



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

December 2023

New Imperial County Courthouse, El Centro

Construction of the new Imperial County Courthouse began in December 2018, was completed in December 2023, and it officially opens for business January 2, 2024. Located on Wake Avenue between Merrill Center Drive and Thomas Drive, midway between the historic courthouse and juvenile hall, the new building addresses overcrowding, security, and accessibility issues.

Improves Services

The new facility has four courtrooms, consolidating all criminal court services in a modern, efficient, and secure building for residents of Imperial County. The new courthouse also includes adequately sized jury deliberation rooms, a self-help center, a children's waiting room, a family court mediation area, attorney interview/witness waiting rooms, and ADA accessibility. Enhanced safety features include on-site holding cells and separate elevators and hallways for moving in-custody defendants through the courthouse.

Energy Efficient

The building's sustainability features satisfy the California Energy Code and 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 drought-tolerant landscaping, efficient irrigation and plumbing systems, and energy-efficient lighting.

Community Input

A broad-based Project Advisory Group for the courthouse project consisted of 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.

Statewide Courthouse Construction Program

The judicial branch's capital-outlay plan ranked the courthouse as an "Immediate Need," making it among the branch's highest-priority infrastructure projects. Since the state's judicial branch assumed responsibility for court construction and maintenance in 2002, the branch has completed 34 new courthouse projects and 19 are currently under way. These include new court facilities in both large and small counties, as well as urban and rural areas across the state.

Superior Court of Imperial County
New El Centro Courthouse
Page 2 of 2

More Information

Architectural/Engineering Firm: Safdie Rabines Architects

Construction Management Agency: Vanir Construction Management, Inc.

Construction Manager at Risk: Nielsen Construction California

Contact:

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

Additional resources:

Project webpage, <https://www.courts.ca.gov/facilities-imperial.htm>

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