

## Judicial Council of California

455 Golden Gate Avenue · San Francisco, California 94102-3688

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# MEMORANDUM

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**Date**

May 5, 2026

**To**

Members of the Executive and Planning  
Committee

**From**

Trial Court Facility Modification  
Advisory Committee  
Donald Cole Byrd, Chair  
William F. Highberger, Vice-Chair

**Subject**

Addition of Project to Annual Agenda and  
Formation of New Working Group to Advise  
the Project

**Action Requested**

Approve Addition to Annual Agenda and  
Formation of New Working Group

**Deadline**

May 11, 2026

**Contact**

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[jagandeep.singh@jud.ca.gov](mailto:jagandeep.singh@jud.ca.gov)

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### Executive Summary

The Trial Court Facility Modification Advisory Committee (TCFMAC) proposes adding a *new, one-time project* to its 2026 annual agenda for the update to the Judicial Council's *Court-Funded Facilities Request Policy*. This policy update is needed owing to its age, to better address, among other issues, security staffing cost impacts on outside agencies and new process changes since the council last adopted the policy in 2016. To support this effort, the committee requests the formation of a Court-Funded Facilities Request (CFR) Policy Working Group. With input from the working group, the TCFMAC will review the updated policy in 2026 and 2027, with council review proposed for mid-2027.

### Action Requested

The Trial Court Facility Modification Advisory Committee asks that the Executive and Planning Committee:

1. Approve adding “Court-Funded Facilities Request Policy Update” to the 2026 Annual Agenda of the Trial Court Facility Modification Advisory Committee as a *new, one-time project*.
2. Approve the formation of a CFR Policy Working Group to advise staff on this project, composed of three members of the TCFMAC and three court executive officer members of the Court Executives Advisory Committee (CEAC).

## **Basis for Request**

### **Background**

Discussion of CFRs at the January 2026 CEAC Statewide Business Meeting prompted the Judicial Council Executive Office to request that staff revisit the policy, to update it to better address, among other issues, security staffing cost impacts on outside agencies and new process changes (e.g., the online CFR intake process) since the council last adopted the policy in 2016. A working group to advise staff on the update was also requested. The CEAC has suggested that in addition to TCFMAC members, CEAC members be included in the working group. Staff expects that with input from the working group, the update process will involve multiple presentations to the TCFMAC and postings for court and public comments.

The *Court-Funded Facilities Request Policy* is within the TCFMAC’s expertise because it requires Judicial Council Facilities Services to provide regular reporting of CFRs approved by its director to the TCFMAC. The policy also requires the TCFMAC to review all CFRs involving ongoing operational cost increases to the council beyond the initial outlay for the project (e.g., additional utility or maintenance costs), staff concerns about whether the CFR meets the criteria of the policy or whether the proposed budget is accurate, and appeals of staff determinations.

At its public meeting on April 6, 2026, the TCFMAC approved the amended version of its 2026 annual agenda for Executive and Planning Committee review and consideration of approval. The committee also announced the CFR Policy Working Group’s membership, as listed below.

### **Annual agenda**

The TCFMAC proposes that “Court-Funded Facilities Request Policy Update” be added to its Annual Agenda as a *new, one-time project*. The specifications for this item would be as follows:

- **Title:** Court-Funded Facilities Request Policy Update.
- **Project Summary:** Review of the updated *Court-Funded Facilities Request Policy*, which describes the procedure and requirements for trial courts to submit a CFR through Judicial Council Facilities Services’ computer-aided facilities management (CAFM) database to fund allowable facilities costs for facility modifications, lease-related costs, and operations costs allowable under rule 10.810 of the California Rules of Court. The typical CFR process involves council staff undertaking contracts using encumbered monies in the Trial Court Trust Fund and offsetting funding obligations through

reductions to trial court distributions. A recommendation will be submitted for Judicial Council consideration to adopt the updated policy from the latest 2016 version.

- **Status/Timeline:** To inform the policy's update, a CFR Policy Working Group has been created that is composed of TCFMAC and CEAC members. The updated policy will be reviewed by the TCFMAC in 2026 and 2027 and is proposed for a Judicial Council meeting in mid-2027.
- **Fiscal Impact/Resources:** Coordination through lead staff to the committee with input from the Judicial Council's Facilities Services, Budget Services, and Legal Services offices.
- **Internal/External Stakeholders:** Trial courts and justice partners.
- **Advisory Committee Collaboration:** CEAC.

#### **Formation of new working group**

A CFR Policy Working Group is needed to advise staff on the update to the council's *Court-Funded Facilities Request Policy*. The CEAC has suggested that in addition to TCFMAC members, three CEAC members be included in the working group. Therefore, this six-person working group will be composed of three TCFMAC and three non-TCFMAC members, as follows:

1. Mr. David H. Yamasaki, Court Executive Officer, Superior Court of Orange County, TCFMAC Member and Working Group Chair
2. Ms. Nocona Soboleski, Court Executive Officer, Superior Court of Kings County, TCFMAC Member and Working Group Vice-Chair
3. Hon. John B. Ellis, Judge of the Superior Court of Solano County, TCFMAC Member
4. Ms. Rebecca J. Fleming, Court Executive Officer, Superior Court of Santa Clara County
5. Mr. Chad Peace, Court Executive Officer, Superior Court of San Mateo County
6. Ms. Shelby Wineinger, Court Executive Officer, Superior Court of El Dorado County

As required, working group meetings will be held in public via videoconference. There is no expectation the working group will meet in person. Lead staff to the working group will be Chris Magnusson, Supervisor, Judicial Council Facilities Services, and Erin Stagg, Attorney, Judicial Council Legal Services, in addition to support from staff to the TCFMAC. The working group is expected to sunset following the council's adoption of the updated policy, which is proposed for council review and consideration of adoption in mid-2027.

