

Chambers of  
**ARTHUR A. GARCIA**  
Judge



312 E. Cook St.  
Santa Maria, CA 93454  
Phone (805) 614-6515

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA  
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA**

April 30, 2010

Janet Wolf, Chairperson  
Board of Supervisors  
County of Santa Barbara  
105 E. Anapamu Street  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

**Re: New Santa Barbara Criminal Courts Building; Project Advisory Group**

Dear Janet:

You may have read recent news reports (please see attached), that the California Judicial Council has authorized \$152 million to construct a new criminal courts building in Santa Barbara. This building would include several criminal courtrooms with secure corridors for separate movement of in-custody defendants as well as a new holding facility in the basement, among other improvements. This critically needed project will be the largest local capital project in the history of Santa Barbara and will be an economic stimulus to our community.

An integral and requisite component of this critically needed project is the formation of a Project Advisory Group (PAG) appointed by the Superior Court Presiding Judge. The Superior Court intends to locate this new building in close proximity to the historic courthouse which is within the First Supervisorial District. The project will also likely include the renovation of the existing court building at 118 East Figueroa Street.

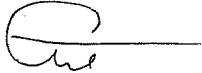
The court desires to appoint First District Supervisor, Salud Carbajal, to the PAG. However, as a matter of courtesy, we wish to obtain your concurrence before appointing him to this important advisory position. Since meetings of the PAG are beginning to be scheduled, it would be helpful if you can respond to me at your earliest convenience.

RECEIVED  
APR 30 2010  
2ND DISTRICT OFFICE

Letter to Supervisor Janet Wolf re: PAG  
April 30, 2010  
Page Two

Thank you very much for your assistance in this matter.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'A' followed by a horizontal line and a small flourish.

Arthur A. Garcia  
Presiding Judge

Attachment

Cc: Mr. Salud Carbajal, First District Supervisor

## New Santa Barbara courthouse wins funding: Money for \$152 million Figueroa Street facility derived from court fees

SCOTT STEEPLETON, NEWS-PRESS CITY EDITOR

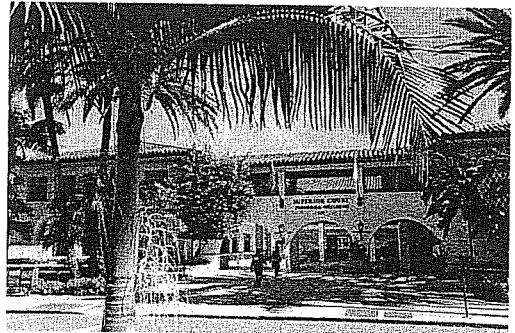
March 16, 2010 7:45 AM

The state Public Works Board on Monday announced funding to replace the outdated Figueroa Street annex of the Santa Barbara County Courthouse with a \$152 million criminal courts building.

Officials say the project is expected to be completed in fall 2015.

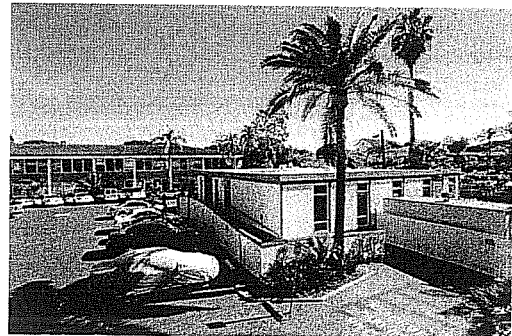
"Our present situation is deplorable and requires that in-custody defendants be moved daily through public areas in order to access the courtrooms where their cases are being heard," Arthur Garcia, presiding judge of the Superior Court of Santa Barbara County, said in the funding announcement. "The construction of this new building will correct that severe deficiency while enabling us to operate more effectively. Our court is deeply appreciative of Chief Justice Ronald George and the Judicial Council for providing the means to once and for all address this long-standing problem."

The feasibility study to replace the "overcrowded, physically deficient" Figueroa Street courthouse states the new building would consolidate eight unsecure courtrooms from the Anacapa Courthouse (the historic main court building) and the Figueroa building in a "modern, secure courthouse for criminal and traffic court functions" and consolidate court operations from three facilities.



A new Figueroa Annex courthouse would feature secure areas for moving defendants in custody between holding facilities and courtrooms.

THOMAS KELSEY/NEWS-PRESS



An announcement Monday marked the official start on construction of a new Figueroa Annex courthouse that would consolidate the operations of 3 current facilities.

Jury services would be moved from the newer Jury Services building on Santa Barbara Street to the courthouse, and the new courthouse would feature "appropriately sized courtrooms and chambers, jury deliberation rooms, an adequately-sized self-help center, a children's waiting room, adequately sized in-custody holding, attorney/client waiting rooms, security screening of all court users, and ADA accessibility."

Monday's announcement marks the official start of the construction project, which will be managed by the state Administrative Office of the Courts and the Superior Court of Santa Barbara County.

For the first time, officials said, the main criminal courts building in Santa Barbara would feature secure corridors for moving people in custody to and from courtrooms. A new holding facility for defendants moved to court from County Jail is also part of the project.

This means sheriff's deputies would no longer have to walk in-custody defendants across Figueroa Street and through public hallways and elevators to their assigned courtrooms.

Funds for the new courthouse come from Senate Bill 1407, which provides up to \$5 billion from court user fees for critically needed new and renovated court facilities. This funding source means the projects don't tap California's general fund.

California's Judicial Council ranked the Santa Barbara project as an "immediate need" in its capital-outlay plan.

"Strengthening the physical foundation of our judicial system is more than a metaphor," Chief Justice George said in the funding announcement.

"Courthouses are as vital a part of California's infrastructure as bridges, highways, and water systems. It is time to adequately fund this fundamental component of the infrastructure of our democracy. Public safety and the interests of 38 million Californians require it."

e-mail: [ssstepleton@newspress.com](mailto:ssstepleton@newspress.com)