

Public Defender

The Public Defender's mission is to provide competent legal counsel to indigent defendants in criminal cases, minors brought before the juvenile court, those alleged to be in need of restriction due to mental illness or a developmental disability, and other cases of people entitled to representation in the courts of Santa Barbara County.

In order to provide the highest level of customer service and maximize cooperative efforts with the County's law and justice agencies, the proposed construction and remodel is intended to improve accessibility for the public (particularly the disabled), increase employee safety and security, improve workflow, maximize use of space, and maintain the integrity of the historic Courthouse.

The Public Defender's most significant space need is in the Courthouse Annex in downtown Santa Barbara. A draft of the 2005 Space Utilization Report-South County noted that the Santa Barbara office's immediate need is for an additional 7,597 square feet with a projected space deficit of another 7,037 square feet in 2010, totaling 14,634 square feet. The office was fortunate to receive 2,752 square feet previously occupied by General Services on the first and second floors. The space requires remodeling to utilize as the walls have holes in them, loose wires line the walls and there are remains of partially broken down workstations. Renovation of the new as well as existing work space will enable the Department to expand the number of offices through better space planning that takes advantage of wide under utilized corridors and addresses the more serious deficiencies in space and related fire safety problems associated with blocked hallways.

The process of identifying space needs includes participation from the County Administrative Office, General Services, the Superior Court, Housing and Community Development, and Public Defender Executive and Management staff. There is nineteen feet of space between the fourth floor ceiling and the roof in the Annex attic. A fifth level can be added in the attic to the building, increasing capacity by 2,200 square feet. The project is similar to construction done decades ago to create a portion of the existing second level. Moving the Grand Jury to the new fifth level will satisfy their long range plan, providing them with an additional 700 square feet of space, improved workspaces, and a private bathroom. It will improve their security, as the elevator will be programmed to only allow those with a key to exit on that level. It will also improve security for the Public Defender as single occupant of levels one through four in the Courthouse Annex. Currently there is access to

all levels by the public, putting employees at personal risk. As single occupant, reception will be moved from the third to the first floor. The remainder of the building will be restricted. This will alleviate the space deficit identified five years ago (as outlined by the County's January 2000 Space Utilization Report) by 5,652 square feet.

Installation of an elevator is key to improving safety by providing an alternative to Attorneys, Investigators and support staff for transporting large case files (seventy pounds or more) daily, requiring the use of carts up and down multiple flights of stairs to and from court. At this time, handicapped clients can access the first floor of the building only. To get to the existing elevator, they must climb two sets of stairs and there is no accessible restroom. The elevator and remodel will correct these shortcomings. Construction of the elevator will be based in the area currently occupied by Housing and Community Development. This project includes the relocation costs for Housing and Community Development.

Not included in this project, but for future consideration, the Department is further interested in installing an air system for the health and safety employees and clients. Multiple offices will be constructed internally, lacking a source for fresh air in exchange for maximizing the use of space. An air system will provide the needed air exchanges, heat and cooling to promote a healthy and efficient work environment.

For more information about services provided by the Public Defender, visit our website at www.publicdefendersb.org

Santa Barbara Courthouse Annex Remodel

Function: Law & Justice

Department: Public Defender

StartDate: 9/14/2005

EndDate: 10/1/2010

This project is managed by General Services.

Description

This project remodels 16,000 square feet of an existing building. In addition, an elevator will be installed and all four levels will be reconfigured to enhance workflow efficiency, increase ease of access for the public, maximize customer service, and improve safety in the workplace. A study was conducted to determine options that were the most practical for the County, best suited for the Public Defender's needs and most cost efficient for the County. This study concluded that the Public Defender was the best fit in the Courthouse, meeting the Public Defender and County's needs.

This project will increase public accessibility while ensuring greater safety and security for employees. Installation of an elevator is key to improving safety by providing an alternative for transporting carts of large case files (70lbs+) up and down multiple flights of stairs.

The budget includes preliminary fees (\$20,000), design fees (\$418,000), construction fees (\$4,402,000) and equipment, furniture and Arts Commission (\$1,160,000). At this time \$4,393,000 is pending funding through debt financing recommended by the Debt Advisory Committee and approved by the Board of Supervisors in FY 2006-07.



Estimated Project Costs

Construction Costs		Annual O & M Costs	
Preliminary	20	Utilities	43
Design	418	Maintenance	69
Acquisition	0	Personnel	0
Construction	4,402	Other	0
Other	1,160		
Total Cost	6,000	Total Cost	112

Status

Currently, \$1,177,000 has been allocated. The project has been funded with Certificates of Participation using the General Fund as the repayment source.

Net Impact on Operating Budget

Annual operating costs will increase utility costs by approximately \$6,000, maintenance costs by \$9,000 and \$1,000 in data jack installation (one time cost).

Source of Funds	Fund	Prior Year(s) Expense	Est Act 2007-08	Proposed 2008-09			Projected Requirements					Five Year Total	Future Years	Project Total	
				Carry Forward	New Funding	Year 1 Total	Year 2 2009-10	Year 3 2010-11	Year 4 2011-12	Year 5 2012-13					
Criminal Justice Facilities Construction F	0070		60												60
General Fund	0001				3,000	3,000	1,393					4,393			4,393
General Fund Capital Designation	0001	149	400	398	600	998						998			1,547
Totals		149	460	398	3,600	3,998	1,393					5,391			6,000

Operating & Maintenance Costs for Fund 0001	60	Year 1 Impact:	15	75	75	84	112	112	458
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Major Improvement to Building Facilities - Fully Funded