**Trial Court Facility Modification Advisory Committee**  
**Annual Agenda<sup>1</sup>—2026**  
**Approved by Executive and Planning Committee: \_\_\_\_\_**

**I. COMMITTEE INFORMATION**

<b>Chair:</b>	Hon. Donald Cole Byrd, Presiding Judge, Superior Court of Glenn County
<b>Vice-Chair:</b>	Hon. William F. Highberger, Judge, Superior Court of Los Angeles County
<b>Lead Staff:</b>	Mr. Tamer Ahmed, Director, Facilities Services Mr. Jagan Singh, Deputy Director, Facilities Services
<p><b>Advisory Body’s Charge/Membership:</b></p> <p><a href="#">Rule 10.65</a> of the California Rules of Court states the charge of the Trial Court Facility Modification Advisory Committee (TCFMAC), which is to make recommendations to the Judicial Council on facilities modifications, maintenance, and operations; environmental services; and utility management. In addition, the committee performs the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Makes recommendations to the Judicial Council on policy issues, business practices, and budget monitoring and control for all facility related matters in existing branch facilities.</li> <li>(2) Makes recommendations to the Judicial Council on funding and takes additional action in accordance with council policy, both for facility modifications and for operations and maintenance.</li> <li>(3) Collaborates with the Court Facilities Advisory Committee (CFAC) in the development of the capital program, including providing input on design standards, prioritization of capital projects, and methods to reduce construction cost without impacting long-term operations and maintenance cost.</li> <li>(4) Provides quarterly and annual reports on the facilities modification program in accordance with the Judicial Council’s Trial Court Facility Modifications Policy.</li> </ol> <p><a href="#">Rule 10.65(c)</a> sets forth the membership position of the committee. The TCFMAC currently has 11 members. The current advisory body <a href="#">roster</a> is as available on the advisory body’s webpage.</p>	

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<sup>1</sup> The Annual Agenda outlines the work an advisory body will focus on in the coming year or cycle and identifies areas of collaboration with other advisory bodies and Judicial Council staff resources.

## Subgroups of the Advisory Body<sup>2</sup>:

1. Court-Funded Facilities Request (CFR) Policy Working Group (New)

### Advisory Body and Subgroup Meetings Planned for 2026<sup>3</sup>

January 30, 2026	10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.	In-Person*
March 2, 2026	12:00 p.m.–1:30 p.m.	Videoconference
April 6, 2026	10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.	Videoconference
May 18, 2026	12:00 p.m.–1:30 p.m.	Videoconference
July 10, 2026	10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.	In-Person*
August 24, 2026	12:00 p.m.–1:30 p.m.	Videoconference
October 30, 2026	10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.	In-Person
December 4, 2026	12:00 p.m.–1:30 p.m.	Videoconference

\*These in-person meetings will be scheduled to take place in Sacramento, and attendance will be restricted to essential staff in adherence to the current budget constraints.

Check here if in-person meeting is approved by the internal committee oversight chair.

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<sup>2</sup> For the definition of “subcommittee” see Cal. Rules of Court, rule 10.30(c); for “working group,” see rule 10.70; for “workstream,” see rule 10.53(c); and for “education curriculum committee,” see rule 10.50(c)(6).

<sup>3</sup> Refer to section IV. 2 (Meeting frequency) of the [Operating Standards for Judicial Council Advisory Bodies](#) for governance on in-person meetings.

Note: Because of the current budget and staffing constraints, advisory body chairs and staff must first consider meeting remotely. The chair of the Executive and Planning Committee is extending the suspension of advisory body in-person meetings for the 2025–2026 annual agenda cycle. If an in-person meeting is needed, the responsible Judicial Council office head must seek approval from their advisory body’s internal oversight committee chair. Please see the prioritization memo dated July 1, 2025, for additional details.

## II. COMMITTEE PROJECTS

### Priority Levels and Branch Goals Key:

Refer to the following key for populating your project priority levels and branch goals. For each Priority Level 1 proposal, the advisory body **must** provide a specific reason why it should be done this year and how it fits within the identified category. If an advisory committee is interested in pursuing any Priority Level 2 proposals, please include justification as to why the proposal should be approved at this time.

Priority Levels for Non-Rules/Forms	
1	Must be done
2	Should be done
Priority Levels for Rules/Forms Proposals	
1a (Legal Compliance)	Proposal urgently needed to conform to or accurately reflect the law.
1b (Council Directive)	Council has directed the committee to consider new or amended rules and forms.
1c (Urgent Remedial Action)	Change is urgently needed to remedy a problem that is causing significant cost or inconvenience to the courts or the public.
1d (Financial/ Legal Risk Mitigation)	Proposal is otherwise urgent and necessary, such as a proposal that would mitigate exposure to immediate or severe financial or legal risk.
2a (Useful Changes in Law)	Useful, but not necessary, to implement changes in law.
2b (Responsive to Concerns)	Responsive to identified concerns or problems.
2c (Helpful Advancing Branch Goals)	Helpful in otherwise advancing Judicial Council goals and objectives.

Judicial Branch Strategic Plan–Branch Goals	
I.	<a href="#"><u>Access, Fairness, Diversity, and Inclusion</u></a>
II.	<a href="#"><u>Independence and Accountability</u></a>
III.	<a href="#"><u>Modernization of Management and Administration</u></a>
IV.	<a href="#"><u>Quality of Justice and Service to the Public</u></a>
V.	<a href="#"><u>Education for Branchwide Professional Excellence</u></a>
VI.	<a href="#"><u>Branchwide Infrastructure for Service Excellence</u></a>
VII.	<a href="#"><u>Adequate, Stable, and Predictable Funding for a Fully Functioning Branch</u></a>

