

**Written Comments Received for
October 25–26, 2012, Judicial Council Meeting**

Name and Title	Affiliation	Topic	Date of Receipt	Page Nos.
1. Zoe J. Taylor, Interim President/ CEO	Santa Barbara Chamber of Commerce	Support for Court Facilities Working Group recommendation to proceed on the court facilities project for the Superior Court of California, County of Santa Barbara	Dated October 3, 2012	4
2. Bill Brown, Sheriff and Coroner	County of Santa Barbara	Support for New Santa Barbara Criminal Courts Building	Dated October 5, 2012	5-6
3. Tara Shabazz, Executive Director	California Partnership to End Domestic Violence	Court Interpreter Budget Allocation (Program 45.45)	October 22, 2012	7
4. Cathleen Galgiani, Assemblymember, 17th District	Assembly, California Legislature	San Joaquin Superior Court – Application for Supplemental Funding	October 23, 2012	8
5. John Luebberke, City Attorney	Office of the City Attorney, City of Stockton	Status of San Joaquin Superior Court	October 24, 2012	9-10
6. Konradt Bartlam, City Manager	City of Lodi	Resolution adopted by the City of Lodi supporting the Superior Court of California, County of San Joaquin’s funding request	October 24, 2012	11-13

Name and Title	Affiliation	Topic	Date of Receipt	Page Nos.
7. Barbara A. Kauffman, Family Law Attorney/Litigator	Law Offices of Barbara A. Kauffman	Information Item 3: September 6, 2012 "Family Law: Retention of Working Files of Court-Employed Child Custody Mediators" Report by the Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee	October 24, 2012	14-18
8. Eric Parfrey, Chair	Campaign for Common Ground	San Joaquin Superior Court Funding	October 24, 2012	19
9. Emily Gallup, Marriage and Family Therapist	On her own behalf	Court Employed Child Custody Mediators' Working Files	October 24, 2012	20
10. Lois Wolk, Senator, 5th District	California State Senate	Supporting the California Superior Court of San Joaquin County's application to the Judicial Council for emergency funding	October 24, 2012	21
11. Kim Turner, Court Executive Officer	Superior Court of California, County of Marin	Judicial Council Agenda Item H--State Trial Court Improvement and Modernization Fund Allocations: Statewide Programs and Projects	October 24, 2012	22-24
12. Alan Ernesto Phillips, Chairman of the Board of Directors	Northern Hispanic Coalition, Inc.	Court Employed Child Custody Mediators' Working Files	October 25, 2012	25-30

Name and Title	Affiliation	Topic	Date of Receipt	Page Nos.
13. Jennifer Montgomery, 5th District Supervisor and Jack Duran, 1st District Supervisor	County of Placer Board of Supervisors	Request that the Court Facilities Working Group (CFWG) and the Judicial Council (JC) reconsider their decision to “indefinitely delay” the purchase of property for a new State Courthouse.	October 25, 2012	31-32

SANTA BARBARA REGION CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

October 3, 2012

Chief Justice Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye
Members of the Judicial Council
Judicial Council of California
455 Golden Gate Ave.
San Francisco, CA 94102-3688

Dear Chief Justice and Judicial Council Members,

On behalf of the Santa Barbara Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to register our strong support of the Court Facilities Working Group's recent unanimous recommendation to allow the Santa Barbara Superior Court's new criminal courts building project to move forward. This project has been a high priority of the court's judges for many years before its need was officially identified in a Capital Facilities Master Plan adopted by the Judicial Council in September, 2003. The Chamber is aware of the tremendous support for this critically needed building amongst our local business and political leaders and we join them in recognizing the imperative need for more security in our courthouses.

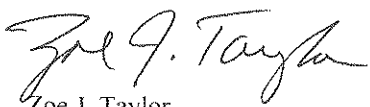
From the perspective of the Chamber of Commerce, this project provides several benefits to the court as well as the citizens of our community:

- Enhanced security through secure internal movement of prisoners within a new criminal courts building
- Elimination of need to transport inmates on foot across public streets and through large groups of tourists and citizens, both respecting the dignity of the inmates and the safety of the general public
- Greater security for the public and court staff
- Economic engine to help stimulate local commerce by retaining jobs in the local area and supporting businesses
- Enhances the downtown civic and commercial areas in addition to improved traffic flow on Figueroa Street.

The Chamber recognizes the construction of a new criminal courts building in conjunction with the renovation and integration of the obsolete 1950's Figueroa Courthouse only adds to the improved security and greater attractiveness of our downtown area. We are aware of the strong competition and the limited funding allocated through SB 1407 to court construction projects. However, the Santa Barbara County Criminal Courthouse is in desperate need of improvement both for safety and security of the inmates, the public and employees. We urge you and the Judicial Council to adopt the unanimous recommendation of the Court Facilities Working Group to allow our Santa Barbara Superior Court's project to move forward.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,



Zoe J. Taylor

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Office of the Sheriff



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BILL BROWN

Sheriff - Coroner

JIM PETERSON

Undersheriff

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COURT SERVICES CIVIL OFFICES

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Santa Barbara, CA 93102
Phone (805) 568-2900

Santa Maria
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Santa Maria, CA 93456
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October 5, 2012

Chief Justice Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye
Members of the Judicial Council
Judicial Council of California
455 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, California 94102-3688

Re: Support for New Santa Barbara Criminal Courts Building

Dear Chief Justice and Judicial Council Members:

As Sheriff of Santa Barbara County, I am writing to express my strong support of the Court Facilities Working Group's (CFWG) unanimous recommendation to allow the Santa Barbara Superior Court's new criminal courts building project to move forward.

