

# COUNTY OF EL DORADO

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SUZANNE ALLEN DE SANCHEZ  
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June 8, 2010

Judicial Council of California  
Administrative Office of the Courts  
Office of Court construction and Management  
Attn: Burt Hirschfeld, Assistant Division Director  
455 Golden Gate Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94102-3688

Dear Mr. Hirschfeld:

The Board of Supervisors of the County of El Dorado believes that the correct location of the future main court facility for the County should be in the County Seat (City of Placerville) and adjacent to the existing main County jail. The proposed location is part of the "County Government Center" and is easily locatable and identified by residents and visitors. It is therefore, the location where people would expect to find the main court facilities.

The Criminal Justice portion of the Government Center, which is South of Highway 50, has been owned by the County since 1961 and the Main Campus, North of Highway 50 has been owned by the County since 1973; the first buildings were built in 1975. The Government Center has been before the City of Placerville and is approved as compliant with their land use requirements.

The placement of a Court Facility next to the main jail was part of the plan when the jail was constructed about 1990 with a tunnel built to move prisoners between the Jail and the Court. Moving prisoners through the tunnel keeps the general public from being exposed to escapees and is much less expensive than vehicular transportation.

This location was again seriously considered in 1999-2000. In fact, it is our understanding that the architect that created all of the plans at that time is already working on the project for the AOC and this will also save money and time.

As a part of the consideration of our highway system the Court location on this site weighed heavily on the consideration of freeway improvements in the area. To accommodate the traffic which would ultimately flow to and from such a facility, the expansion of the Ray Lawyer Drive overcrossing to a full interchange is an element of the "Western Placerville Interchanges" improvement project. That project will be located from Placerville Drive Overcrossing to the recently completed project through Placerville. It is designed to create a complete interchange at Ray Lawyer Drive on Highway 50.

The offer made by the County to the Administrative Office of the Courts seems to be without compare from a real estate transaction standpoint and the location is already a portion of the current land use planning for the area and, most importantly, an expectation of the public as an element of their County Government Center.

Please, accept the County offer and let's get construction going while prices are reasonable and people need work.

Sincerely,

Norma Santiago, Chair  
Board of Supervisors  
County of El Dorado

Cc: Rob Uvalle Manager, Design and Construction (AOC)