#	New or One-Time Projects								
1.	<b>Project Title: Court-Funded Facilities Request (CFR) Policy Update</b>	<b>Priority: 1</b>							
<b>Supported Strategic Plan Branch Goals:</b> <table border="0" data-bbox="247 289 1934 386"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">I <i>Access</i> <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;">II <i>Independence</i> <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;">III <i>Modernization</i> <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;">IV <i>Quality</i> <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;">V <i>Education</i> <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;">VI <i>Infrastructure</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;">VII <i>Funding</i> <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>			I <i>Access</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	II <i>Independence</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	III <i>Modernization</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	IV <i>Quality</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	V <i>Education</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	VI <i>Infrastructure</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	VII <i>Funding</i> <input type="checkbox"/>
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<p><b>Project Summary:</b> Review of the updated <i>Court-Funded Facilities Request Policy</i>, which describes the procedure and requirements for trial courts to submit a CFR through Judicial Council Facilities Services’ Computer-Aided Facilities Management (CAFM) database to fund allowable facilities costs for facility modifications, lease-related costs, and operations costs allowable under rule 10.810 of the California Rules of Court. The typical CFR process involves council staff undertaking contracts using encumbered monies in the Trial Court Trust Fund and offsetting funding obligations through reductions to trial court distributions. A recommendation will be submitted for Judicial Council consideration to adopt the updated policy from the latest 2016 version.</p> <p><b>Status/Timeline:</b> To inform the update to the policy, the TCFMAC has created a CFR Policy Working Group composed of committee members and members from the Court Executives Advisory Committee (CEAC). The updated policy will be reviewed by the TCFMAC in 2026 and is proposed for a Judicial Council meeting in mid-2027.</p> <p><b>Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources:</b> Coordination through lead staff to the committee with input from the Judicial Council’s Facilities Services, Budget Services, and Legal Services.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Check this box if this project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts. <i>Advisory body staff will coordinate with Budget Services to ensure its review of relevant materials.</i></p> <p><b>Internal/External Stakeholders:</b> Trial courts and justice partners.</p> <p><b>AC Collaboration:</b> CEAC.</p>									
2.	<b>Project Title: New Modesto Courthouse Activation</b>	<b>Priority: 1</b>							
<b>Supported Strategic Plan Branch Goals:</b> <table border="0" data-bbox="247 1284 1934 1382"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">I <i>Access</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;">II <i>Independence</i> <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;">III <i>Modernization</i> <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;">IV <i>Quality</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;">V <i>Education</i> <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;">VI <i>Infrastructure</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;">VII <i>Funding</i> <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>			I <i>Access</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	II <i>Independence</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	III <i>Modernization</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	IV <i>Quality</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	V <i>Education</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	VI <i>Infrastructure</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	VII <i>Funding</i> <input type="checkbox"/>
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<p><b>Project Summary:</b> Monitor the building activation of the new Modesto Courthouse in Modesto in Stanislaus County.</p>									

#	<b>New or One-Time Projects</b>																						
	<p><b>Status/Timeline:</b> The new courthouse is scheduled to open to the public in June 2026.</p> <p><b>Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources:</b> Coordination through lead staff to the committee with input from the Judicial Council’s Facilities Services and Legal Services.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Check this box if this project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts. <i>Advisory body staff will coordinate with Budget Services to ensure its review of relevant materials.</i></p> <p><b>Internal/External Stakeholders:</b> Superior Court of Stanislaus County and justice partners.</p> <p><b>AC Collaboration:</b> None.</p>																						
3.	<p><b>Project Title:</b> New Lakeport Courthouse Activation</p>	<p><b>Priority:</b> 1</p>																					
<p><b>Supported Strategic Plan Branch Goals:</b></p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td>I</td> <td>II</td> <td>III</td> <td>IV</td> <td>V</td> <td>VI</td> <td>VII</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Access</i></td> <td><i>Independence</i></td> <td><i>Modernization</i></td> <td><i>Quality</i></td> <td><i>Education</i></td> <td><i>Infrastructure</i></td> <td><i>Funding</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>			I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	<i>Access</i>	<i>Independence</i>	<i>Modernization</i>	<i>Quality</i>	<i>Education</i>	<i>Infrastructure</i>	<i>Funding</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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<p><b>Project Summary:</b> Monitor the building activation of the new Lakeport Courthouse in Lakeport in Lake County.</p> <p><b>Status/Timeline:</b> The new courthouse is scheduled to open to the public in September 2026.</p> <p><b>Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources:</b> Coordination through lead staff to the committee with input from the Judicial Council’s Facilities Services and Budget Services.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Check this box if this project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts. <i>Advisory body staff will coordinate with Budget Services to ensure its review of relevant materials.</i></p> <p><b>Internal/External Stakeholders:</b> Superior Court of Lake County and justice partners.</p> <p><b>AC Collaboration:</b> None.</p>																							

#	New or One-Time Projects																						
4.	<b>Project Title: Los Angeles Spring Street Courthouse—Courtrooms Relocation</b>	<b>Priority: 1</b>																					
<p><b>Supported Strategic Plan Branch Goals:</b></p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td>I</td> <td>II</td> <td>III</td> <td>IV</td> <td>V</td> <td>VI</td> <td>VII</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Access</i></td> <td><i>Independence</i></td> <td><i>Modernization</i></td> <td><i>Quality</i></td> <td><i>Education</i></td> <td><i>Infrastructure</i></td> <td><i>Funding</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>			I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	<i>Access</i>	<i>Independence</i>	<i>Modernization</i>	<i>Quality</i>	<i>Education</i>	<i>Infrastructure</i>	<i>Funding</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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<p><b>Project Summary:</b> Monitor the relocation of 23 of the 24 courtrooms/operations from the Spring Street Courthouse in Los Angeles County: 17 to existing courthouses in the Northwest, North Central, West, South Central, Southeast, and Central districts, and six to the North Valley district. In early 2025, the Judicial Council was informed by the U.S. General Services Administration that the federal government is divesting from the building that is currently housing the Spring Street Courthouse in the Civic Center area of downtown Los Angeles and that the lease for the superior court, which expires on December 31, 2028, will not be extended.</p> <p>In April 2025, the TCFMAC approved a budget change concept (BCC) to request this relocation project is funded through a one-time, General Fund allocation of \$42.4 million in fiscal year (FY) 2026–27; and in July 2025, the Judicial Council approved the project’s budget change proposal (BCP) for submission to the California Department of Finance (DOF).</p> <p><b>Status/Timeline:</b> Relocation to 9 existing courthouses by December 2028, assuming funding is authorized in the Budget Act of 2026 (FY 2026–27).</p> <p><b>Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources:</b> Coordination through lead staff to the committee with input from the Judicial Council’s Facilities Services and Budget Services.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Check this box if this project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts. <i>Advisory body staff will coordinate with Budget Services to ensure its review of relevant materials.</i></p> <p><b>Internal/External Stakeholders:</b> Superior Court of Los Angeles County; justice partners; DOF; Legislature; and Office of Governor.</p> <p><b>AC Collaboration:</b> Judicial Branch Budget Committee (JBBC) and Executive and Planning Committee.</p>																							

