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FACT SHEET

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New Nevada City Courthouse: Site Selection

The new courthouse construction project in Nevada County will provide a new 6-courtroom courthouse of approximately 77,000 square feet in Nevada City. The project will require acquisition of a site of approximately 5 acres, which will include space for secured parking for judicial officers and surface parking for the public.

Purpose

The new courthouse will house the court's operations currently located in the historic Nevada City Courthouse.

The new courthouse will:

- Provide an accessible, efficient, and modern full-service courthouse;
- Improve security, operational efficiency, and customer service; and
- Provide court operations in a facility with adequate space

Site Selection Process

In addition to identifying willing sellers and technical site criteria (available utilities, soil conditions, etc.), the following factors are weighed when considering a location for a new courthouse:

- Near existing courthouse
- Near the jail—reduces transportation costs for in-custody defendants
- Near justice partners such as District Attorney, Public Defender, Probation, and Sheriff
- Near public transportation
- Near eating and retail areas

Viable sites are being sought, and at least two will be shortlisted to be studied further. At each shortlisted site, experts will:

- Perform preliminary environmental site assessments

- Identify potential biological, cultural, archaeological, and tribal cultural considerations
- Determine the site boundaries, topography, geology, access routes, proximity to justice partners and services, potential flood zones, seismic zones, and other issues

No specific designs or renderings for the new courthouse are created at this phase of the project.

Next Steps

The Project Advisory Group (court, district attorney, local business owners, local attorney, community members) will score and rank the sites. The findings will be reviewed and analyzed by the Judicial Council, the Superior Court of Nevada County, and the Project Advisory Group to confirm one preferred and one alternate site.

Those two sites are presented to the council's Administrative Director and at a public meeting of the council's Court Facilities Advisory Committee. The public can provide written or in-person comments at committee meetings—dates and meeting agendas are posted on the committee's public webpage. The committee will discuss the site options at its meeting and take action to approve site selection if desired.

Contact: nvcity-court.project@jud.ca.gov

Additional resources:

Nevada County, New Nevada City Courthouse, www.courts.ca.gov/76091.htm

New Nevada City Courthouse Planning Study, May 10, 2022, R2,

www.courts.ca.gov/documents/cfac-20220526-materials.pdf

Building California Courthouses, www.courts.ca.gov/43349.htm

Site Selection and Acquisition Policy,

www.courts.ca.gov/documents/site_selection_acquisition_policy.pdf

California Trial Court Facilities Standards,

www.courts.ca.gov/documents/2020_CTCFS_20_11_13.pdf

Project Advisory Group, www.courts.ca.gov/cms/rules/index.cfm?title=ten&linkid=rule10_184

Court Facilities Advisory Committee, <https://www.courts.ca.gov/cfac.htm>