The project has been an extremely high priority of the court's judges for many years before its need was officially identified in a Capital Facilities Master Plan adopted by the Judicial Council in September, 2003. This is an absolute priority for the Sheriff's Office since it will replace a completely obsolete and undersized holding facility located in the existing courthouse. The new project will finally resolve the dangerous conditions that presently exist within the Figueroa Courthouse holding facility.

I am aware of the presentation made by Presiding Judge Brian Hill and Court Executive Officer Gary Blair to the CFWG on September 5, 2012, which vividly and accurately describes our dangerous security situation and inadequate facilities. I am also aware of the community's concerns about the critical need for a new courthouse that will include a modern, safe, and secure holding facility for housing prisoners who are daily transported from our jail to the downtown court facilities.

A new criminal courts building is needed not only for the protection and security of the public, but also for the safety of my officers who staff the holding facility and transport in-custody defendants, as well as for the safety of the judges and court personnel who work in the courtrooms. For the record, there are eight criminal courtrooms, seven of which require my deputies to move prisoners through public hallways, corridors, and

elevators – movements that place the public and staff at great risk. Furthermore, two of those courtrooms are located within the historic Courthouse, which requires deputies to escort prisoners in shackles across a busy public street.

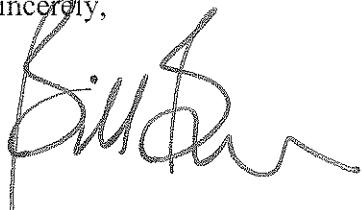
The current situation is intolerable and must be remedied. The construction of a new criminal courts building that consolidates all eight criminal courtrooms and includes a larger, modern holding facility will provide the following benefits:

- Enhanced security through secure, internal movement of prisoners within the new criminal courts building
- Elimination of the need to march shackled inmates across public streets and through large groups of tourists and members of the public
- Greater security for the public and court staff
- Adequately sized control room to better monitor prisoners and improve safety
- Improved prisoner classification and segregation within the new holding area
- Increased number and size of attorney-client interview rooms only accessible to in-custody defendants

From my perspective as Sheriff, the construction of the new criminal courts building is an urgent and unequivocal necessity. I realize that there is strong competition for the limited SB 1407 money available to court construction projects. However, I urge you and the Judicial Council to adopt the unanimous recommendation of the Court Facilities Working Group to allow the Santa Barbara Superior Court's project to move forward.

Thank you for your consideration of this essential courts building project.

Sincerely,



BILL BROWN
Sheriff – Coroner

c: Superior Court Presiding Judge Brian Hill
Court Executive Officer Gary Blair



October 18, 2012

Chief Justice Tani G. Cantil-Sakuye
Judicial Council of California
455 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102-3688

Re: Court Interpreter Budget Allocation (Program 45.45)

Dear Chief Justice Cantil-Sakuye:

On behalf of the California Partnership to End Domestic Violence (the Partnership), I write today to express our concern regarding the Trial Court Budget Working Group's recommendation that the Judicial Council allocate a projected \$6.5 million of unspent Program 45.45 (court interpreter) appropriations to offset trial court reductions required under the Budget Act of 2012.

We recognize the difficult budget decisions that must be made and the fiscal realities facing the courts. However, we urge the Judicial Council to preserve funding for interpretation services and if the surplus is to be transferred from Program 45.45 that it be done in such a way as to utilize the funding to provide language access in domestic violence cases to ensure this vital service and protection for victims.

The Partnership is the federally recognized State Domestic Violence Coalition for California, representing over 200 organizations and individuals statewide, united in their commitment to safety and justice for victims. The Partnership believes that by sharing resources and expertise, advocates and policymakers can end domestic violence. Every day we inspire, inform and connect all those concerned with this issue, because together we're stronger.

The court system plays a critical role in keeping victims and their children safe, through such mechanisms as protection orders, divorce settlements, and custody decisions. Interpretation is an essential service and its absence has clear implications for victims' safety. If a victim's testimony cannot be shared and she cannot fully follow the court proceedings and provide clear and complete responses, the result can be denial of a protective order, failure to convict an offender, and court decisions that do not adequately take into account the safety concerns present for the victim and children.

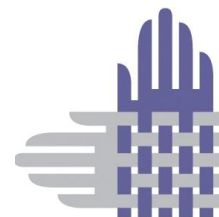
When victims access the court system, they must overcome the fear and intimidation that they have been subjected to by their abuser. Far too often, victims must also navigate the court system without a lawyer present because the high hourly costs keep legal services out of reach. This puts the victim at a disadvantage from the outset, and for Limited English Proficiency victims, this disadvantage is even greater. Language access is essential to address this situation and ensure that the victims' voices are not silenced and courts have all needed information to make the appropriate rulings.

For these reasons, we urge the Judicial Council to ensure that the projected \$6.5 million of unspent Program 45.45 appropriations are allocated in such a way as to ensure that the language access needs of domestic violence victims are met.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tara Shabazz".

Tara Shabazz
Executive Director



STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0017

Phone: (916) 319-2017
FAX: (916) 319-2117



October 23, 2012

The Honorable Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye, Chair
Judicial Council of California
350 McAllister Street
San Francisco, CA 94102-4797

RE: San Joaquin Superior Court – Application for Supplemental Funding

Dear Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye and Members of the Judicial Council:

It is my honor to write this letter of strong support for the San Joaquin Superior Court's application for supplemental funding. San Joaquin Superior Court has been severely impacted by budgetary cuts over the last few years. The requested supplemental funding would allow the court to restore much-needed services to San Joaquin County residents.

