



Superior Court of California County of Shasta

MELISSA FOWLER-BRADLEY
Court Executive Officer/Clerk of the Court

JOHN ZEIS
Assistant Executive Officer/Clerk of the Court

MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 27, 2012

TO: Court Facilities Working Group

FROM: Molly Bigelow, Presiding Judge
John Zeis, Asst. Court Executive Officer

RE: Requested Information on New Redding Courthouse
Shasta County

Thank you for the opportunity to provide an update on the New Redding Courthouse in Shasta County. This memo provides the requested information relative to the July 23, 2012 announcement of the proposed process.

Security

The new Redding courthouse will consolidate four separate facilities into one main courthouse. One of the facilities to be consolidated is the Juvenile Delinquency courthouse, which currently has no weapon screening. The three remaining facilities have security screening, but all of the buildings lack sufficient entrance space for placement of the equipment, resulting in lines of people extending outside the front doors as they wait to enter. Consolidation of multiple facilities into the new courthouse will result in substantial cost savings by collapsing three screening stations into one, and by providing weapon screening for juvenile matters where there currently is none.

The existing courthouse does not have separate circulation for travel inside the building. Judges, in-custody inmates, jurors and the public must use the same hallways inside the building. In addition, two elevators must service all users in the facility. It is not uncommon for a judge to get on an elevator with litigants that have just appeared in his/her courtroom. Likewise, there are no staff restrooms in the courthouse and it is not unusual for staff and judges to use the restroom along with angry litigants that have just

come from a courtroom. Four of the courtrooms in the main courthouse have one restroom for the judge and jurors to share. On short recesses, the judges usually resort to using the public restroom in the hallways because the restroom attached to the courtroom is being used by jurors. On some occasions, judges have had to use restroom facilities in holding cells because the public restrooms are small and cannot accommodate all of the court employees and users.

In-custody inmates are brought through public hallways in chains to get to the courtrooms in the oldest section of the building. In order to avoid exposure to trial jurors in the hallways, defendants are taken a lengthy route upstairs through a maze of back entrances into rooms leading to courtrooms, increasing risk to everyone.

All of the problems described above can be corrected utilizing modern design standards for proper circulation and space programming.

OVERCROWDING

The main courthouse was built in 1956 and an addition was added in 1963. The building was built as a shared use office building primarily for county services and two courtrooms were included. The population in Shasta County in 1960 was 59,468. Today the population of Shasta County is 177,823; far beyond what the building was designed to handle. Weapon screening statistics reflect an average of 32,491 users enter the main courthouse per month, or 389,892 per year.

Criminal arraignment courtrooms do not have adequate audience seating sufficient for the calendar size. Judges must routinely ask family members to wait outside during calendars because there is insufficient space for all of the defendants in the courtroom. Crowded narrow hallways outside the courtrooms are shared by jurors, defendants and attorneys. There are no space provisions for attorneys to have confidential conversations with their clients.

PHYSICAL CONDITION

The main courthouse has been deteriorating for decades. At the time of transfer, the building was in poor repair due in large part to the county's financial condition. Regular preventative maintenance was not performed and critical equipment was not addressed until it broke. Single pane windows and an aging HVAC system make conditions very uncomfortable during hot and cold weather. The chiller goes down with some frequency during the hot summer months, requiring judges to recess trials when courtroom temperatures reach 90 degrees. The front of the building is made up of single pane windows which are inadequate for the resulting noise pollution from Southern Pacific trains traveling through town less than two blocks from the building. Any outside noise (leaf blowers, trains, emergency vehicles) requires the courtrooms in the front of the building to pause trials until the noise stops. The windows also leak and have caused substantial damage to walls during the rainy season.

The building is home to asbestos in the ceilings and floors. Although some remediation work has been done, signs are posted in areas of the building where asbestos is still a hazard.

Water quality in the building is poor due to aging pipes. Leaks occur throughout the building with regularity. Sewer line repair is frequent.

The electrical panel is constantly put to the test, especially as employees use space heaters because the building is too cold during the winter.

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

The site acquired for the new courthouse is adjacent to the county jail and directly across the street from the existing building. Transportation for in-custody defendants is the same distance as that which is currently traveled. The new building will also be located across the street from the new County Administrative Building and is convenient to public transportation and justice partners.

