



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-2240

**Department Name:** General Services  
**Department No.:** 063  
**For Agenda Of:** June 23, 2015  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimated Time:**  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:**  
**Vote Required:** 4/5

---

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** General Services Matthew P. Pontes, Director, 560-1011  
Contact Info: Greg Chanis, Assistant Director, 568-3096

**SUBJECT:** Acceptance of Donation for Santa Barbara Courthouse Mural Room Restoration and Approval of Updated Memorandum of Understanding; First District

---

**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Other Concurrence: Risk Management**

As to form: Yes

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a.) Accept the completed Santa Barbara Courthouse Mural Room Restoration valued at \$535,000, of which \$455,000 was donated from the Santa Barbara Courthouse Legacy Foundation;
- b.) Approve and authorize the Chair to execute the attached Memorandum of Understanding between the County of Santa Barbara and the Santa Barbara Courthouse Legacy Foundation;
- c.) Approve the attached Budget Revision Request (BRR# 0003959) to establish appropriation of \$455,000 in the General Services Capital Outlay Fund for Capital Assets; and
- d.) Determine that the proposed actions are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) guidelines, pursuant to Section 15301, finding that they consist of existing public structures or facilities involving negligible or no expansion of existing use, and approve and direct staff to file and post a Notice of Exemption on that basis.

**Summary Text:**

The County of Santa Barbara and the Santa Barbara Courthouse Legacy Foundation have a long-standing relationship regarding the goal of preserving and restoring the Santa Barbara County Courthouse, guided by a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) approved by your Board on April 18, 2006. Attached is an updated MOU for your Board's approval. Thanks to the fundraising efforts of the

Foundation, the most recent project is the successful completion of the Santa Barbara Courthouse Mural Room Restoration. This five month project, valued at \$535,000, restored the magnificent 4,100 square foot mural and updated the lighting in the Mural Room. Your Board is being asked to accept the donation, valued at \$535,000.

**Background:**

The Santa Barbara Courthouse Legacy Foundation was founded in 2004 as a 501(c)(3) non-profit public benefit corporation to fund the conservation, preservation and restoration of projects for the Santa Barbara County Courthouse, designated a National Historic Landmark in 2005. The County maintains the Courthouse but does not have the necessary funds or resources to complete historic preservation or artistic conservation. The Foundation ensures all conservation, restoration and preservation projects meet federally mandated standards as a National Historic Landmark. The Foundation has been extremely successful in their fundraising efforts from private donors and foundations. These funds have been used to enhance the beauty of the Courthouse through many projects. The Foundation and the County have worked cooperatively on these projects, guided by a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) approved by your Board on April 18, 2006 which needs to be updated.

The most recent project is the restoration of the Santa Barbara Courthouse Mural Room. The Mural Room was designed in 1929 for the Board of Supervisors as its assembly room and it was used for more than 30 years. John B. Smeraldi was the artist responsible for the ceiling and Dan Sayre Groesbeck was the muralist responsible for the wall murals. Following an electrical fire in 2010, the murals needed to be cleaned due to smoke damage. It was during the cleaning that the extent of deterioration of the canvas, paint, and plaster was discovered. In addition to the ceiling and mural renovation, lighting has been restored and renovated.

Additional projects that were made possible through the generosity of the Foundation include:

- The **Main Archway Ceiling Project**, in conjunction with the Pearl Chase Society, restored the main archway ceiling to its original condition. The four month project involved documenting existing conditions and then repainting the archway to restore the lost images that were damaged due to time and weather. The project was completed in 2009 at a cost of \$77,700.
- The **Spirit of the Ocean Fountain Project** restored the fountain after years of rain, environmental toxins, and exposure had taken their toll on the delicate sandstone. Previous restoration attempts had resulted in a badly deformed carving. A project team of fifteen professionals hand carved local sandstone, aided by modern and computer assisted techniques. The result was an outstanding replication of this beloved and historic fountain. The project was completed in 2011 at a cost of \$731,000, of which \$175,000 was contributed by the County.
- The Santa Barbara **Courthouse Clock Room Improvements** included restoring the Seth Thomas Tower Clock with original parts and creating a special glass-enclosed viewing gallery. After two years of dedicated effort, the project was completed in 2012 at a cost of \$210,000.
- A comprehensive **Historic Structures Report** was funded by the Foundation to identify future restoration and preservation projects at the Courthouse. The report was completed in 2012 at a cost of \$80,000.

The practice within General Services has been to request the Board of Supervisors to accept restoration and conservation projects as donations upon completion of the projects. In the future, these projects will

come before the BOS for approval prior to any work being started. MOUs with non-profit organizations that provide these donations are being reviewed and updated as needed to conform to the Acceptance of Donations and Gift County Policy and Procedure dated 3/10/2015.

**Performance Measure:** N/A

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted: No

**Fiscal Analysis:**

<b><u>Funding Sources</u></b>	<b><u>Current FY Cost:</u></b>	<b><u>Annualized On-going Cost:</u></b>	<b><u>Total One-Time Project Cost</u></b>
General Fund			\$ 80,000.00
State			
Federal			
Fees			
Other:			\$ 455,000.00
<b>Total</b>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 535,000.00

**Narrative:**

This project has no impact on the operating budget of General Services. Your Board approved \$40,000 in FY 13-14 and an additional \$40,000 in FY 14-15 for the Mural Room Restoration. The remainder of the funding was provided through the Santa Barbara Courthouse Legacy Foundation for a total project cost of \$535,000.

**Key Contract Risks:** N/A

**Staffing Impacts:** N/A

**Special Instructions:**

Please send a copy of the minute order and duplicate original MOU to Robert Ooley, FAIA County Architect, GS Support Services Division, Courthouse East Wing.

**Attachments:**

1. Memorandum of Understanding
2. Budget Revision Request
3. CEQA Notice of Exemption

**Authored by:**

Anne Fearon, General Services