



## JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

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# REPORT TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Item No.: 20-070

For business meeting on March 24, 2020

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**Title**

Judicial Branch Budget: Fiscal Year 2020–21  
Capital-Outlay Budget Change Proposals

**Agenda Item Type**

Action Required

**Effective Date**

January 17, 2020

**Rules, Forms, Standards, or Statutes Affected**

None

**Date of Report**

March 5, 2020

**Recommended by**

Judicial Branch Budget Committee  
Hon. David M. Rubin, Chair

**Contact**

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### Executive Summary

To continue responsible reinvestment in the judicial branch allowing for greater access to justice for California’s citizens, the Judicial Branch Budget Committee unanimously recommends that the Judicial Council approve the fiscal year 2020–21 capital-outlay budget change proposals to be submitted to the Department of Finance for inclusion in the updated Governor’s Budget.

### Recommendation

The Judicial Branch Budget Committee recommends that the Judicial Council, effective March 24, 2020, approve the fiscal year 2020–21 capital-outlay budget change proposals (not in priority order) to be submitted to the Department of Finance:

1. Los Angeles: Los Angeles Master Plan—\$2.0 million
2. Lake: New Lakeport Courthouse—\$51.2 million
3. Mendocino: New Ukiah Courthouse—\$3.6 million
4. Nevada: New Nevada City Courthouse—\$0.4 million
5. Butte: Butte County Juvenile Hall Addition and Renovation—\$0.4 million
6. Monterey: New Fort Ord Courthouse—\$36.8 million

7. San Bernardino: San Bernardino Juvenile Dependency Courthouse Addition and Renovation—\$6.0 million
8. Solano: New Solano Hall of Justice (Fairfield)—\$18.0 million
9. Fresno: New Fresno Courthouse—\$12.4 million
10. Kern: New Ridgecrest Courthouse—\$5.8 million
11. Plumas: New Quincy Courthouse—\$6.4 million
12. Stanislaus: New Modesto Courthouse—\$11.1 million
13. Los Angeles: New Santa Clarita Courthouse—\$41.6 million

A complete description of these capital-outlay budget change proposals is provided in the Analysis/Rationale below.

### **Relevant Previous Council Action**

Under California Rules of Court, rule 10.101(b)(3), the Judicial Council must “[d]evelop the budget of the judicial branch based on the priorities established and the needs of the courts.” To that end, the council submits budget change proposals on behalf of the Supreme Court, Courts of Appeal, superior courts, Habeas Corpus Resource Center, Judicial Branch Facilities Program, and Judicial Council to the Department of Finance. The recommendations in this report are consistent with the council’s past practice under this authority.

In July 2016, the Judicial Council established the Judicial Branch Budget Committee (JBBC) to assist the council in exercising its duties under rule 10.101 with respect to the judicial branch budget. The council assigned the committee the responsibility of reviewing budget change proposals for the judicial branch, coordinating these budget change proposals, and ensuring that they are submitted to the council in a timely manner.

In July 2019, the Judicial Council approved a total of 14 fiscal year (FY) 2020–21 budget change proposals for submission to the Department of Finance on September 3, 2019. The capital-outlay budget change proposals listed above are in addition to the budget change proposals that were submitted to the Department of Finance in September 2019.

### **Analysis/Rationale**

This recommendation is consistent with the purpose of the JBBC to assist the Judicial Council in exercising its duties under rule 10.101 with respect to the judicial branch budget. The review and recommendation of budget change proposals for the judicial branch is one of the primary responsibilities of the JBBC.

Following are descriptions of each request listed above:

1. ***Los Angeles: Los Angeles Master Plan.*** Proposes \$2.0 million General Fund (cash or debt financed) for the study phase in FY 2020–21. The proposed study would analyze and develop a plan for improving and modernizing Los Angeles County court facilities, focusing on the Stanley Mosk Courthouse and Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center. The study will

define and validate the project scopes, sequencing, and budget information for the Mosk and Foltz projects. Part of the study would assess which outlying proposed projects need to be constructed first so that the Mosk and Foltz projects can proceed.