#	Ongoing Projects and Activities								
1.	<b>Project Title: Judicial Branch Facility Modification Projects</b>	<b>Priority: 1</b>							
<p><b>Supported Strategic Plan Branch Goals:</b></p> <table border="0" data-bbox="247 321 1936 418"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">I Access <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;">II Independence <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;">III Modernization <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;">IV Quality <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;">V Education <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;">VI Infrastructure <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;">VII Funding <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>			I Access <input type="checkbox"/>	II Independence <input type="checkbox"/>	III Modernization <input type="checkbox"/>	IV Quality <input type="checkbox"/>	V Education <input type="checkbox"/>	VI Infrastructure <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	VII Funding <input type="checkbox"/>
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<p><b>Project Summary:</b> Review and approve facility modification projects proposed by the trial courts, regional service providers, and Judicial Council staff. Approve projects that receive funding allocations for execution by Judicial Council staff. Submit recommendations as needed for Judicial Council consideration.</p> <p><b>Status/Timeline:</b> Ongoing. The committee meets every 30–60 days to review proposed projects.</p> <p><b>Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources:</b> Coordination through lead staff to the committee with input from the Judicial Council’s Facilities Services and Budget Services.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Check this box if this project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts.</p> <p><b>Internal/External Stakeholders:</b> Trial courts and justice partners.</p> <p><b>AC Collaboration:</b> None.</p>									
2.	<b>Project Title: Judicial Branch Facility Operations and Maintenance (O&amp;M)</b>	<b>Priority: 1</b>							
<p><b>Supported Strategic Plan Branch Goals:</b></p> <table border="0" data-bbox="247 1110 1936 1208"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">I Access <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;">II Independence <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;">III Modernization <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;">IV Quality <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;">V Education <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;">VI Infrastructure <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;">VII Funding <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>			I Access <input type="checkbox"/>	II Independence <input type="checkbox"/>	III Modernization <input type="checkbox"/>	IV Quality <input type="checkbox"/>	V Education <input type="checkbox"/>	VI Infrastructure <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	VII Funding <input type="checkbox"/>
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<p><b>Project Summary:</b> Oversight of judicial branch facilities O&amp;M spending through annual budget allocation approval and re-evaluation as needed. Oversight of policy issues on O&amp;M of existing facilities, noncapital-related real estate transactions, energy management, and environmental management and sustainability, including but not limited to review of the Judicial Council’s preventive maintenance and energy management plans. Provide oversight of facility O&amp;M for delegated courts including review of key performance indicators. Submit recommendations as needed for Judicial Council consideration.</p>									

#	<b>Ongoing Projects and Activities</b>															
	<p><b>Status/Timeline:</b> Ongoing. Budget allocations are reviewed annually and re-evaluated if the budget for O&amp;M changes. The budget status is reviewed annually. Preventive maintenance and service provider/delegated court performance is reviewed at each TCFMAC meeting.</p> <p><b>Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources:</b> Coordination through lead staff to the committee with input from the Judicial Council’s Facilities Services and Budget Services.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Check this box if this project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts.</p> <p><b>Internal/External Stakeholders:</b> Trial courts and justice partners.</p> <p><b>AC Collaboration:</b> None.</p>															
3.	<p><b>Project Title:</b> Trial Court Facility Modification Quarterly Activity Reports and Annual Report</p>	<p><b>Priority:</b> 1</p>														
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<p><b>Project Summary:</b> Provide the Judicial Council with a report for informational purposes summarizing the TCFMAC’s allocation of facility modification funding after the end of each fiscal year quarter. The report for the last quarter also includes a summary of all facility modifications for the fiscal year. These information-only reports are submitted as required by the council’s <i>Trial Court Facility Modifications Policy</i>.</p> <p><b>Status/Timeline:</b> Ongoing. FY 2025–26 reports are proposed for the following Judicial Council meetings: February 2026 for the Q1 report; April 2026 for the Q2 report; July 2026 for the Q3 report; and October 2026 for the Q4/Annual report.</p> <p><b>Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources:</b> Coordination through lead staff to the committee with input from the Judicial Council’s Facilities Services.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Check this box if this project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts.</p> <p><b>Internal/External Stakeholders:</b> Trial courts and justice partners.</p> <p><b>AC Collaboration:</b> Executive and Planning Committee.</p>																

#	Ongoing Projects and Activities																						
4.	<b>Project Title: Develop Proposed Budget Change Proposals (BCPs)</b>	<b>Priority: 1</b>																					
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<p><b>Project Summary:</b> Determine budget increases to be requested each fiscal year to address new and ongoing needs, such as ongoing deferred maintenance; augmentation to ongoing resources for facility modifications; water conservation facility modification projects; and augmentation to ongoing resources for the O&amp;M and utility costs of existing and newly constructed courthouses.</p> <p><b>Status/Timeline:</b> Ongoing. Typical BCPs timeline: Drafts due to Judicial Council Budget Services in February 2026; review by the JBBC in May 2026; Judicial Council approval in July 2026; and submission to DOF in September 2026.</p> <p><b>Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources:</b> Coordination through lead staff to the committee with input from the Judicial Council’s Facilities Services and Budget Services.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Check this box if this project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts.</p> <p><b>Internal/External Stakeholders:</b> Trial courts; justice partners; DOF; Legislature; and Office of Governor.</p> <p><b>AC Collaboration:</b> Judicial Branch Budget Committee.</p>																							
5.	<b>Project Title: Judicial Branch Five-Year Master Plan – Trial Court Facilities Deferred Maintenance List</b>	<b>Priority: 1</b>																					
<p><b>Supported Strategic Plan Branch Goals:</b></p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td>I</td> <td>II</td> <td>III</td> <td>IV</td> <td>V</td> <td>VI</td> <td>VII</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Access</i></td> <td><i>Independence</i></td> <td><i>Modernization</i></td> <td><i>Quality</i></td> <td><i>Education</i></td> <td><i>Infrastructure</i></td> <td><i>Funding</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>			I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	<i>Access</i>	<i>Independence</i>	<i>Modernization</i>	<i>Quality</i>	<i>Education</i>	<i>Infrastructure</i>	<i>Funding</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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<p><b>Project Summary:</b> Develop the judicial branch <i>Five-Year Deferred Maintenance Report for Fiscal Year 2027–28</i> for trial court facilities for submission to DOF for consideration of funding. The report for FY 2026–27 contained a list of 22,396 projects at an estimated rough order of magnitude of \$5.3 billion, with the Judicial Council’s share being \$3.9 billion.</p> <p><b>Status/Timeline:</b> Ongoing. The five-year master plan is submitted to DOF in September of each year.</p>																							

