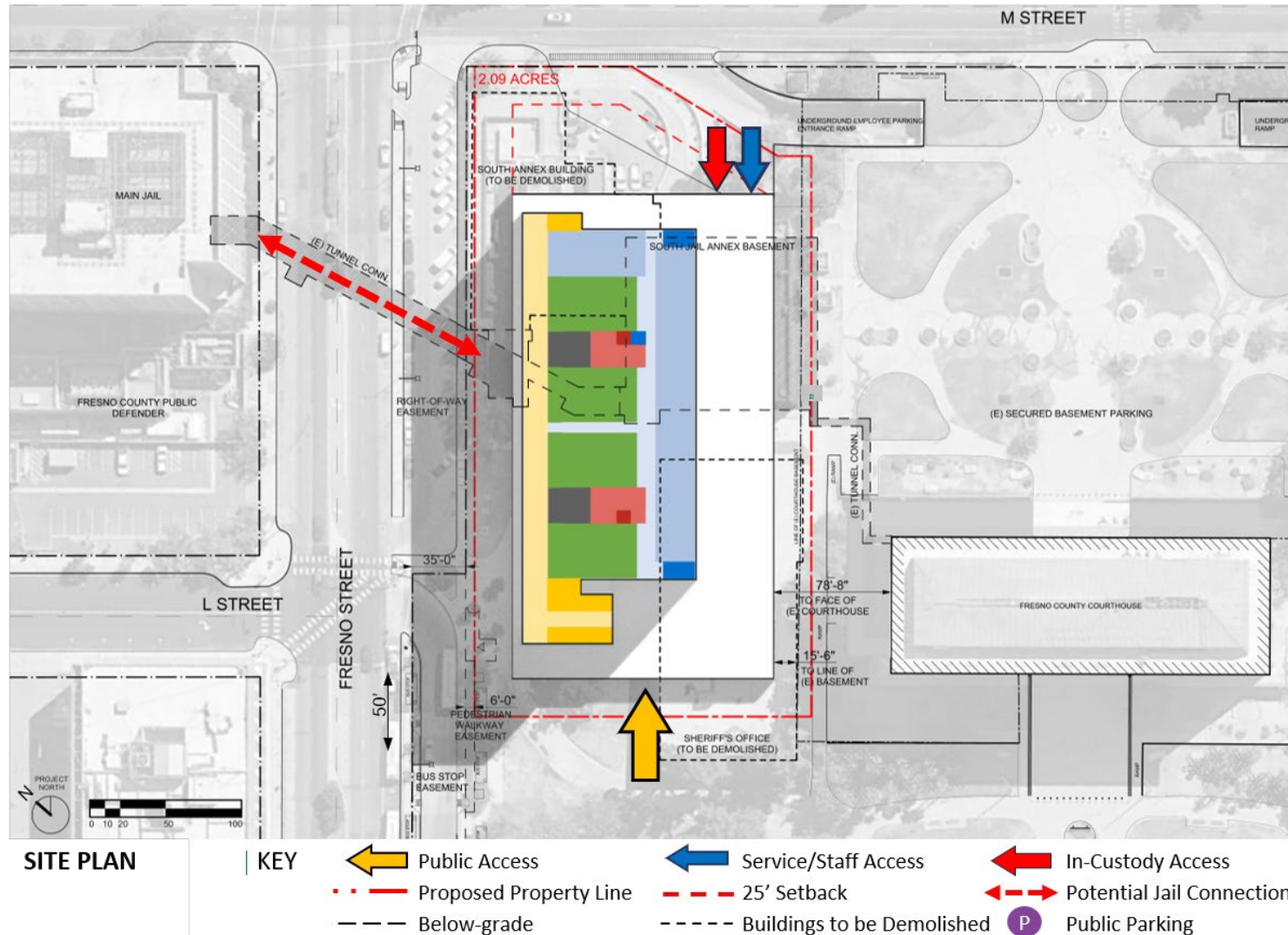
- Fresno County
- City of Fresno (Intersection of M Street and Fresno Street within Courthouse Park)
- Fresno County Owned, approximately 2.09-acre project footprint
- South Annex Jail and Fresno County Sheriff's Office buildings (2200 Fresno Street) to be demolished
- Within the Fulton Corridor Specific Plan area. Has both a Zoning and Land Use designation of Downtown General Plan
- Connection with other Fresno County Facilities (Hall of Records, Underground parking facility)



