



Superior Court of California, County of Glenn

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California's Courthouse Construction Program Faces Delays Due to Funding Issues

Willows Courthouse project in Glenn County is one of the construction projects affected

On August 11th the Court Facilities Advisory Committee (CFAC) voted to recommend to the Judicial Council that 23 current judicial branch projects continue and/or finish their current phase and then hold due to inadequate funds. The Judicial Council recently approved those recommendations at its public meeting on August 26th.

Projects were grouped into four broad categories that determine how far an individual project can proceed until adequate funding has been restored for the statewide courthouse construction program. Those categories are, "Currently Under Construction", "Acquisitions", "Ongoing Design Work", and "2016/17 Construction Awards."

The project for Glenn Superior Court, the Willows Historic Courthouse Renovation and Expansion project was grouped into the category labeled, "2016/17 Construction Awards" which allows the project to keep moving forward to obtain all of the necessary final approvals and then hold. A link to the full list of project groupings can be found at: <http://newsroom.courts.ca.gov/news/facilities-committee-seeks-to-preserve-safe-and-secure-courthouse-projects>

"Approximately \$1.4 billion was redirected, borrowed, shifted, and transferred from the Immediate and Critical Needs Account, and \$110 million of the \$250 million annual funds in the construction account—almost 45 percent—has been permanently redirected to other purposes that were never part of the original plan to replace the most immediate and critical courthouses," according to Presiding Justice Brad Hill, Chair of CFAC. "We are trying to replace facilities that have severe security, seismic, ADA, space and other deficiencies. This is a matter of providing the public and all court users with safe and secure courthouses to access justice. Tens of thousands of Californians visit our courthouses on a daily basis—they deserve nothing less."

Construction fund redirections during the state's fiscal crisis and a decline in funds from reduced filings and fine and fee revenue have dramatically cut the funds available for the bonds needed to replace unsafe and substandard facilities and build court facilities that serve the needs of all court users. The Judicial Council's next steps will involve funding advocacy efforts on behalf of the judicial branch and local courts and justice system partners with the Legislature.

The Glenn Superior Court is supportive of the Judicial Council's advocacy efforts to replenish funding and remains optimistic that the Willows Historic Courthouse Renovation and Expansion project will be completed. Unfortunately, the timeline of this completion is now uncertain.

For additional information, please visit the Newsroom section of the Judicial Council's website at:
<http://newsroom.courts.ca.gov/news/status-of-california-s-courthouse-construction-projects>