COURT USAGE

Department 1	Hon. Daniel Flynn	Justice Center
Department 2	Hon. James Ruggiero	Justice Center
Department 3	Hon. Stephen H. Baker	Main Courthouse
Department 4	Hon. Monica Marlow	Main Courthouse
Department 5	Hon. Gary Gibson	Main Courthouse
Department 6	Comm. Jennifer Dollard	Main Courthouse
Department 7	Hon. Bradley L. Boeckman	Main Courthouse
Department 8	Hon. Cara L. Beatty	Main Courthouse
Department 9	Hon. William Gallagher	Main Courthouse
Department 10	Assigned Judge	Main Courthouse
Department 11	Hon. Molly Bigelow	Main Courthouse
Department 12	Hon. Greg Gaul	Modular Building
Juvenile Hall	Assigned Judge	Juvenile Hall
Room 102	Pro Tem Judges and Assigned Judges	Main Courthouse
Burney	Comm. Jennifer Dollard (part-time branch court)	Burney Branch Court

(see attached for population estimate)

TYPE OF COURTHOUSE

This SB 1407 project is for a main courthouse to replace three aging facilities and a modular building.

EXPECTED OPERATIONAL IMPACT

The court expects to save approximately \$772,000 per year by consolidating facilities and eliminating leases, as set forth below:

Elimination of 2 weapon screening stations:	\$650,000
Annual land lease on modular building:	10,000
Leased space for records storage:	112,000
TOTAL	\$772,000

All net cost increases will be absorbed by the court from the annual trial court funding budget and offset by the cost savings noted above.

QUALITATIVE STATEMENT OF NEED

Shasta Superior Court is a good example of a hardworking, underfunded court trapped in a substandard building. No frills exist in this court and none are expected in the SB 1407 building. Most of the current courtrooms are undersized, with one courtroom in the 600 square feet range. Other courtrooms are dangerously small in terms of the proximity of serious criminal defendants to the bench, clerk and jury. Moving in-custody defendants through narrow, public hallways is dangerous for everyone involved and it happens everyday.

The current courthouse is an ADA nightmare. The building sits on a slope and the public must enter from the front, which is too steep for wheelchair access. Employees park a block away in a county lot that was provided when the county displaced our parking lot to build a new County Administrative Center. Despite the City of Redding's efforts to visually emphasize the crosswalk across a busy street that must be crossed to get to the courthouse, people continue to be hit and killed crossing the street. This situation is exacerbated during the winter months when employees and jurors are leaving the building in the dark.

The original elevator was constructed with the building in 1955. A newer elevator was added in the 1990's. The older elevator is the only elevator that goes to the basement of the building. Because there is no ADA restroom on the first floor, handicapped individuals use the older elevator to access the ADA restroom in the basement. The elevator breaks down regularly, leaving people stranded until help arrives. Both elevators are small and insufficient to transport potential jurors from the ground floor to second and third floor where courtrooms are located. A few years ago, a juror took the stairs (because the elevators could not accommodate the number of people to be transported) and died upon reaching the third floor landing.

This court has a relatively high felony filing rate, resulting in a large trial workload for this bench. At times when no-time waiver trials clog the calendar, every trial department

is filled and on occasion an additional visiting judge is brought in to avoid a case being dismissed before time runs. The space constraints of the existing main courthouse provide little flexibility when all of the courtrooms are in session and more is needed. This past year a criminal non-jury trial was scheduled to be heard in the court's only conference room, which is about 400 square feet in size. Court statistics reflect that Shasta Superior Court is routinely in the top five courts for jury trials per judicial position equivalent every year.

COURTROOM AND COURTHOUSE CLOSURES

The court has provided notice pursuant to Government Code Section 68106 that office hours for clerk's offices are being reduced due to budget cuts and workload. The Court has not closed any courtrooms or courthouses.

The only courtroom not used five days per week is located in the Burney Branch Court. That facility is located 50 miles from Redding in the mountains. This courtroom has always operated part-time and is staffed by a bench officer from Redding that travels to Burney as needed.

"OUTSIDE THE BOX THINKING"

The court is amenable to reducing project scope and costs by leaving the current Juvenile Delinquency courtroom located at Juvenile Hall, which would also allow for the reduction of holding cells in the new building. High volume felony arraignment courtrooms could also remain in the existing Justice Center space in order to reduce project size.