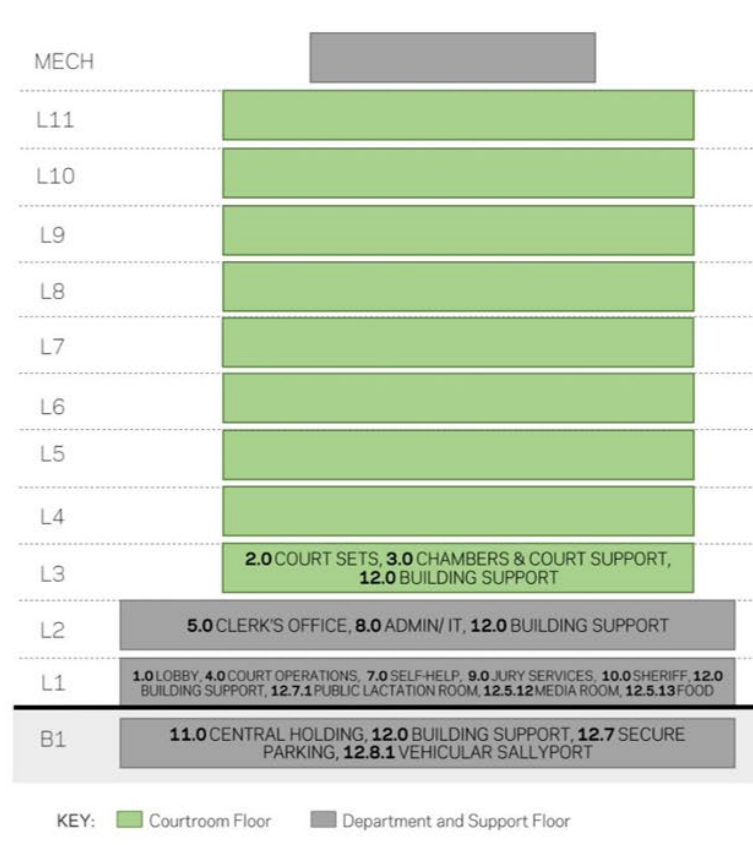
Project Description

- Anticipated Design Build project
- Demolition of existing structures
 - (South Annex Jail and Fresno County Sheriff's Office)
- Construction of 11-story courthouse, including a basement level
 - Approx. 413,000 square feet
- Features:
 - 36 Courtrooms
 - Judicial Chambers
 - Clerks' Offices
 - Sallyport and tunnel linking to the Fresno County Jail for secure in-custody transport
 - Jury Rooms
 - Administrative areas
 - Secure Parking for Judges and Staff

Proposed Site Plan



Design Concept



SECTIONAL DIAGRAM



CONCEPTUAL MASSING

Project Objectives

- The project consolidates court operations from multiple locations to reduce space shortages and improve efficiency.
- Outdated buildings are replaced with new facilities meeting current safety and accessibility standards.
- New holding areas and secure circulation paths improve safety for in-custody defendants and staff.

Sections of the Draft EIR

- Executive Summary
- Chapter 1, Introduction
- Chapter 2, Project Description
- Chapter 3, Environmental Setting, Impacts, and Mitigation Measures
- Chapter 4, Cumulative Impacts
- Chapter 5, Other CEQA Requirements
- Chapter 6, Alternatives
- Chapter 7, References
- Chapter 8, List of Preparers
- Appendices

Impacts Found Not to Be Significant Based on Draft Environmental Report

- Aesthetics
- Agriculture and Forestry Resources
- Air Quality
- Energy
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use and Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Noise
- Population and Housing
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Tribal Cultural Resources
- Utilities and Service Systems
- Wildlife Hazards

Resource Areas Found to Result in Potentially Significant Impacts

- Biological Resources
 - Cultural Resources
 - Geology, Soils, and Paleontological Resources
 - Greenhouse Gas Emissions
 - Hazards and Hazardous Materials
 - Transportation
- ❖ Blue highlighted resource areas proposed mitigation measures to reduce impacts to a less-than-significant level.
 - ❖ Green Highlighted resource areas proposed mitigation measures to reduce impacts, but are still considered significant and unavoidable

Alternatives Analysis

- CEQA Guidelines section 15126.6(a) - An EIR must describe and evaluate a reasonable range of alternatives to a project
- Alternatives must feasibly attain most of the project's basic objectives but avoid or substantially lessen any identified significant adverse environmental effects
- An EIR is not required to consider every conceivable alternative to a project or alternatives that are infeasible.

Alternatives Considered but Rejected for Detailed Analysis

- **Existing Courthouse Rehabilitation** – renovating or retrofitting the three existing facilities (Fresno County Courthouse, north Annex Jail, and M Street Courthouse) located at 1100 Van Ness Avenue, Fresno, CA, 93724 and 2280 Fresno Street, Fresno, CA, 93721.
- **Alternative Site Location 1B** – This alternative proposes construction of a new 36-courtroom, approximately 413,000-square-foot courthouse within Courthouse Park at the northeast corner of Van Ness Avenue and Fresno Street. Site 1B is approximately 2.1 acres and currently vacant, providing sufficient space for the proposed building and required setbacks.
- **Alternative Site Location Site 3 (Eaton Plaza)** – This alternative would locate the new 36-courtroom, approximately 413,000-square-foot courthouse on approximately 2.1 acres within Eaton Plaza, east of the intersection of N Street and Fresno Street.

Alternatives Analyzed in the Draft EIR

- No Project Alternative
- Reduced Scope of Proposed Courthouse

Environmentally Superior Alternative

- CEQA Guidelines require that an EIR identify the Environmentally Superior Alternative (Section 15126.6 (e)(2)).
- From the alternatives evaluated within this EIR, the environmentally superior alternative other than the “proposed Project” and “No Project”, would be the Reduced Scope Alternative.
- Reduced Scope Alternative was determined to result in slightly increased adverse impacts for air quality and greenhouse gas environmental resource topics.
- Reduced Scope Alternative would not result in a cumulatively considerable contribution to cumulatively significant impacts that would be significant and unavoidable.
- Reduced Scope Alternative does not meet all project objectives.

The Final EIR will include:

- Copies of all comments received on the Draft EIR
- Written responses to each comment raising significant environmental issues
- Any clarifications to the Draft EIR based on the comments and responses

Your Input

1. Comments on the adequacy of the EIR (as defined by the CEQA Guidelines Section 15151)
2. Comments on the completeness of the Draft EIR
3. Questions about the CEQA process

Your input by August 30, 2026

(end of 45-day review period)

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Information related to this Project is available for review on the Judicial Council's website at:
<https://courts.ca.gov/facilities/fresno-county-new-fresno-courthouse>