In 2011, cuts spurred the San Joaquin Superior Court to close several courtrooms in the cities of Tracy and Lodi, and 45 court employees were laid off. On August 1, 2012, 13 more court staff were laid off and small-claims court was shut down. Unavoidable budget shortfalls have now placed 20-27 more employees and the court's entire civil division at risk of elimination. The requested funds would prevent these reductions and restore the small-claims court.

In a community as economically devastated by the recession and as impacted by rising crime rates, as San Joaquin County is, the courts provide crucial legal redress for struggling local businesses and consumers, and justice for victims and the families of victims.

For these very pressing reasons, I urge your positive consideration of this worthy application. Please feel free to contact my office if you have any questions or if I can be of any assistance to you.

Sincerely,

Cathleen Galgiani
Assemblymember, 17th District

CG:mv



CITY OF STOCKTON
OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY
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425 NORTH EL DORADO STREET
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October 16, 2012

Judicial Council of California
455 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102-3688

Re: **Status of San Joaquin County Superior Court**

I write this letter to request, in the strongest terms possible, that the Judicial Council of California, along with the Governor, reconsider the drastic cuts to the San Joaquin County Superior Court budget allocation. Over the recent years, the San Joaquin County Superior Court has seen deep cuts to its budget, necessitating layoffs of over 50 of its already overworked staff resulting in massive cuts to court services and endangering the overall administration of justice in our County.

The San Joaquin County Court system has been underfunded for many years. As a result of this chronic under funding, and now with the newest round of budget cuts, further cuts to Court services appear unavoidable. In recent years, Court staff has been cut by more than 34% while at the same time the County's population has grown by more than 20%. Crime in the City of Stockton is soaring, leaving Stockton with the unenviable distinction of ranking second in the State to the City of Oakland in violent crime. Our criminal courts are severely overburdened.

Similarly, our Civil Justice System in San Joaquin County is at its breaking point. As a direct result of the Governor's most recent round of budget cuts, the San Joaquin County Superior Court recently notified the public and members of the Bar that, effective September 1, 2012, the local courts will cease hearing all new small claims matters. While the Court will, out of necessity, continue taking small claims filings and accepting filing fees, trial dates will not be scheduled, and small claims matters will not be processed unless and until sufficient funding exists to hire staff for the small claims department. Meanwhile, the Court is contemplating the necessity of closing the entire Civil Division in order to preserve funding for the Criminal Courts.

Judicial Council of California
Re: **Status of San Joaquin County Superior Court**
October 16, 2012
Page 2

This recent closure of the small claims departments in our County will have wide-spread and very real negative consequences on the ongoing administration of justice in the County and on the City of Stockton. The City of Stockton regularly utilizes the small claims forum for adjudication and collection of otherwise uncollectible debts. Over the past two years, the City has filed more than 200 small claims complaints. The vast majority of these claims, once filed in the small claims court, have been resolved with successful collection of the outstanding debt. The inability to utilize the small claims system will thus have significant negative financial impacts on the City which is already weathering the devastating impacts of a poor local and national economy.

The closure of the County's small claims court will also significantly impact the City's ability to limit its defense costs. Over the past two years, the City has been sued in the small claims court a total of 10 times. These suits, ranging from simple trip and fall claims to auto accident cases, if not filed in small claims court, could well be filed in Superior Court. These cases, along with the hundreds of others that are filed annually in San Joaquin County would overwhelm the Court and result in significant increased burden to the Court and to the litigants and all at considerably higher economic cost to the litigants and the Court.

While the City of Stockton recognizes, perhaps better than most, the very significant effects of the poor economy, it also recognizes that the effective and timely administration of justice is essential to an orderly and healthy society. It is therefore requested that the Governor and Judicial Council reexamine the State's budget priorities and ensure that the State's Court system and the San Joaquin County Superior Court specifically, have its vital funding restored and maintained.

BY 

JOHN M LUEBBERKE
CITY ATTORNEY

JML:eg

c Mayor and Councilmembers

CITY COUNCIL

JOANNE MOUNCE, Mayor
ALAN NAKANISHI,
Mayor Pro Tempore
LARRY D. HANSEN
BOB JOHNSON
PHIL KATZAKIAN

CITY OF LODI

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KONRADT BARTLAM
City Manager
RANDI JOHL, City Clerk
D. STEPHEN SCHWABAUER
City Attorney

October 24, 2012

Nancy E. Spero
Judicial Council of California
455 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102-3688

RE: Agenda Item I – San Joaquin Court Supplemental Funding Request

Greetings,

On behalf of the City Council for the City of Lodi, I am attaching a Resolution adopted at the Regular City Council meeting on October 17, 2012, supporting the San Joaquin Court's supplemental funding request.

The San Joaquin Courts have been significantly underfunded since the consolidation of the Court system in 1997. In fact, the Courts were underfunded prior to that time which was the basis for the current funding debacle. The Judicial Council has the ability to correct this issue.

The Courts have undertaken extreme measures in order to balance their budget. This past year, they have closed three branch courts, including one in Lodi. The impact of this closure has been felt by both citizens in the entire North County of San Joaquin and the City's organization as well. As a result of the Court closure, we have seen a sharp increase in police overtime due to the need to travel to, and wait for, various court appearances. Within our City Attorney's office, we have experienced a complete shift in how we do business as we now have to travel to Stockton in order to process work that was at one time across the street from City Hall.

