



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
OF THE COURTS
455 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, CA
94102-3688
Tel 415-865-4200
TDD 415-865-4272
Fax 415-865-4205
www.courtinfo.ca.gov

FACT SHEET

March 2009

Improving Trial Court Facilities: Yolo—New Woodland Courthouse

In October 2008 the Judicial Council adopted an updated Trial Court Capital Outlay Plan and a list of 41 projects to be funded by SB 1407. AOC staff has completed a funding request for 15 projects, 13 of which have initial funding included in the FY 2009-2010 Budget Act. Approval of these projects mark important progress toward implementing needed improvements for courts across California.

Funding for this project—the Yolo—New Woodland Courthouse—has been included in the FY 2009-2010 Budget Act.

New Woodland Courthouse

A new Woodland Courthouse is proposed by the AOC for initial funding of \$8.1 million for FY 2009-2010. The new facility will house 14 courtrooms. The estimated total cost for this courthouse of approximately 141,000 gross square feet is \$172.9 million (escalated to construction mid-point in fall 2011).

The proposed new courthouse will accomplish the following immediately needed improvements to the Superior Court and enhance its ability to serve the public:

- Consolidate six unsafe and overcrowded facilities in poor condition;
- Increase court operational efficiency and improve public service through consolidation of all adult and juvenile court operations in one location in the County of Woodland population center; and
- Expand court services by increasing the capacity for judicial proceedings from 13 to 14, including consolidating 13 existing courtrooms and providing for one additional courtroom for the new judgeship authorized in Assembly Bill 159.

This project is ranked in the Immediate Need Project Priority Group of the Trial Court Capital-Outlay Plan and is one of the highest priority capital-outlay projects for the judicial branch.

Lack of Security, Severe Overcrowding, Poor Physical Conditions, and Reduced Access to Court Services

The County of Yolo is served by six existing trial court locations. These court facilities are functionally deficient, overcrowded, and among the worst in the state in terms of security. The existing facilities will remain incapable of meeting the region's growing demand for court services. The overcrowding and lack of proper security at the existing facilities and the public's hindered access to court services are among the reasons why the proposed new Woodland Courthouse is urgently needed.



Prisoner Access from Holding to Courthouse via Public Street

Local Government and Organizations Collaborate on Project
The County of Yolo and the City of Woodland enthusiastically support the development of a new courthouse serving Yolo County.

Long-term Funding Needs

The enactment of SB 1407 was the major first step in funding 41 urgently needed courthouse improvement projects across the State of California. The Trial Court

Capital-Outlay Plan includes another 112 projects for which funding has not been secured. California judicial branch will continue to explore additional, alternative means to fund the state's sizable need for courthouse infrastructure improvements while it implements the 41 projects to be funded by SB 1407.

More Information

A project feasibility report for the New Woodland Courthouse, dated December 21, 2007, was prepared by AOC staff to document the poor functional and physical conditions of the existing court facilities in Yolo County, explore options for how best to meet the need for improved facilities, and estimate the cost to construct a new facility. This document can be downloaded from the following Web site:

http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/occm/documents/final_yolo_pfr_07_12_21_dof_update.pdf

For further information, please email the AOC-Office of Court Construction and Management at OCCM@jud.ca.gov.