Throughout the programming meetings with architects, the court agreed to shared jury rooms between courtrooms in order to reduce the number of jury rooms needed. Courtrooms that do not utilize jury boxes (hearing rooms, etc.) would be built without jury boxes and jury rooms would be eliminated from those spaces. The court also confirmed that video arraignment is encouraged as a means of reducing the number of holding cells needed and lowering transportation costs for in-custody defendants.

The court has also volunteered to be the northern region hub for other north state special court needs. A high security courtroom could be incorporated into the building and used for any other courts as the need arises for special trials. In addition, the court is open to making space available for the Court of Appeal, Third Appellate District to sit in special session in Shasta County. This approach to sharing resources is consistent with Shasta Superior Court's collaborative nature and willingness to assist other courts.

E-1: State/County Population Estimates with Annual Percent Change
January 1, 2011 and 2012

State/County	Total Population		Percent
	1/1/2011	1/1/2012	Change
California	37,427,946	37,678,563	0.7
Alameda	1,517,756	1,532,137	0.9
Alpine	1,128	1,097	-2.7
Amador	37,571	37,120	-1.2
Butte	220,465	221,273	0.4
Calaveras	45,092	44,840	-0.6
Colusa	21,552	21,690	0.6
Contra Costa	1,056,306	1,065,117	0.8
Del Norte	28,547	28,429	-0.4
El Dorado	180,483	180,712	0.1
Fresno	936,089	945,711	1.0
Glenn	28,105	28,122	0.1
Humboldt	134,585	134,587	0.0
Imperial	175,712	177,441	1.0
Inyo	18,489	18,461	-0.2
Kern	844,480	850,006	0.7
Kings	152,533	152,419	-0.1
Lake	64,383	63,266	-1.7
Lassen	34,895	34,167	-2.1
Los Angeles	9,847,712	9,884,632	0.4
Madera	151,658	152,074	0.3
Marin	253,040	254,790	0.7
Mariposa	17,942	17,716	-1.3
Mendocino	87,712	87,572	-0.2
Merced	257,098	258,736	0.6
Modoc	9,599	9,566	-0.3
Mono	14,348	14,391	0.3
Monterey	416,968	420,668	0.9
Napa	137,232	138,255	0.7
Nevada	97,944	97,182	-0.8
Orange	3,028,846	3,055,792	0.9
Placer	351,463	355,328	1.1
Plumas	19,901	19,718	-0.9
Riverside	2,205,731	2,227,577	1.0
Sacramento	1,427,961	1,435,153	0.5
San Benito	55,474	55,815	0.6
San Bernardino	2,046,619	2,063,919	0.8
San Diego	3,115,810	3,143,429	0.9

Department of Finance
Demographic Research Unit
Phone: (916) 323-4086

For more information: <http://www.dof.ca.gov/research/demographic/reports/estimates/e-5/2011-20/view.php>
Released on May 1, 2012

E-1: State/County Population Estimates with Annual Percent Change
January 1, 2011 and 2012

State/County	Total Population		Percent
	1/1/2011	1/1/2012	Change
San Francisco	808,768	812,538	0.5
San Joaquin	689,160	695,750	1.0
San Luis Obispo	270,305	271,483	0.4
San Mateo	722,372	729,443	1.0
Santa Barbara	424,732	427,267	0.6
Santa Clara	1,794,337	1,816,486	1.2
Santa Cruz	263,954	265,981	0.8
Shasta	177,516	177,823	0.2
Sierra	3,182	3,152	-0.9
Siskiyou	44,839	44,639	-0.4
Solano	413,391	413,786	0.1
Sonoma	485,082	487,011	0.4
Stanislaus	516,244	519,940	0.7
Sutter	94,620	95,065	0.5
Tehama	62,985	63,177	0.3
Trinity	13,738	13,722	-0.1
Tulare	445,183	450,840	1.3
Tuolumne	55,048	53,834	-2.2
Ventura	827,874	832,970	0.6
Yolo	201,071	202,133	0.5
Yuba	72,316	72,615	0.4

Department of Finance
Demographic Research Unit
Phone: (916) 323-4086

For more information: <http://www.dof.ca.gov/research/demographic/reports/estimates/e-5/2011-20/view.php>
Released on May 1, 2012