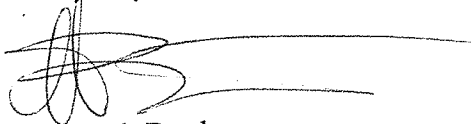
The more troubling scenario facing the Court is how they will be able to balance their current year without the funding requested. It has been relayed to me that the final Lodi Court will close unless this Council awards the full requested amount. This would be devastating to those seeking judicial assistance in our part of the County. The effects of losing the criminal casework from this court will exacerbate our already stretched Police budget. Lodi is somewhat unique in that we are the only city which has a Type-1 City Jail. This facility provides enumerable benefits to the organization, the County and the citizens of this community. Our costs for transport of prisoners alone will equal two sworn officers. These are officers that are currently patrolling City streets. We do not have the ability to simply add bodies to fill this need.

I understand that the recommendation that the Council has received will likely restore \$442,000 that was withheld from the Court as part of the State's budget plan. This is simply not enough. I understand that this recommendation is following policy that has been established by the Council. This policy must be changed or waived for this circumstance. The two options the Council can take that were not presented in your report include the distribution of \$442,000 pursuant to your policy with the additional \$1,768,000 in funding after November 1, 2012. The second option is to just recognize the injustice of the funding scheme altogether and grant the full request now. If the Council has the opportunity to set policy, they can certainly change it.

Finally, it appears to me the argument is more convoluted as the funds needed are available. I'm in the business of balancing budgets. I would understand the Council's reticence to amend your policy if there were more requests than funds available, but that is not the situation.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Konradt Bartlam', written over a horizontal line.

Konradt Bartlam
City Manager

Attachment: Resolution No. 2012-168

A RESOLUTION OF THE LODI CITY COUNCIL
SUPPORTING THE SAN JOAQUIN SUPERIOR
COURT'S REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL
FUNDING FROM THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

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WHEREAS, in 1997, the County Court system was transferred to the State, the prime reason for doing this was to create some equality between counties for funding; and

WHEREAS, San Joaquin County courts have historically been underfunded and the shift to State control has not corrected this issue; and

WHEREAS, the court system has suffered from the economic downturn as have other branches of State government. Even with an additional \$1 million emergency funding last year, the City of Lodi saw the closing of one of Lodi's branch courts and all of the Tracy courts; and

WHEREAS, the San Joaquin Superior Court is once again seeking emergency funding in order to continue with the limited services that are currently offered, and without the additional funding it is likely that the remaining Lodi branch court as well as the branch courts in Manteca will close; and

WHEREAS, this will not only impact the entire north county for access to the court system, but will cost the City of Lodi significant money by having to shift more resources to courts in Stockton as well as the County jail; and

WHEREAS, the Judicial Council is scheduled to meet on October 25, 2012 to consider the request for additional funding for the San Joaquin Superior Court system.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Lodi does hereby support the San Joaquin Superior Court's request for additional funding from the Judicial Council in order to keep the limited court services available to the public.

Date: October 17, 2012

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I hereby certify that Resolution No. 2012-168 was passed and adopted by the Lodi City Council in a regular meeting held October 17, 2012, by the following vote:

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS – Hansen, Johnson, Katzakian, Nakanishi, and Mayor Mounce

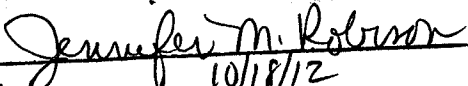
NOES: COUNCIL MEMBERS – None

ABSENT: COUNCIL MEMBERS – None

ABSTAIN: COUNCIL MEMBERS – None

The foregoing document is certified to be a correct copy of the original on file in the City Clerk's Office.
Jennifer M. Robison
Assistant City Clerk, City of Lodi


RANDI JOHL
City Clerk

By: 
Dated: 10/18/12

LAW OFFICES OF
BARBARA A. KAUFFMAN

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October 24, 2012

Chief Justice Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye
Members of the Judicial Council
455 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102-3688

Re: Information Item 3: September 6, 2012 “Family Law: Retention of Working Files of Court-Employed Child Custody Mediators” Report by the Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee

Dear Chief Justice and Judicial Council Members:

My name is Barbara Kauffman and I am a family law attorney/litigator.

In this letter I will be referring to the “working files and notes” of court-employed child custody mediators who make custody and visitation recommendations to trial courts as “**child custody evidence**” because that is what parents and litigators consider those working files and notes to be. Whether or not that **child custody evidence** presently falls within the technical definition of “court records”, that **child custody evidence** is a) routinely collected, recorded and relied upon by court mediators in establishing a basis for life-altering custody/visitation recommendations made to the parents and trial court; and b) routinely subpoenaed and relied upon by parents and attorneys seeking to support or challenge life-altering Family Court Services (hereafter “FCS”) custody/visitation recommendations.