#	Ongoing Projects and Activities																						
	<p><b>Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources:</b> Coordination through lead staff to the committee with input from the Judicial Council’s Facilities Services and Budget Services.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Check this box if this project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts.</p> <p><b>Internal/External Stakeholders:</b> Trial courts; justice partners; and DOF.</p> <p><b>AC Collaboration:</b> None.</p>																						
6.	<b>Project Title: Courthouse Security Systems Maintenance and Replacement</b>	<b>Priority: 1</b>																					
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<p><b>Project Summary:</b> Maintain and replace security equipment within existing court facilities statewide, including aging camera, access control, and duress alarm systems. These projects are necessary to maintain trial court facilities at an industry level of care. Starting with FY 2019–20 and ongoing, the Court Security Advisory Committee (CSAC) receives \$6 million annually to develop and oversee these types of projects, but the TCFMAC funds certain security-related projects not covered by these funds. The TCFMAC collaborates with the CSAC to identify project responsibility between committees.</p> <p><b>Status/Timeline:</b> Ongoing.</p> <p><b>Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources:</b> Coordination through lead staff to the committee with input from the Judicial Council’s Facilities Services and Budget Services.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Check this box if this project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts.</p> <p><b>Internal/External Stakeholders:</b> Trial courts and justice partners.</p> <p><b>AC Collaboration:</b> Court Security Advisory Committee.</p>																							

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7.	<b>Project Title:</b> Trial Court Real Estate Expenses and Revenue	<b>Priority:</b> 1							
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<p><b>Project Summary:</b> Oversight of trial court lease expenses and revenues. Revenue from leases is deposited into the Court Facilities Trust Fund (CFTF) and State Court Facilities Construction Fund. Expense-leases are funded by the CFTF, Trial Court Trust Fund, Courthouse Construction Fund, Court Facilities Architectural Revolving Fund, and General Fund.</p> <p><b>Status/Timeline:</b> Ongoing. The TCFMAC performs an annual review of the lease-expense-and-revenue forecast.</p> <p><b>Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources:</b> Coordination through lead staff to the committee with input from the Judicial Council’s Facilities Services and Budget Services.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Check this box if this project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts.</p> <p><b>Internal/External Stakeholders:</b> Trial courts and justice partners.</p> <p><b>AC Collaboration:</b> Executive and Planning Committee’s Real Estate Policies Subcommittee.</p>									
8.	<b>Project Title:</b> Monitor the Architectural Revolving Fund Projects	<b>Priority:</b> 1							
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<p><b>Project Summary:</b> Monitor the Architectural Revolving Fund projects to ensure the projects are progressing and completing.</p> <p><b>Status/Timeline:</b> Ongoing review of the Architectural Revolving Fund projects.</p> <p><b>Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources:</b> Coordination through lead staff to the committee with input from the Judicial Council’s Facilities Services and Budget Services.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Check this box if this project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts.</p>									

#	Ongoing Projects and Activities								
	<p><b>Internal/External Stakeholders:</b> Trial courts and DOF.</p> <p><b>AC Collaboration:</b> None.</p>								
9.	<p><b>Project Title: Deferred-Maintenance-Funded Projects (DMF-3) – Monitor Encumbrance Liquidation Since FY 2019–20</b></p>	<p><b>Priority: 1</b></p>							
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<p><b>Project Summary:</b> Monitor encumbrance liquidation for DMF-3 projects funded by a one-time General Fund allocation in FY 2019–20 of \$15 million for trial courts. Funding is earmarked for fire alarm systems and fire protection projects.</p> <p><b>Status/Timeline:</b> Monitor encumbrances for liquidation in fiscal years 2025–26 and 2026–27.</p> <p><b>Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources:</b> Coordination through lead staff to the committee with input from the Judicial Council’s Facilities Services and Budget Services.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Check this box if this project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts.</p> <p><b>Internal/External Stakeholders:</b> Trial courts and justice partners.</p> <p><b>AC Collaboration:</b> None.</p>									
10.	<p><b>Project Title: Deferred-Maintenance-Funded Projects (DMF-4) – Monitor Encumbrance Liquidation Since FY 2021–22</b></p>	<p><b>Priority: 1</b></p>							
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#	Ongoing Projects and Activities																						
	<p><b>Project Summary:</b> Monitor encumbrance liquidation for DMF-4 projects funded by a one-time General Fund allocation in FY 2021–22 of \$180 million—later reduced to \$132.6 million—for trial courts. Funding was encumbered over three years—\$84.6 million in FY 2021–22, \$42.4 million in FY 2022–23, and \$5.6 million in FY 2023–24—and is earmarked primarily to replace roofs and elevators and to upgrade fire protection, electrical, and heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems, and building management systems (BMS).</p> <p><b>Status/Timeline:</b> Monitor for liquidation in fiscal years 2025–26 and 2026–27.</p> <p><b>Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources:</b> Coordination through lead staff to the committee with input from the Judicial Council’s Facilities Services and Budget Services.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Check this box if this project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts.</p> <p><b>Internal/External Stakeholders:</b> Trial courts and justice partners.</p> <p><b>AC Collaboration:</b> None.</p>																						
11.	<p><b>Project Title:</b> Monitor Top Five Facilities with the Highest Number of Plumbing Leak Incidents and Costs</p>	<p><b>Priority:</b> 1</p>																					
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<p><b>Project Summary:</b> Continue to monitor the top five facilities with the highest number of plumbing leak incidents and costs and evaluate possible solutions to reduce future leaks.</p> <p><b>Status/Timeline:</b> Ongoing.</p> <p><b>Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources:</b> Coordination through lead staff to the committee with input from the Judicial Council’s Facilities Services.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Check this box if this project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts.</p> <p><b>Internal/External Stakeholders:</b> Trial courts and justice partners.</p> <p><b>AC Collaboration:</b> None.</p>																							

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12.	<b>Project Title: Monitor the Orange Central Justice Center Fire and Life Safety (FLS) Systems Project</b>	<b>Priority: 1</b>																					
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<p><b>Project Summary:</b> Monitor the major facility modification at the Central Justice Center in Orange County, which expands the fire and life safety systems to address the noncompliance notice issued by the Office of the State Fire Marshal. The total estimated project cost is \$70.2 million: the Judicial Council’s project share (91.17 percent) is \$64.1 million, and the county’s share (8.83 percent) is \$6.1 million. To complete this project, funding was authorized from the General Fund over two fiscal years: \$4 million in FY 2021–22 (Year 1), \$48.8 million in FY 2021–22 (Year 2), and \$11.29 million in FY 2022–23. Funding has been requested in FY 2026–27 to supplement this funding to address cost increases and to recoup the county's share of costs associated with completing the project.</p> <p><b>Status/Timeline:</b> Ongoing multi-year project.</p> <p><b>Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources:</b> Coordination through lead staff to the committee with input from the Judicial Council’s Facilities Services, Budget Services, and Legal Services.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Check this box if this project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts.</p> <p><b>Internal/External Stakeholders:</b> Superior Court of Orange County and justice partners.</p> <p><b>AC Collaboration:</b> None.</p>																							
13.	<b>Project Title: Monitor the San Diego Hall of Justice Building Systems Modernization Project</b>	<b>Priority: 1</b>																					
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<p><b>Project Summary:</b> Monitor the major facility modification at the San Diego Hall of Justice, which is led by the County of San Diego. This multi-year project is to repair and modernize all major building systems including HVAC, vertical transportation, and plumbing. The Judicial Council’s project share (40.24 percent) is \$29.6 million, which was authorized from the General Fund in the 2022 Budget Act (FY 2022–23).</p>																							