2. **Lake: New Lakeport Courthouse.** Proposes \$51.2 million General Fund (cash or debt financed) for the design-build phase in FY 2020–21. The project will provide construction of a new four-courtroom courthouse of approximately 45,300 building gross square feet (BGSF) in the city of Lakeport. The estimated total project cost is \$51.2 million. The project will be located on a Judicial Council–owned site. The project will increase security and expand the capacity for in-custody proceedings by replacing the existing inadequate and obsolete Lakeport Courthouse. The project will also consolidate active records storage from the leased Gateway Business Park, and provide jury assembly, child waiting rooms, and attorney-client meeting rooms that are currently lacking in the existing facility.
3. **Mendocino: New Ukiah Courthouse.** Proposes \$3.584 million General Fund (cash or debt financed) for the Performance Criteria phase in FY 2020–21. The project will provide construction of a new seven-courtroom courthouse of approximately 81,200 BGSF in the city of Ukiah. The estimated total project cost is \$89.6 million. The project will be located on a Judicial Council–owned site in Ukiah, which is the Mendocino County seat. The project will replace an existing aging building owned by the county that has no secure in-custody access or circulation, and two entire floors without elevators or ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) accessibility
4. **Nevada: New Nevada City Courthouse.** Proposes \$400,000 General Fund (cash or debt financed) for the study phase in FY 2020–21. The project will provide construction of a new six-courtroom courthouse of approximately 80,950 BGSF in Nevada City. The estimated total project cost is \$91.8 million. The project will require acquisition of a site of approximately 3.1 acres. The project will replace the 80-year-old, county-owned Nevada City Courthouse and Annex. This new facility would include six courtrooms, including an arraignment courtroom, one large courtroom, and four multipurpose courtrooms for all criminal, civil, juvenile, family law, and probate cases. The goal of this project is to provide the Superior Court of Nevada County with a facility that meets current courthouse and safety standards.
5. **Butte: Butte County Juvenile Hall Addition and Renovation.** Proposes \$400,000 General Fund (cash or debt financed) for the acquisition, preliminary plans, and working drawings phases in FY 2020–21. The project will provide an addition of approximately 600 BGSF and the renovation of approximately 1,300 BGSF in the existing Butte County Juvenile Hall single-courtroom facility located in Oroville. The project entails adding to and renovating the existing space to improve security and the overall conditions of court space in the juvenile hall. The estimated total project cost is \$2.3 million. The project will require revisions to the joint occupancy/transfer agreement with the county to construct the project.

6. ***Monterey: New Fort Ord Courthouse.*** Proposes \$36.786 million General Fund (cash or debt financed) for the acquisition and performance criteria phases in FY 2020–21. The project will provide construction of a new seven-courtroom courthouse of approximately 83,000 BGSF at Fort Ord. The estimated total project cost is \$130.1 million. The project will require acquisition of a site of approximately 1.85 acres. The New Fort Ord Courthouse will allow the court to consolidate most family law and civil operations in one location and vacate three court facilities—the Monterey Courthouse, the Salinas Annex (Gabilan Street), and the juvenile detention facility.
7. ***San Bernardino: San Bernardino Juvenile Dependency Courthouse Addition and Renovation.*** Proposes \$5.975 million General Fund (cash or debt financed) for the acquisition and preliminary plans phases in FY 2020–21. The project provides for approximately an additional 4,500 BGSF for two courtrooms and a lobby expansion at the current Juvenile Dependency Courthouse in San Bernardino. This expansion would increase the total number of courtrooms in this facility to six. The estimated total project cost is \$8.8 million. The project will require revisions to the joint occupancy/transfer agreement with the county to construct the project. The goal of this project is to meet the critical need for additional courtrooms available to accommodate caseload, which is currently averaging around 800 cases per department. Additional support space to the courthouse is also needed to address overcrowding in the lobby and public service areas, and to separate incompatible populations who visit this courthouse. Courthouse expansion will allow the court to ensure case disposition for juvenile dependency cases, improve security screening, and address overcrowding in public areas.
8. ***Solano: New Solano Hall of Justice (Fairfield).*** Proposes \$18.007 million General Fund (cash or debt financed) for the acquisition and performance criteria phases in FY 2020–21. The project will provide construction of a new 12-courtroom courthouse of approximately 141,000 BGSF in the city of Fairfield (Solano County). The total estimated project cost is \$170.2 million. The project will require acquisition of a site of approximately 2.94 acres. The project will replace the existing Solano County Hall of Justice (HOJ) and entails constructing a new 12-courtroom main courthouse at or near the Fairfield court campus. The existing HOJ is a county-owned building with the court occupying about 60 percent of the space. The HOJ replacement would include one large and 11 multipurpose courtrooms serving criminal, civil, family law, juvenile, probate, and traffic case types.
9. ***Fresno: New Fresno Courthouse.*** Proposes \$12.4 million General Fund (cash or debt financed) for the acquisition phase in FY 2020–21. The project will provide construction of a new 36-courtroom courthouse of approximately 413,300 BGSF in the city of Fresno. The estimated total project cost is \$483.1 million. The project will require acquisition of a site of approximately 2.09 acres. The project would replace the Fresno County Courthouse (27 courtrooms and most of court administration), the court space in the North Annex Jail (2 courtrooms), the court space in the M Street Courthouse (5 courtrooms) and provide an additional two courtrooms.