Those of us who practice family law know that FCS custody/visitation recommendations are at worst rubber-stamped, and at best given a great deal of weight, by trial court judges. This is so although often FCS mediators make recommendations in complex custody cases (including cases involving multiple children, blended families, special needs of parties and children, concerns about domestic violence, mental illness, substance abuse, neglect, and more) after only one or two hours of parental interviews from which attorneys are excluded, and before one parent has had the opportunity to digest and properly prepare a response to child custody pleadings filed by the other parent. A parent who “fails” to present well and effectively defend against often exaggerated or false allegations in a one or two hour mediation session may well face a custody recommendation that he or she should lose physical or legal custody, or even be relegated to supervised visitation with his or her child. In that situation, it is up to the “losing” parent to convince the court that the mediation recommendation is, in a word, wrong. A parent or attorney facing this situation is obliged to subpoena the recommending mediator and the **child**

custody evidence in the mediation working file, to establish what the mediator did or did not do, and what information the mediator did or did not have available in crafting the mediation recommendation. That is a heavy burden, indeed, and the stakes – the right to enjoy and care for a child, and the health, education, safety and welfare of that child -- are very, very high.

By way of background, in mid-2010 I requested that Chief Justice Ron George investigate the 2009 destruction of Marin County Family Court Services **child custody evidence** by Judicial Councilmember/Marin Court Executive Officer Kim Turner. That request resulted in Administrative Office of the Courts (hereafter “AOC”) employee John Judnick’s August 2010 audit report entitled: *Superior Court of California, County of Marin, Investigation Report: Destruction of Family Court Mediator Working Files*. Mr. Judnick’s report revealed that Judicial Councilmember Turner’s sudden Marin Family Court Services **child custody evidence** destruction was undertaken with the legal blessing of the AOC Office of General Counsel (hereafter “OGC”). Further, that sudden destruction was effected during a pending investigation of Marin Family Court Services by the Board of State Auditors, while the AOC and Turner were blocking BSA access to Marin Family Court Services files and employees.

I have previously expressed my detailed concerns and follow-up questions about the scope, nature, propriety and foreseeable results of Mr. Judnick’s August 2010 report to Justice Cantil-Sakauye in a letter dated October 28, 2010, and to OGC senior counsel Mary Roberts in a letter dated November 1, 2010.

Ms. Roberts responded to my November 1, 2010 letter, in pertinent part, as follows:
follows:

“Your request that the Judicial Council provide “official legal opinions” on the issues set forth in your letter dated November 1, 2010, is declined.”

“At its October 29, 2010, meeting, the Judicial Council’s action with respect to the Superior Court of Marin County Audit Report was to accept the report—such action being the last step to finalize the report, which is then posted on the California Courts public website (www.courtinfo.ca.gov)—and also to refer to the council’s Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee the policy issue regarding court practices concerning retention of family law mediators’ files and notes, with reporting back to the council on the committee’s recommendations.”

After two long years, the Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee has completed and is now presenting its September 6, 2012 Report to the Judicial Council entitled “*Family Law: Retention of Working Files of Court-Employed Child Custody Mediators*” (hereafter referred to as the “FJLAC report”).

Although Mr. Judnick is neither an attorney nor, as an AOC employee, an impartial investigator of what many consider to be egregious behavior by AOC attorneys and Judicial Councilmember Kim Turner, the limited factual and legal investigation, analysis and conclusions set forth in Mr. Judnick’s August, 2010 Marin County report were clearly reviewed and relied

upon by the Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee. The FJLAC report specifically refers to portions of Mr. Judnick's report, including the following found on page 2 of his report:

Mediation working files, including handwritten or typed notes, are used to produce the mediator's report to the court and are not included in official case files or records of the court. Once the report is submitted to the court it is considered a court record as it contains any and all of the information considered necessary by the mediator for the court to reach a decision. Local court policies and procedures would control the retention periods of the documents contained in the mediator working files after the mediator report is submitted to the court by the mediator. CRC 10.610, a duty of the court executive officer is to "create and manage uniform record-keeping systems, . . . , as required by the court and the Judicial Council." As such the court executive could determine that the files and notes should be destroyed after completion of the mediator report to the court.

Interestingly, the FJLAC report does not quote the last two sentences of the above paragraph, which a) refer to CRC 10.610; b) acknowledge that CRC 10.610 requires court executive officers to create and manage uniform record keeping systems; and c) acknowledge that those systems should be kept "as required by the court and the Judicial Council".

The FJLAC report essentially suggests that because the legislature has not enacted specific legislation requiring the retention of FCS child custody mediation working files until a child reaches the age of 18 as it did 20 years ago with respect to conciliation court child custody mediation files via Family Code section 1819, each of the 58 counties should be able to retain or destroy FCS **child custody evidence** necessary to support or defend against FCS recommendations as each county sees fit. It further suggests that the job of deciding whether and how and how long to retain FCS **child custody evidence** necessary to support or defend against FCS recommendations may properly fall on virtually anyone-- individual mediators, FCS directors, court management, executive committees, judges, administrators, or a combination thereof. It suggests that it is perfectly fine to keep **child custody evidence** until the youngest child subject of a family law case turns 18, as "most" courts presently do, and as is logically consistent with Family Code section 1819; or, conversely, it is also fine to engage in the sudden and wholesale destruction of FCS **child custody evidence** necessary to defend against a FCS recommendation even well before a case has been taken to trial and the mediation report is accepted into evidence, as Marin County did in 2009 when the BSA audit was pending.

In 2010 I provided two transcript excerpts to Chief Justice Ron George and Justice Cantil-Sakauye with respect to the 2009 Marin child custody evidence destruction. One transcript revealed that a child who had repeatedly returned home from visits with his father with bruises reported to the recommending mediator that his father hit him, "sometimes for fun and sometimes he means it", but the mediator neither asked the father if that was true, nor included that information in her report. The boy's report was reflected in the mediation notes—and those notes were destroyed in the 2009 wholesale Marin child custody evidence shredding. That child was ultimately placed in the sole custody of the father based on a mediation recommendation. As a young teen the boy began to physically abuse both his mother and his girlfriend.