#	Ongoing Projects and Activities								
	<p>In FY 2025–26, an additional \$9.5 million was authorized to supplement this funding to address cost increases. The county is managing the project in multiple phases, and the TCFMAC reviews the extended encumbrance and liquidation period.</p> <p><b>Status/Timeline:</b> Ongoing multi-year project.</p> <p><b>Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources:</b> Coordination through lead staff to the committee with input from the Judicial Council’s Facilities Services, Budget Services, and Legal Services.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Check this box if this project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts.</p> <p><b>Internal/External Stakeholders:</b> Superior Court of San Diego County; justice partners; and the County of San Diego.</p> <p><b>AC Collaboration:</b> None.</p>								
14.	<p><b>Project Title:</b> Monitor Activation of the New Tani Cantil-Sakauye Sacramento County Courthouse</p>	<p><b>Priority:</b> 1</p>							
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<p><b>Project Summary:</b> Monitor the building activation of the new Tani Cantil-Sakauye Sacramento County Courthouse in Sacramento in Sacramento County.</p> <p><b>Status/Timeline:</b> The new courthouse is scheduled to open to the public in early-2026.</p> <p><b>Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources:</b> Coordination through lead staff to the committee with input from the Judicial Council’s Facilities Services and Legal Services.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Check this box if this project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts.</p> <p><b>Internal/External Stakeholders:</b> Superior Court of Sacramento County and justice partners.</p> <p><b>AC Collaboration:</b> None.</p>									

#	Ongoing Projects and Activities								
15.	<b>Project Title: Monitor Activation of the New Hall of Justice (Santa Rosa)</b>	<b>Priority: 1</b>							
<p><b>Supported Strategic Plan Branch Goals:</b></p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td>I Access <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>II Independence <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>III Modernization <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>IV Quality <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>V Education <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>VI Infrastructure <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>VII Funding <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>			I Access <input type="checkbox"/>	II Independence <input type="checkbox"/>	III Modernization <input type="checkbox"/>	IV Quality <input type="checkbox"/>	V Education <input type="checkbox"/>	VI Infrastructure <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	VII Funding <input type="checkbox"/>
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<p><b>Project Summary:</b> Monitor the building activation of the new Hall of Justice in Santa Rosa in Sonoma County.</p> <p><b>Status/Timeline:</b> The new courthouse is scheduled to open to the public in early-2026.</p> <p><b>Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources:</b> Coordination through lead staff to the committee with input from the Judicial Council’s Facilities Services and Legal Services.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Check this box if this project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts.</p> <p><b>Internal/External Stakeholders:</b> Superior Court of Sonoma County and justice partners.</p> <p><b>AC Collaboration:</b> None.</p>									
16.	<b>Project Title: Monitor Activation of the New Indio Juvenile and Family Courthouse</b>	<b>Priority: 1</b>							
<p><b>Supported Strategic Plan Branch Goals:</b></p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td>I Access <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>II Independence <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>III Modernization <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>IV Quality <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>V Education <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>VI Infrastructure <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>VII Funding <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>			I Access <input type="checkbox"/>	II Independence <input type="checkbox"/>	III Modernization <input type="checkbox"/>	IV Quality <input type="checkbox"/>	V Education <input type="checkbox"/>	VI Infrastructure <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	VII Funding <input type="checkbox"/>
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<p><b>Project Summary:</b> Monitor the building activation of the new Indio Juvenile and Family Courthouse project in Indio in Riverside County.</p> <p><b>Status/Timeline:</b> The new courthouse is scheduled to open to the public in late summer 2026.</p> <p><b>Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources:</b> Coordination through lead staff to the committee with input from the Judicial Council’s Facilities Services and Legal Services.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Check this box if this project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts.</p>									

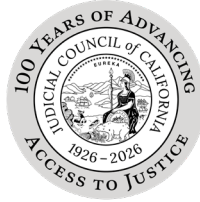
#	Ongoing Projects and Activities																										
	<p><b>Internal/External Stakeholders:</b> Superior Court of Riverside County and justice partners.</p> <p><b>AC Collaboration:</b> None.</p>																										
17.	<b>Project Title: Solar and Battery Storage Program</b>						<b>Priority: 1</b>																				
<p><b>Supported Strategic Plan Branch Goals:</b></p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td>I</td> <td>II</td> <td>III</td> <td>IV</td> <td>V</td> <td>VI</td> <td>VII</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Access</td> <td>Independence</td> <td>Modernization</td> <td>Quality</td> <td>Education</td> <td>Infrastructure</td> <td>Funding</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>							I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	Access	Independence	Modernization	Quality	Education	Infrastructure	Funding	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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<p><b>Project Summary:</b> Monitor the solar and battery storage program, including the progress on installations at 20 locations that are expected to be operational by end of 2026.</p> <p><b>Status/Timeline:</b> Ongoing.</p> <p><b>Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources:</b> Coordination through lead staff to the committee with input from the Judicial Council’s Facilities Services and Legal Services.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Check this box if this project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts.</p> <p><b>Internal/External Stakeholders:</b> Trial courts.</p> <p><b>AC Collaboration:</b> None.</p>																											
18.	<b>Project Title: Disposition of Courthouse Facilities</b>						<b>Priority: 1</b>																				
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#	Ongoing Projects and Activities
	<p><b>Project Summary:</b> Monitor dispositions of existing courthouse facilities as they are vacated due to completion of new courthouse capital projects, such as the New Tani Cantil-Sakauye Sacramento County Courthouse, the New Hall of Justice (Santa Rosa), and the New Indio Juvenile and Family Courthouse.</p> <p><b>Status/Timeline:</b> Ongoing.</p> <p><b>Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources:</b> Coordination through lead staff to the committee with input from the Judicial Council’s Facilities Services, Budget Services, and Legal Services.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Check this box if this project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts.</p> <p><b>Internal/External Stakeholders:</b> Trial courts, justice partners, DOF, Legislature, and Office of Governor.</p> <p><b>AC Collaboration:</b> Executive and Planning Committee’s Real Estate Policies Subcommittee.</p>

