FACT SHEET **December 2023**



JUDICIAL COUNCIL  
OF CALIFORNIA

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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.

# More Information Architectural/Engineering Firm: Safdie Rabines Architects

# Construction Management Agency: Vanir Construction Management, Inc.

# Construction Manager at Risk: Nielsen Construction California

# *Contact:*

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Additional resources:

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

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