The second transcript revealed what happens when a mediator is deprived of his or her file prior to trial. The child custody mediator who blew the whistle on Kim Turner's child

custody evidence destruction during cross examination did not have her mediation file and notes, and could not remember key details about the case, including basics such as which parent had filed the motion about which she had made a recommendation.

Those are just two examples from Marin County of the importance of FCS working files. In a third Marin case, the notes in the mediation file revealed that minor's counsel had actually instructed the FCS mediator as to *how to write her report*. Pursuant to Family Code section 216, mediators are prohibited from having ex parte contact with minor's counsel except in very limited circumstances, and there is no authority for minor's counsel telling a mediator how to write a recommendation.

The FJLAC report recommends that the Judicial Council take no action at all to ensure that Family Court Services **child custody evidence** gathered in accordance with law and Judicial Council mediation standards of practice is preserved in a uniform manner and available to parents to defend against FCS child custody/visitation recommendations. The FJLAC report indicates that it is too expensive and cumbersome to store such child custody evidence.

With all due respect, this is patently ridiculous, and is contrary to the Constitutional and statutory duties and authority of the Judicial Council.

I have rarely seen an FCS mediation working file – even in decades-long highly contentious cases—that exceeds one box. How much does it cost to store one box or far less? And does that cost outweigh the value of a child's safety, a mediator's ability to properly do his or her job, a parent's due process rights, or a judge's ability to make a proper custody order? Of course not.

Article VI, section 6 of the California Constitution requires the council to improve the administration of justice by doing the following:

- (1) Surveying judicial business;
- (2) Making recommendations to the courts;
- (3) Making annual recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature;
- (4) Adopting rules for court administration and rules of practice and procedure that are not inconsistent with statute; and
- (5) Performing other functions prescribed by statute.

Family Code section 211 provides that “notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Judicial Council may provide by rule for the practice and procedure in proceedings under this code”.

Family Code section 3162(a) requires that “mediation of cases involving custody and visitation concerning children shall be governed by uniform standards of practice adopted by the judicial council”.

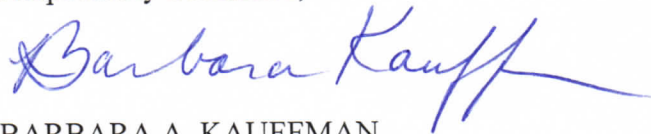
The standards of practice for mediators are contained in CRC 5.210 and 5.215.

Those standards of practice require that mediators know and follow specified laws and procedures, and require ethical, balanced, unbiased and accurate information gathering and reporting of the relevant facts. Those procedures include review of the court files, interviews with the parents, and in many cases interviews with children, caregivers, therapists, law enforcement personnel, teachers, medical providers, family members, and Child Protective Services. The underlying **child custody evidence** reflecting what the mediator has done or not done, and what the parents and collateral sources have reported in connection with a mediation recommendation, is collected and kept NOT in the official court file, but rather in the mediation “working files and notes”.

The Chief Justice and the Judicial Council are seasoned judges, litigators and administrators who well understand the importance of the type of child custody evidence referenced herein to a parent or attorney tasked with challenging official FCS mediation recommendations.

This Council will be endangering children, inhibiting the ability of FCS mediators to properly do their jobs, and destroying the due process rights of parents, if it abdicates its responsibility to take appropriate steps to ensure that child custody evidence and information gathered by FCS mediators statewide is preserved in a uniform, reliable manner, and kept available for as long as a child custody matter remains open, which is typically until a child turns 18. This is consistent with Family Code section 1819, and by the FJLAC report’s own admission, this is the practice of most of the courts of this state.

Respectfully Submitted,



BARBARA A. KAUFFMAN



October 20, 2012

Judicial Council of California
455 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102-3688

Re: San Joaquin Superior Court Funding

Dear Members of the Judicial Council:

Campaign for Common Ground is a non-profit, community based organization that promotes public education and discourse on matters affecting the residents of San Joaquin County. To that end, we write in support of San Joaquin County Superior Court's request for emergency funding to be considered by you for your October 25 – 26, 2012 meeting. In particular, we understand that appropriate funding would restore San Joaquin's small claims court, which is much used by our small businesses and many small landlords and tenants. The temporary closing of small claims court in San Joaquin County has made it even more difficult to do business here, as we try to climb out of our very recessionary economy.

We respectfully urge you, as the economy recovers, to find a solution to the persistent underfunding of San Joaquin's trial court. Public safety and welfare require that all California's counties have properly-funded and fully-functioning trial courts. We appreciate that other branches of California's government have contributed to San Joaquin's lack of funding, but we also find it surprising that a body charged with appropriately funding all the state's trial courts would be satisfied to continuously underfund any of them, as seems to be the case in San Joaquin County.

Thank you for your attention to this request.

Very truly yours,

Eric Parfrey, Chair
Campaign for Common Ground
parfrey@sbcglobal.net

October 23, 2012

Attention: Nancy E. Spero

Regarding: Court Employed Child Custody Mediators' Working Files

My name is Emily Gallup, and I am a former Nevada County Family Court Mediator. Our department had a long-standing policy of shredding all mediation files after two years. In the fall of 2010, the director of our department ordered us to begin destroying additional family court records. The director was acting at the behest of the court's CEO, Sean Metroka. After Metroka learned of the Marin County Family Court audit, he instructed Smith to purge our mediation [working] files of any information that was not contained in the court file.

