

COUNTY OF EL DORADO

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December 18, 2012

Justice Brad Hill
Chair, Court Facilities Working Group
Fifth District Court of Appeal
2424 Ventura Street
Fresno, CA 92721

Re: New Placerville Courthouse

Dear Justice Hill,

The County of El Dorado Board of Supervisors urges you and the members of the Facilities Working Group to continue recognizing the needs for a new Courthouse in the County of El Dorado. In our letter to you dated August 28, 2012, we outline several reasons why the Judicial Council should proceed with the purchase and closing of escrow for the planned Placerville area courthouse. These compelling reasons are reaffirmed as follows:


- 1) Except for completing the environmental documents, staff time and escrow costs, there is no cost to the State of California as we are trading the value in Building "C" for the value in the new court site.
- 2) In addition to relatively no cost for the subject site, the County of El Dorado will deposit into an escrow account \$1,500,000 for the cost associated with the driveway and road improvements for the Forni Road extension.
- 3) The funds set aside for site acquisition can now be removed from the Placerville Courthouse and reallocated to another courthouse (\$2,705,000).
- 4) The AOC finds the site acceptable with utilities adjacent to the proposed courthouse.
- 5) This site is adjacent to El Dorado County's jail and will help lower cost and improve safety issues with prisoner transportation.
- 6) This particular property and associated property exchange, along with the County's \$1,500,000 contribution, might not be available in the future, thus driving up the total cost of the New Placerville Courthouse.

In addition to these points, the County has continued its efforts to ensure the property acquisition with the Board of Supervisors approving an agenda item on December 18, 2012 which provides a property transfer with an adjacent property owner. This transaction will provide the AOC with their preferred piece of property, in the preferred location and move the County and AOC one step further in the process of site acquisition. The County remains committed to the success of this project.

From the inception of this project the County's intent has been to provide the Courts with a Courthouse location that will meet the needs of the Courts, the Community, and the County. The property currently under review by the Facilities Working Group meets all of the needs stated above. The County continues to work with the City of Placerville, the El Dorado County Transportation Commission and other agencies to compete for funding that will improve roads and infrastructure that will be of benefit to the future Courthouse at this location. Again, the County remains committed to success of this project.

In closing, we ask that you continue to view this project as a priority and carefully consider all of the facts presented as you make your decisions at your meeting on January 17, 2013. The County of El Dorado will stand ready to assist the AOC towards site acquisition once the notice to proceed is given. If we can be of any further assistance or provide additional information, please advise.

Respectfully,
County of El Dorado



John R. Knight, Chair
Board of Supervisors
County of El Dorado

Cc: Honorable Suzanne N. Kingsbury
Members of the Court Facilities Working Group