



## JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

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# REPORT TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

For business meeting on September 24, 2019

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**Title**

Court Facilities: Naming Request for the  
New Main Courthouse in Santa Rosa  
(Sonoma)

**Agenda Item Type**

Action Required

**Effective Date**

September 24, 2019

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

None

**Date of Report**

August 30, 2019

**Recommended by**

Court Facilities Advisory Committee  
Hon. Keith D. Davis, Chair of the  
Subcommittee on Courthouse Names

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### Executive Summary

The Subcommittee on Courthouse Names of the Court Facilities Advisory Committee recommends approving the Superior Court of Sonoma County's request to name the new main courthouse in the City of Santa Rosa the *Hall of Justice*. This approval provides a name for the new courthouse, whose construction is scheduled to begin in spring 2020 and end in summer 2022.

### Recommendation

The Subcommittee on Courthouse Names of the Court Facilities Advisory Committee recommends that the Judicial Council, effective September 24, 2019, approve the request to name the new main courthouse the *Hall of Justice, Superior Court of California, County of Sonoma*.

### Relevant Previous Council Action

The council has taken no previous action on this courthouse naming request. In April 2014, the council adopted its revised *Courthouse Naming Policy* (see Link A).

## **Analysis/Rationale**

Currently, the new main courthouse (known as the New Santa Rosa Criminal Courthouse) is scheduled to begin construction in spring 2020 for the Superior Court of Sonoma County in the City of Santa Rosa. It is a Senate Bill 1407 capital project that received funding for Working Drawings and Construction phases through the passage of the 2018 Budget Act (fiscal year 2018–19). It will provide 15 courtrooms for criminal, traffic, and juvenile dependency departments, replacing the deficient court-occupied space in the existing main courthouse, which is the Hall of Justice/Main Adult Detention Facility. It will offer a modern, secure facility for service to all residents of Sonoma County. At the request of Presiding Judge Gary Nadler, the superior court requested the name for this new main courthouse, as provided in the recommendation, based on its location and case type.

The completion of the courthouse is expected in summer 2022. Therefore, and to assist this project with the design and future fabrication of its signage based on its schedule, the superior court asks that it be allowed to proceed with the name as proposed.

## **Policy implications**

Per the council's naming policy, requests involving names of court facilities based on location and case type require evaluation by the subcommittee, with a recommendation directly to the council. The subcommittee reviewed the naming request against the naming standard by location and case type—under section III.B.2.a of the council's *Courthouse Naming Policy* (see Link A)—and found that it complies with all requirements.

## **Comments**

On June 21, 2019, the subcommittee held a public meeting for the evaluation of the naming request, voting unanimously that the council approve the request. In advance of that public meeting, this naming request was posted for public comment on June 14, 2019, and no public comments were received.

## **Alternatives considered**

Because of the naming request's precise compliance with the council's naming policy, no alternatives to the recommended action were considered.

## **Fiscal and Operational Impacts**

The costs of designing and fabricating the signage for the new main courthouse in the City of Santa Rosa are paid from this project's capital-outlay budget.

## **Attachments and Links**

1. Link A: Revised *Courthouse Naming Policy*, April 25, 2014, [www.courts.ca.gov/documents/jc-20140425-itemJ.pdf](http://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/jc-20140425-itemJ.pdf)