All of our hand-written notes were systematically shredded. These notes included interviews with children and collateral sources, such as CPS, law enforcement, medical providers, and educators. The information contained in the hand-written notes was not the same as what went into the official legal file. This disparity is sometimes necessary because mediators need to convey information to the court and to parents in constructive [edited] ways. If a child confided in interview that "I hate my stepdad," for example, it would be counterproductive to use that language in a status report. Similarly, if a child's teacher told me she had smelled alcohol on a parent, I would raise the issue in a way that would not destroy the parent-teacher relationship.

All of our internal "Chronology Logs" were also destroyed. The logs contained unofficial background information on everything from "father prefers to be called Bud" to "mother became belligerent after father mentioned his new girlfriend." Remembering these details helped parents feel like people instead of widgets. Our logs also helped ease the family's transition when they were transferred from one mediator to another: parents didn't feel like they had to rehash their story from the beginning each time they came into mediation.

I hope that the Judicial Council will intervene to protect mediators' working files. Mediation files should be preserved in their entirety until each child in the family has reached the age of majority. There is no reason that courts should be permitted to destroy evidence of any sort.

Please contact me if there is any additional information I can provide.

Sincerely,

Emily Gallup, MFT

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California State Senate

SENATOR
LOIS WOLK

FIFTH SENATE DISTRICT



CHAIR
GOVERNANCE & FINANCE

COMMITTEES
AGRICULTURE
BUDGET & FISCAL REVIEW
HEALTH
NATURAL RESOURCES & WATER

SUBCOMMITTEES
AGING & LONG TERM CARE
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 5 ON
CORRECTIONS, PUBLIC SAFETY &
THE JUDICIARY

OLIVE OIL PRODUCTION &
EMERGING PRODUCTS

SELECT COMMITTEES
DELTA STEWARDSHIP &
SUSTAINABILITY, CHAIR
AUTISM & RELATED DISORDERS
BIOTECHNOLOGY-NEW JOBS FOR
A HEALTHY ECONOMY
CALIFORNIA'S WINE INDUSTRY
DELTA CONSERVATION,
CONVEYANCE & GOVERNANCE
EXCELLENCE & INNOVATION
IN STATE GOVERNMENT
GREEN JOBS, SOLAR, WIND &
CLEAN TECHNOLOGIES

JOINT COMMITTEES
FAIRS, ALLOCATION &
CLASSIFICATION
LEGISLATIVE AUDIT
LEGISLATIVE BUDGET

October 24, 2012

Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye
Supreme Court of California
350 McAllister Street
San Francisco, CA 94102-4797

AOC Director Honorable Steven Jahr
Administrative Office of the Courts
455 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102-3688

Dear Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye and Judge Jahr:

I am writing today in support of the San Joaquin County Superior Court's application to the Judicial Council for emergency funding.

San Joaquin County has one of the most under-funded superior courts in California, and as such has been forced to sharply reduce staffing, hours of operation, and courtroom availability over the last several years. The Court has even resorted to eliminating small claims cases in an attempt to cope with a lack of funds. Despite their best efforts, the San Joaquin Superior Court judges and staff have been stretched too thin to properly serve the residents of San Joaquin County.

I urge you to consider providing emergency funding for the San Joaquin County Superior Court so that it can continue to administer justice for all those it serves. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lois Wolk".

Lois Wolk
Senator, 5th District

LW:mi

Superior Court of California County of Marin

KIM TURNER
Court Executive Officer



Hall of Justice
3501 Civic Center Drive, Room 116
P.O. Box 4988
San Rafael, CA 94913-4988
(415) 444-7020

October 25, 2012

Chief Justice Tani Cantil Sakauye
Members of the Judicial Council
Administrative Office of the Courts
William Vickrey Conference Center
455 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

RE: PUBLIC COMMENT: Judicial Council Agenda Item H – State Trial Court Improvement and Modernization Fund Allocations: Statewide Programs and Projects

Dear Chief Justice and Judicial Council Members,

I regret that I am unable to make this presentation to you in person and respectfully request that you review and consider the perspective provided herein when making the critical allocation decisions pertaining to the Improvement and Modernization Fund (IMF) at today's Judicial Council Business Meeting. As a former Judicial Council member, I am painfully aware of the difficult task before this council to allocate insufficient dollars to numerous critical programs that support the delivery of justice services in California and, in some cases, to entirely defund worthy programs that have demonstrated and supported a strategic vision of improved access to justice for all Californians.

I request your consideration today in two broad areas of the allocation recommendations submitted to the council by the Trial Court Budget Working Group (TCBWG). I urge you to revisit the recommendations that would sustain full funding of the Complex Civil Litigation Program, an 11 year old pilot program that benefits six large and medium-large trial courts, while programs supporting public access and self-represented litigants have sustained significant reductions in fiscal year 2011/12 and are now before this council facing additional reductions today. These public access and self-help programs benefit all Californians, and particularly those who have nearly insurmountable challenges in their ability to access justice services.