10. ***Kern: New Ridgecrest Courthouse.*** Proposes \$5.815 million General Fund (cash or debt financed) for the acquisition and performance criteria phases in FY 2020–21. The project will provide construction of a new two-courtroom courthouse of approximately 33,500 BGSF in or near the city of Ridgecrest. The estimated total project cost is \$42.2 million. The project will require acquisition of a site of approximately 1.85 acres. The new two-courtroom facility will feature one multipurpose courtroom and one large courtroom suitable for jury assembly, arraignments, traffic court, high-profile cases, or class-action suits. Space will be provided in the facility for central holding, self-help, and family law facilitator services. The project will consolidate the Ridgecrest Justice Center Main and Division B Courtroom facilities.
11. ***Plumas: New Quincy Courthouse.*** Proposes \$6.38 million General Fund (cash or debt financed) for the acquisition and performance criteria phases in FY 2020–21. The project will provide construction of a new three-courtroom courthouse of approximately 53,600 BGSF in the city of Quincy in Plumas County. The project will require acquisition of a site of approximately 1.88 acres. The estimated total project cost is \$65.9 million. The New Quincy Courthouse would include one arraignment and two multipurpose courtrooms. A new, modern courthouse will allow the court to provide basic services not currently provided to county residents due to space limitations and address multiple code deficiencies
12. ***Stanislaus: New Modesto Courthouse.*** Proposes \$11.1 million General Fund (cash or debt financed) for the working drawings and construction phases in FY 2020–21. The project will provide construction of three unfinished courtrooms in the New Modesto Courthouse. The project will allow the court to consolidate all operations into the New Modesto Courthouse as well as provide courtroom space for a newly approved and funded judgeship. The total project cost is \$11.1 million.
13. ***Los Angeles: New Santa Clarita Courthouse.*** Proposes \$41.592 million General Fund (cash or debt financed) for the acquisition phase in FY 2020–21. This project will provide construction of a new 24-courtroom courthouse of approximately 278,000 BGSF in Santa Clarita. The estimated total project cost is \$345 million. The project will require acquisition of a site of approximately 4.53 acres. The project will replace three existing buildings and allow for relocation of dockets from another building. The project will consolidate court operations, relieve current space shortfall, improve security, and replace inadequate and obsolete facilities in the North Valley District of Los Angeles County. In addition, this project allows for relocation of 19 dockets of caseload from the Stanley Mosk Courthouse.

These capital-outlay budget change proposals will be executed as identified in the *Judicial Branch Five-Year Infrastructure Plan for Fiscal Year 2020–21*. In addition, the JBBC reviewed recommendations from the Court Facilities Advisory Committee as part of its efforts to determine which requests to recommend moving forward.

### **Policy implications**

The JBBC at its March 2019 meeting deferred approval of a judicial branch capital-outlay projects funding request pending completion of the assessment of judicial branch facilities as

required in the Budget Act of 2018. The Judicial Council at its November 2019 meeting adopted the *Revision of Prioritization Methodology for Trial Court Capital-Outlay Projects* and resultant *Statewide List of Trial Court Capital-Outlay Projects* prioritized on needs-based/cost-based scores.

### **Comments**

These items were not circulated for public comment. However, the meeting considering these items was open to the public. Public comment was received prior to the JBBC meeting on December 19, 2019, and was circulated to the members in advance of the meeting.

### **Alternatives considered**

The JBBC was presented with a list of 13 capital-outlay budget change proposals as identified in the *Judicial Branch Five-Year Infrastructure Plan for Fiscal Year 2020–21*. The JBBC had the option to choose to approve any number of these proposals to move forward for submission. The recommended list represents the result of deliberation by the JBBC and reflects decisions made based on information from that plan. The JBBC opted not to prioritize the list of capital-outlay budget change proposals to provide the Chief Justice and the Administrative Director with discretion and flexibility in advocacy efforts.

### **Fiscal and Operational Impacts**

Costs associated with the implementation of the proposed capital-outlay budget change proposals for needs such as Judicial Council staffing are yet to be determined. To the extent additional resources are determined to be necessary, the Judicial Council may request those resources in conjunction with these proposals.

### **Attachments and Links**

None.