

# Court Special Services

Santa Barbara County Court Special Services supports efforts of the Santa Barbara Superior Court, whose mission is to resolve disputes arising under the law in a fair, accessible, effective, timely and efficient manner, and interpret and apply the law consistently, impartially, and independently to protect the rights and liberties guaranteed by the Constitution of California and the United States.

Eight court divisions (Anacapa Division, Figueroa Division, and Santa Barbara Juvenile Division located in South County and Cook Division, Miller Division, Lompoc Division, Solvang Division, and Santa Maria Juvenile Division located in North County) provide reasonable public access to judicial services.

The mission is furthered by the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) aimed to provide accessible facilities and efficient, effective, and safe service to the public. The CIP accommodates workflow changes resulting from the unification of the judicial function of the Superior and Municipal Courts, in August 1998.

Since the unification, Municipal Court judges have become Superior Court judges, case assignment distinctions have been modified, and new assignments have been based on case type without regard to previous jurisdiction. The Figueroa Expansion and Remodel accommodated the change in assignments and resulting workflow processes.

To coincide with the unification, former Municipal and Superior Court clerks need to be reorganized, and possibly relocated, to provide unified, effective, and efficient access and safety to the public, attorneys, court employees and security personnel. The Santa Maria Unified Superior Court Clerk's Offices project will accomplish this goal.

The entire County has experienced growth in juvenile cases. Because juvenile cases must be handled separately and in confidentiality from adult criminal cases, juvenile courts are located in separate facilities away from the central courts of Santa Maria and Santa Barbara. The Santa Maria Juvenile Court Complex Expansion and Remodel project, which provided a total service complex for juvenile cases, including Public Defender and District Attorney offices, has been constructed in conjunction with the Probation Department's North County Juvenile Hall.

Legislation effective January 1, 1998 (AB 233) transferred financial responsibility for "court operations" to the State. Counties continue to be

responsible for providing necessary and suitable facilities for judicial and support staff. AB 233 established the Task Force on Court Facilities whose mission was to review existing and future Trial Court facility needs and to establish options for expansion, maintenance and improvement of those facilities.

Based on findings of this Task Force, SB 1732 was enacted, effective January 1, 2003, delineating parameters for the transfer of responsibility from the counties to the State for court facilities and providing mechanisms for funding the construction and/or repair of court facilities. Several provisions of SB 1732 of particular interest: (1) the transfer of responsibility shall occur between July 1, 2004 and December 31, 2009 after the Judicial Council consults with the court and the county; (2) if a building is used only for court functions, title will be transferred to the State; (3) if a building is used for court and county functions, title may or may not transfer to the State; (4) if a building is deemed to be an historical building, title may be retained by the county; (5) if a building is subject to a bonded indebtedness, the county shall retain the revenue sources used to pay the bonded indebtedness and the county will continue to make payments until the indebtedness is retired.

SB 1732 affects Courthouse Construction Fund revenues by prohibiting their transfer to the State if the revenues are being utilized to fund debt on court facilities. In addition, any future appropriations must be approved by the State.

SB 10 was enacted effective January 1, 2007, clarifying seismic related issues that had impeded building transfers from the County to the State.

In 2001, the Task Force on Court Facilities issued the Santa Barbara County Plan as part of the task force's statewide study of court facilities in California. The development of a court master plan for the Superior Court of Santa Barbara County was part of the follow up effort by the California Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) to provide specific master plan direction for each county in the court system. The Final Master Plan was developed by Jacobs Facilities, Inc. under contract with the Administrative Office of the Courts and was released on September 25, 2003.

For information about Court operations please visit [www.sbcourts.org](http://www.sbcourts.org)

**Unified Superior Court Clerk's Office Santa Maria**

**Function:** Law & Justice

**Department:** Court Special Services

**StartDate:** 7/1/1999

**EndDate:** 12/31/2015

**This project is managed by General Services.**

**Description**

This project constructs an 18,600 sf facility, between Cook and Miller Streets in Santa Maria. This new facility will be occupied by all the Court clerks. This project will help alleviate the space deficit as outlined by the County's August 2000 North County Space Utilization Report and the Court Master Facilities Plan, developed by Jacobs Facilities, Inc., approved by the Judicial Council in February 2004. Clerks currently work in modulares, located on top of the construction footprint, as well as in the Superior Court Clerk's Office (Building C) located at the same site. The modulares, having a design life of 5 years, have been utilized for over 20 years and are in a state of major deterioration, presenting health and safety issues. In addition, the limited record storage space is subject to flooding. Once the new facility is built, 3,000 sf of clerk space in Building C will be vacated and available. New temporary modulares are assembled at the site to house clerks during relocation.



In 2003, the Board reallocated Courthouse Construction Fund COP proceeds for this project and the Garden St. Jury Parking expansion to address Court facilities seismic deficiencies. This was a redirection of funds prior to negotiations over the transfer of ownership from the County to the State of various court buildings. COP funds totaling \$4.65 million will be dedicated to this project subject to the approval of the Administrative Office of the Courts, and the Court will contribute \$2 million of local revenue.

**Status**

Negotiations are underway with the State of California on this project to transfer management and funding to the Administrative Office of the Courts.

**Net Impact on Operating Budget**

Estimated ongoing operating and maintenance costs are estimated at \$60,000 per year after completion funded through the State of California. It is anticipated other affected departments' operating budgets will absorb incurred relocation costs.

**Estimated Project Costs**

<b>Construction Costs</b>		<b>Annual O &amp; M Costs</b>	
Preliminary	0	Utilities	0
Design	0	Maintenance	0
Acquisition	0	Personnel	0
Construction	6,361	Other	0
Other	289		
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>6,650</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>0</b>

Source of Funds	Fund	Prior Year(s) Expense	Est Act 2008-09	Proposed 2009-10			Projected Requirements					Five Year Total	Future Years	Project Total
				Carry Forward	New Funding	Year 1 Total	Year 2 2010-11	Year 3 2011-12	Year 4 2012-13	Year 5 2013-14				
Court Ops - Non TCTF	5901												2,000	2,000
Courthouse Construction Fund	0071												4,650	4,650
<b>Totals</b>													6,650	6,650

<b>Operating &amp; Maintenance Costs for Fund 5900</b>		Year 1 Impact:							
--	--	----------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--