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FACT SHEET

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Superior Court of Santa Clara County Santa Clara Family Justice Center Courthouse

The new Family Justice Center in downtown San Jose officially opened for business on August 15. Located at 201 North First Street, the 234,000 square-foot courthouse includes 20 courtrooms and replaces the court's use of six overcrowded and obsolete buildings scattered throughout downtown San Jose.

New Courthouse Improves Service to Families

The new courthouse has an adequately sized lobby, self-help center, children's waiting area, attorney/client conference rooms, court administrative space, and accessibility for people with disabilities. Improved security features include separate hallways for the public, court staff, and those in custody. In addition, the new facility has separate holding areas for juveniles and adults, a secure sallyport, and an appropriately sized security screening area.

Funding From Fines and Fees, Not From Taxpayers

Ranked as a "Critical Need" in the judicial branch's capital-outlay plan, the \$233 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. In addition, the County of Santa Clara donated the major portion of the site, the city of San Jose donated parking spaces, and the Superior Court of Santa Clara County contributed to the pre-design funding.

The Building Is Energy Efficient

The courthouse qualifies 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 extensive use of natural light and energy-efficient lighting 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, community, legal, and government leaders. The group 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:

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Additional resources:

Project webpage, <http://www.courts.ca.gov/facilities-santaclara.htm>
California Courts Newsroom, <http://newsroom.courts.ca.gov/>