### III. LIST OF 2025 PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

#	Project Highlights and Achievements
1.	Ongoing: Collaborated with the CSAC to complete security-related projects.
2.	Ongoing: Reviewed and approved facility modification projects, including security-related facility modifications, proposed by the trial courts, regional service providers, and Judicial Council staff.
3.	Ongoing: Oversaw judicial branch facilities O&M spending and policy issues on O&M of existing facilities, non-capital-related real estate transactions, energy management, and environmental management and sustainability.
4.	Ongoing: Collaborated with the CFAC in the development of the judicial branch courthouse capital program.
5.	Ongoing: Monitored progress of the deferred maintenance projects in trial court facilities throughout the state: DMF-3 projects for fire alarm systems and fire protection and DMF-4 projects to replace roofs and elevators and to upgrade fire protection, electrical, and HVAC systems, and BMS.
6.	Completed: As informational items in February, April, July, and October 2025, the Judicial Council received FY 2024–25 quarterly reports and an annual summary on the allocation of funding for trial court facility modifications. These reports also present the court-funded facilities requests (CFRs) the Judicial Council Facilities Services Director approved for TCFMAC review.
7.	Completed: In 2025, two facility modification projects on the Architectural Revolving Fund project list were completed.
8.	Completed: In January 2025, the TCFMAC approved FY 2026–27 BCCs for facilities program support, facility modifications, court facilities maintenance and utilities, courthouse water conservation and leak detection measures, BMS guidelines and assessment, waterborne pathogen management program implementation, deferred maintenance, and additional funding for the Orange – Central Justice Center facility modification project.
9.	Completed: In January 2025, the TCFMAC completed final encumbrance of the \$50 million in funding for DMF-2 projects. A total of 27 projects have been completed including a statewide assessment to replace roofs, elevators, and wheelchair lifts and to upgrade building automation systems.
10.	Completed: In January 2025, CFRs transitioned to the Judicial Council Facilities Services’ Computer-Aided Facilities Management system for intake and processing.
11.	Completed: In January 2025, the TCFMAC approved a draft report to the Legislature on superior court lactation rooms funding and expenditures for submission to the Judicial Council. Subsequently, this report was proposed to the council, approved on February 21, 2025, and submitted to the Legislature in advance of the statutory deadline of March 1, 2025.

#	Project Highlights and Achievements
12.	Completed: In April 2025, for submission to the JBBC and Judicial Council, the TCFMAC approved a draft BCC for a one-time, General Fund allocation of \$42.4 million in FY 2026–27 for relocation of 23 of the 24 courtrooms/operations from the Spring Street Courthouse in Los Angeles County. This relocation project is necessary as the federal government is divesting from the building that is currently housing the Spring Street Courthouse. Subsequently, this BCC was proposed to the JBBC in May 2025, and a BCP for funding this relocation project was approved by the council in July 2025 and submitted to the DOF in August 2025.
13.	Completed: In August 2025, the TCFMAC reviewed the trial court lease-expense-and-revenue forecast for FY 2025–26.
14.	Completed: In August 2025, the TCFMAC approved the proposed FY 2025–26 facility modifications budget and the O&M spending plan.
15.	Completed: In August 2025, the TCFMAC approved the judicial branch’s <i>Five-Year Deferred Maintenance Report for Fiscal Year 2026–27</i> for submission to DOF.
16.	Completed: In fall 2025, the major facility modification project at the San Diego East County Regional Center was completed. This project corrected fire and life safety-egress deficiencies. The project’s funding was authorized in two allotments over FY 2021–22 and FY 2022–23. The total project cost of \$42 million was shared between the Judicial Council and the County of San Diego based on respective space occupancy of the building: the Judicial Council’s share (67.71 percent) was \$28.4 million, and the county’s share (32.29 percent) was \$13.6 million.



## Judicial Council of California

455 Golden Gate Avenue · San Francisco, California 94102-3688

Telephone 415-865-4200 · Fax 415-865-4205

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# MEMORANDUM

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**Date**

May 1, 2026

**Action Requested**

Approve Staff Recommendation

**To**

Members of the Executive and Planning Committee

**Deadline**

May 11, 2026

**From**

Judicial Council Staff  
Leah Rose-Goodwin, Chief Data and Analytics Officer  
Kristin Greenaway, Manager  
Research, Analytics, and Data

**Contact**

Anna Stenkamp, Senior Research Analyst  
415-865-7829 phone  
[Anna.Stenkamp@jud.ca.gov](mailto:Anna.Stenkamp@jud.ca.gov)

**Subject**

Request for an Exception to the Conversion of One Subordinate Judicial Officer Position in the Superior Court of Placer County

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**Executive Summary**

Research, Analytics, and Data staff recommend that the Judicial Council's Executive and Planning Committee (Executive Committee) confirm the request by the Superior Court of Placer County to defer the conversion of a subordinate judicial officer (SJO) position to a judgeship. The Placer County Superior Court has informed council staff that the impetus for this request is primarily for budgetary reasons. The court states that a full-time commissioner vacancy resulted from the appointment of Commissioner Shani Roark to superior court judge by Governor Gavin Newsom, effective April 2, 2026. The court indicates that a commissioner position provides greater flexibility for the court in the event extreme action is required to achieve a balanced budget. Although the court plans to fill these positions, it has historically used commissioner

vacancies to navigate through economic downturns. The court seeks to retain the flexibility to employ this strategy again, if necessary.

## **Recommendation**

Research, Analytics, and Data staff recommend that the Executive Committee confirm the request by the Superior Court of Placer County for an exception to the conversion of an SJO position to a judgeship.

