



JUDICIAL COUNCIL
OF CALIFORNIA

455 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, CA
94102-3688
Tel 415-865-4200
TDD 415-865-4272
Fax 415-865-4205
www.courts.ca.gov

FACT SHEET

September 2016

Superior Court of Merced County New Los Banos Courthouse

The new Robert M. Falasco Justice Center officially opens for business in Los Banos on September 19. Located at 1159 G Street, the new building will provide a secure and functionally appropriate courthouse, and expand court services in western Merced County.

New Courthouse Improves and Expands Services

The new courthouse includes two courtrooms, replacing the court's current facility in Los Banos. It will handle all case types, including criminal, civil, family, traffic, small claims, juvenile, and probate proceedings. Improved security features will include separate hallways for the public, court staff, and those in custody; adequately sized and separate holding areas; a secure sallyport; and an appropriately sized security screening area. The project will also provide a new self-help center, jury assembly room, and attorney interview/witness waiting rooms.

Funding From Fines and Fees, Not From Taxpayers

Ranked as a "Critical Need" in the judicial branch's capital-outlay plan, the \$26 million courthouse was funded by Senate Bill 1407, enacted in 2008 to provide bond funding for new and renovated courthouses using court fees, penalties, and assessments rather than taxpayer revenues from the state's General Fund.

The Building Is Energy Efficient

The building's sustainability features will qualify it for a LEED Silver certification by the U.S. Green Building Council. This is a third-party certification program and the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction, and operation of high-performance "green" buildings. The courthouse's sustainability features include energy-efficient lighting and HVAC systems, as well as water-efficient landscaping and water-saving fixtures.

Community Input into New Courthouse

A broad-based Project Advisory Group for the courthouse project was composed of court, law enforcement, and government and community leaders. The group

Superior Court of Merced County

Los Banos Courthouse

Page 2 of 2

provided input throughout the site selection, design, and construction process. In addition, public input was a part of the environmental review process.

More Information

Contact:

Blaine Corren, Judicial Council Public Affairs, 415-865-7449, blaine.corren@jud.ca.gov

Additional resources:

Project webpage, <http://www.courts.ca.gov/facilities-merced-losbanos.htm>

California Courts Newsroom, <http://newsroom.courts.ca.gov/>