

The background of the slide features a large, faint, circular seal of the Judicial Council of California. The seal contains the text "JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA" around the top and "1926" at the bottom. In the center is a figure holding a torch, with the word "EUREKA" above it.

2020 Edition of the California Trial Court Facilities Standards

Judicial Council Meeting
November 13, 2020

Agenda

- CFAC Working Group and its Key Objectives
- Lessons Learned
- COVID-19 Considerations
- Purpose of the Standards
- Summary of Significant Changes from 2006 to 2020
- Public Comments Received
- CFAC Review Timeline
- Proposed Implementation
- Recommended Action



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CFAC Working Group

- Working Group formed at direction of CFAC in February 2020
- Members:
 - Hon. Patricia M. Lucas, Chair
 - Hon. William F. Highberger
 - Hon. Steven E. Jahr
 - Hon. Robert J. Trentacosta
 - Melissa Fowler-Bradley
- 11 Working Group meetings held February through August 2020



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CFAC Working Group Key Objectives

- Take advantage of lessons learned from completed projects.
- Respond to evolving building technology and code requirements.
- Promote functional, cost-efficient projects over architectural statement projects.
- Respond to evolving ways in which trial courts serve the public and administer justice.



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Lessons Learned

- Secure attorney-client interview rooms at Santa Clara Family Justice Center use low maintenance, passive communication system successfully, for use in all future projects.
- Issues with some HVAC innovations, such as chilled beams at courthouses in Tulare, Butte, and San Joaquin counties, teach us to disallow them.
- Buildings should not be oriented facing East/West, such as the Stockton Courthouse, to avoid high heat intake.
- Child waiting areas should not be mandatory as several courts have not had funds to operate them as intended.



COVID-19 Considerations

- Standards will be applied to design of future capital projects, for buildings with life spans of more than 50 years and not to address the near-term public health problem.
- Many long-term goals, such as efficient but smaller courtrooms, not intended to satisfy short-term *social-distancing* needs.
- Measures are being implemented in existing facilities through a separate effort by local trial courts and Judicial Council Facilities Services.



Purpose of the Standards

- Reflect best practices and successful solutions for basic components of a courthouse building.
- Provide guidelines not addressed in Building Codes that are specific to courthouses.
- Promote buildings that provide long-term value by balancing functional and security requirements with budget constraints.
- Establish a presumptive requirement that *only* approved templates for multipurpose courtrooms be used in all new construction.

Significant Changes from 2006 to 2020

- Emphasized changes in the Guiding Principles, which influence the cost and design of courthouses.
- Incorporated the courtroom templates.
- Incorporated advancements in technology including:
 - Information, Audiovisual, and Building Management Technology
 - Security Systems
- Included first-hand experience with completed projects.
- Captured latest trends in trial courts' service to the public.
- Added Judicial Council sustainability goals and objectives.



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Summary of Significant Changes

- Emphasis from *design excellence* to *functional, durable, maintainable, efficient, and secure* courthouses.
- Advancements added in technology including information, audiovisual, and building management technology and security systems.
- Information added on code requirements for emergency generators.
- Required connection point in new buildings for a temporary generator.
- Sustainability objectives added, LEED Silver required.
- Public high-volume spaces, such as jury assembly, located on lower floors.



Summary of Significant Changes, *continued*

- Public spaces including lobby limited to 35' maximum height.
- Restriction against landscaping abutting the building, water features, green roofs, and green walls.
- Designated law libraries not permitted.
- Parking and holding cell metrics added.
- Passive communication system required for attorney-client interview rooms.
- For large projects, CFAC may approve second building entrance.
- For high-profile cases, additional security screening may be provided.



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Summary of Significant Changes, *continued*

- Significant courtroom changes, such as:
 - Judges' bench height to be 15" to 18".
 - No theater-style seating permitted in gallery.
 - 44" clear opening with *no gate* between the well and gallery.
 - Doors to open into vestibule, not directly into public corridor.
- Incorporated the council's *Catalog of Courtroom Layouts*:
 - Reduced number of floor plans.
 - Established presumptive requirement that *only* approved templates for multipurpose courtrooms be used in all new construction.
 - Built courtroom examples in lieu of mockups. Fit-and-finish-casework mockup only.



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Summary of Significant Changes, *continued*

- Jury Assembly used as a meeting space for training, jury selection, or community uses.
- Clerk's office separated from Court Administration requirements.
- Fewer counters and larger self-help center as determined by program.
- CFAC reviews security risk assessment for new projects in pre-design.
- Child Waiting area is optional not mandatory.



Public Comments Received

- A total of 93 comments were received from:
 - 3 members of the public
 - 3 trial courts
 - 1 government agency
- CFAC's review of comments resulted in revisions to 11 chapters from:
 - 9 Significant changes
 - 29 Minor changes
 - 55 No changes



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CFAC Review Timeline

	MILESTONE	DATE (All dates in 2020)
1.	CFAC Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none">Update to the Facilities Standards is directedCFAC Working Group is formed	February 5
2.	CFAC Working Group meetings with staff (11 meetings)	February through August
3.	CFAC Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none">Draft approved for public comment	July 10
4.	Public comment period (4 weeks)	July 13 through August 7
5.	Comments incorporated, CFAC Working Group review	August through September
6.	CFAC Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none">Final Draft approved for JC adoption	September 21



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Proposed Implementation

- Adopted Standards will be applicable to all new trial courthouse modifications and capital projects.
- Facilities Services will commence an education series for staff in 2021.
- Education series will be open to trial courts.

Recommended Action

Court Facilities Advisory Committee recommends that the Council, effective today, adopt the California Trial Court Facilities Standards 2020.



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QUESTIONS?



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