## **Relevant Previous Council Action**

The 2002 report of the Subordinate Judicial Officer Working Group led the Judicial Council to sponsor legislation to restore an appropriate balance between judges and SJOs in the trial courts. The 2002 report found that many courts had created SJO positions out of necessity in response to the dearth of new judgeships during the 1980s and 1990s. As a result, many SJOs were working as temporary judges. This imbalance between judges and SJOs was especially critical in the area of family and juvenile law.<sup>1</sup>

In 2007, the Judicial Council approved a methodology for evaluating the workload appropriate to SJOs relative to the number of SJOs working in the courts. In the same year, the Legislature passed Assembly Bill 159 (Stats. 2007, ch. 722), which adopted the Judicial Council's methodology. This action resulted in a list of 25 courts in which a total of 162 SJO positions would be converted. Government Code section 69615(C)(3)(A) allows for the annual conversion of up to 16 SJO vacancies upon authorization by the Legislature in courts identified by the Judicial Council as having SJOs in excess of the workload appropriate to SJOs.<sup>2</sup>

Subsequent council action established and refined guidelines for expediting the conversion of SJO vacancies. These guidelines included:

- The delegation of authority to the Executive Committee for confirming SJO conversions;
- The establishment of guidelines for courts to notify the council of SJO vacancies and timelines for the redistribution of SJO conversions across the allocation groups; and
- The establishment of criteria for the Executive Committee to use in evaluating and granting requests by courts to exempt SJO vacancies from conversion.

In addition to the above policies to expedite conversions, in 2015 the council refreshed the workload data used to determine the courts with eligible conversions. A list of eligible positions

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<sup>1</sup> See Judicial Council of Cal., Advisory Com. Rep., [Subordinate Judicial Officers: Duties and Titles](#) (July 2002).

<sup>2</sup> See Judicial Council of Cal., Staff Rep., [Update of the Judicial Workload Assessment and New Methodology for Selecting Courts With Subordinate Judicial Officers for Conversion to Judgeships](#) (Feb. 14, 2007); and the update of this report and SJO allocation list, Judicial Council of Cal., Executive Com. Rep., [Subordinate Judicial Officers: Update of Conversions Using More Current Workload Data](#) (Aug. 11, 2015).

was established for the remaining conversions, and courts were notified of any changes in status based on the updated workload assessment.<sup>3</sup>

### **Analysis/Rationale**

The Superior Court of Placer County is eligible for a total of 2 of the 162 conversions authorized by the Legislature under Government Code 69615(c)(1)(A). The court was granted an exception to the conversion of this position by the Executive Committee in fiscal years 2015–16, 2018–19, 2022–23, and 2023-24 and requests an additional exception for the reasons described below.

The request for an exception to the conversion is primarily for budgetary reasons. The temporary retention of the SJO position may be seen as an important factor in the court’s strategy for managing judicial resources wisely. Granting a temporary exception to the conversion of the vacant SJO position will enable the court to manage the allocation of its judicial workload in a way that allows it to be responsive to litigants seeking legal assistance and to the needs of the public more generally.

Council policies concerning SJO conversions grant the Executive Committee the authority to confirm conversions and to evaluate and grant requests by courts to exempt vacancies from conversion. Because this request falls within the scope of the current policy on exceptions and yet is consistent with the spirit of the statute governing SJO conversions, Judicial Council staff recommend that the request be granted.

### **Policy Implications**

Confirming this request for an exception to conversion is consistent with well-established tenets of council policy on SJO conversions.

### **Comments**

This proposal, which is consistent with council policy on SJO conversions, did not circulate for comment.

### **Alternatives considered**

The proposed exception to a SJO conversion is consistent with council policy. On that basis, no alternatives were considered.

### **Fiscal and Operational Impacts**

If this temporary exception is granted by the Executive Committee, the court would incur no new costs, and the requirement for eventual conversion of the aforementioned positions would continue to be in effect. Hence, the operational impact is projected to be minimal.

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<sup>3</sup> See Judicial Council of Cal., [Executive Com. meeting agenda, item 2, p. 2](#) (Aug. 28, 2018).

## **Attachments and Links**

1. Attachment A: Letter from Presiding Judge Jeffrey S. Penney, Superior Court of Placer County, to Administrative Presiding Justice Brad R. Hill, Executive and Planning Committee Chair (Apr. 15, 2026)



**Superior Court of the State of California**  
**In and For the County of Placer**  
**Roseville, California**

**In Chambers of**  
**HONORABLE JEFFREY S. PENNEY**  
PRESIDING JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT  
(916) 408-6305 FAX (916) 408-6306

April 15, 2026

Hon. Brad R. Hill, Chair  
Executive and Planning Committee of the  
Judicial Council of California  
Transmitted via email to: [executiveandplanning@jud.ca.gov](mailto:executiveandplanning@jud.ca.gov)

Re: Commissioner Vacancy and Judgeship Conversion

Justice Hill and Members of the Executive and Planning Committee:

The Superior Court of Placer County hereby notifies the Executive and Planning Committee (E&P Committee) of a full-time commissioner vacancy, effective April 2, 2026, occasioned by the appointment of the Hon. Shani Roark to Superior Court Judge by Governor Gavin Newsom.

The Superior Court of Placer County was allocated two commissioner to judgeship conversions as part of the process authorized by Government Code section 69615. Neither of these positions have converted. The court previously requested deferral of conversions on four occasions, which were approved by the E&P Committee.

The court requests further deferral of this conversion. This deferral is being requested primarily for budget reasons. With the budget uncertainty facing the State of California for what may be several years, a Commissioner position provides greater budget flexibility for the court in the event extreme action is needed to achieve a balanced budget. While it is our intention to fill these positions at the current time, this court has had to turn to Commissioner vacancies in the past to manage through economic downturns and desires the flexibility to do so again if needed. As an example, the court currently holds a 0.5 Commissioner position vacant, as it has done for the majority of the time since the Great Recession.

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Hon. Brad R. Hill, Chair, Executive and Planning Committee  
Re: Commissioner Vacancy and Judgeship Conversation  
April 15, 2026  
Page 2 of 2

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The court is also requesting expedited action by the E&P Committee. The court is facing significant workload pressure due to significant increases in filings over the past several years and would prefer to avoid further impacts due to a long term vacancy. Minimizing a delay in filling the position vacated by the Hon. Shani Roark would be helpful to avoid further impacts on court calendars and trial dates.

Thank you for your consideration. If it would be helpful to discuss this request, please contact me or Jake Chatters, Court Executive Officer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Penney". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

Hon. Jeffrey S. Penney  
Presiding Judge

cc: Leah Rose-Goodwin, Business Management Services Division, Judicial Council of California