



Judicial Council of California

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January 19, 2024

Subject Text

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File #: 22-189, Version: 1

Title

Judicial Council-Sponsored Legislation (Court Facilities) | Disposition of Courthouses in Plumas, Sacramento, and Stanislaus Counties (Action Required)

Summary

Both the Plumas/Sierra Regional Courthouse in Plumas County (closed in November 2014) and the Ceres Superior Court in Stanislaus County (closed in March 2009) have been permanently closed by their respective courts and are unsuitable to the needs of the judicial branch. Additionally, both the Gordon D. Schaber Sacramento County Courthouse (Schaber Courthouse) in Sacramento County and the Modesto Main Courthouse / Hall of Records in Stanislaus County will be permanently closed as a result of the construction of their replacement facilities and similarly will be unsuitable to the needs of the judicial branch. To eliminate the Judicial Council's continuing liability and expense in holding permanently closed court facilities and to realize the value of these assets in fair market value dispositions, the Legislation Committee and the Executive and Planning Committee, along with its Real Estate Policies Subcommittee, recommend sponsoring legislation to authorize the disposition of these facilities as nonsurplus property and directing council staff to take all actions necessary to dispose of them.

Recommendation

The Legislation Committee and the Executive and Planning Committee, along with its Real Estate Policies Subcommittee, recommend that the Judicial Council, effective December 1, 2022:

1. Sponsor legislation authorizing the sale of the Plumas/Sierra Regional Courthouse in Plumas County; the Modesto Main Courthouse / Hall of Records and Ceres Superior Court in Stanislaus County; and the Gordon D. Schaber Sacramento County Courthouse in Sacramento County in fair market value transactions; and
2. Direct council staff to take all actions necessary to:
 - a. Obtain statutory authorization to dispose of the properties with the sales proceeds to be directed to the State Court Facilities Construction Fund established by Government Code section 70371 or to any other Judicial Council facilities fund authorized by the Legislature; and
 - b. Negotiate and draft real property disposition agreements and any other related, necessary documents for the disposition of the properties in compliance with and contingent on legislative authorization for the disposition of the properties; and
 - c. Lease or license all or a portion of the facilities on terms in the best interests of the Judicial Council until such time as the properties can be permanently disposed of; and
3. Delegate to the Administrative Director or a designee the authority to sign real property disposition agreements and any other related, necessary documents consistent with this recommendation, all of which must comply with and be contingent on legislative authorization for the disposition of the properties.