Without question, the Complex Civil Litigation Program creates the opportunity for attorneys and litigants in these cases to proceed to resolution in an efficient manner. However, in 2011 a subcommittee of TCBWG identified significant concerns about the oversight of the program and requested that these

concerns be addressed before it came to TCBWG for a funding recommendation again. The Complex Civil Litigation Program has been maintained in “pilot” status for more than a decade, is available only to six trial courts, has never been “reopened” to invite participation by additional courts, and, most importantly, the filing data suggest that several trial courts have higher numbers of complex civil filings than some of the pilot courts, yet these courts receive no special funding to handle this workload. Moreover, the funding methodology is not comprehensible, in that the allocation amounts per judicial department vary drastically among the participating courts (from approximately \$150,000 per department in one court to approximately \$400,000 per department in another court.) For these reasons, this program was ripe for a full review and analysis. This review did not occur, but TCBWG has recommended no reduction to the program and to fund it in the amount of \$4,001,010.

Conversely, virtually every IMF-funded program pertaining to public access and self-represented litigants has experienced substantial reductions in funding over the last two years. Self-represented Litigants Statewide Support provides support to all courts to assist them in efficiently maintaining and staffing their self-help centers. Public Education and Outreach funds federal Justice Corps programs in four trial courts. Quality of Justice and Services to the Public: Trial Court Web Resources provides website improvements and content management for trial courts, which is of critical importance to the public. If this council adopts the recommendations of the TCBWG today, the two-year impact on these programs will be as follows:

IMF PROGRAMS	BASE ALLOCATION IN FY 2011/12	TCBWG RECOMMENDATION FOR FY 2012/13	FUNDING PERCENTAGE REDUCTION OVER TWO YEARS
Complex Civil Litigation Program	\$4,001,010	\$4,001,010	0%
Self-Represented Litigants Statewide Support	\$300,000	\$100,000	(66%)
Public Education and Outreach	\$511,000	\$277,000	(46%)
Quality of Justice and Services to the Public: Trial Court Web Resources	\$260,000	\$0	(100%)

The Judicial Council of California has championed the cause of access to justice in its strategic plan, its mission statement and its longstanding commitment to development of programs to support access to justice for those who are most vulnerable and who live at the margins of our society. Now is the time to demonstrate that commitment by restoring funding to the worthy initiatives above by allocating a modest reduction to the Complex Civil Litigation Program. To fully restore funding to these programs to the base allocation level would require \$694,000, a 17% reduction to Complex Civil Litigation. Such a reduction to Complex Civil Litigation would still be less substantial than the reductions taken by many other worthy programs, for which I am not advocating today, that benefit a greater percentage of the trial courts and the public they serve.

During this unprecedented and catastrophic fiscal crisis, the Judicial Branch has made a compelling case to the Governor, the Legislature and the public that the courts are committed to remaining open and available to individuals who depend on the justice system to protect them from harm and help them assert their legal rights. Now is the time to demonstrate this commitment by restoring a

small amount of funding to programs that serve hundreds of thousands of Californians each year for whom a lack of such services is particularly poignant in that individuals with acknowledged barriers to the legal system often face life altering challenges when housing, personal safety and the fabric of family life is at risk. A legal misstep in any of these areas can result in vulnerability and uncertainty for those living with no safety net.

The Judicial Council's mission was founded on the principle that in a humane and democratic society, there exists a moral imperative that all members of the society are afforded equal access to justice and equal treatment under the law. Protection of these vital programs buttresses the Branch's argument to the Legislature about the value we place on the ideal of public access. Now is the time to renew commitment to this principle by restoring funding to these programs.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kim Turner", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kim Turner

October 24, 2012

Attention: Ms. Nancy E. Spero

RE: Court-Employed Child Custody Mediators' Working Files

Dear Chief Justice and this honorable Judicial Council,

My name is Alan Ernesto Phillips, I reside in Shasta County. I currently serve as the elected Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Northern Hispanic Latino Coalition. It may be noteworthy that I have also served our great state for the past 13 years as a parenting educator to mainstream, at-risk and court-mandated parents; I served the Shasta County Juvenile Justice Center for seven years as an at-risk and first-time offender group counselor; I have served the Shasta Interagency Narcotics Task Force with distinction that earned me a Commendation from the state Attorney General for my work in 2005 educating California's Latino parents on how to combat Latino Gang and Drug activities.

But more important than all the other accolades related to my contributions, I have been an even better, loving father and dad of a now 16-year old daughter

River Brewster Phillips, who was abducted 594 days ago with no contact allowed, and as a loving committed father to a wonderful 10-year old daughter Iliana Phillips, who **is excelling in school and primarily lives with me.**

In my many years of professional service I have also found myself lost in the bigness of the Family Law System - under questionable practices of arrogant, intimidating mediators, a mentally-questionable, 19-year-veteran, retired, “Assigned judge” as well as what I find as “bureau-dumping” of my respectful complaints within the previous AOC. Issues, I contend are related to the importance of retaining records and notes by Family Court Services.

Now, I am grateful for this opportunity and am speaking in support of retaining mediation records and notes until majority. As an outspoken and published court reform advocate for several years, I wish to go on the record today by thanking the Honorable Stephen Baker whose neutrality and child-focused decisions were originally meant to *help* my oldest daughter River. I wish to also commend the Honorable Stephen Jahr for his child-focused handling of a family law matter that was originally meant to help my youngest daughter, Iliana. I want to look into your eyes

today gentlemen and give you my deepest gratitude for what you hoped and ruled might have helped my children.

When my oldest daughter River was removed from our family on March 17, 2011 after a frightening 20-minute so-called “trriage” in a dark courthouse hallway, and after a subsequent five minute nightmare ruling under a fumbling judge, our world was turned upside-down as my daughter was removed from us - with no contact allowed. There was no regard for the careful controls set up by Judge Baker, no access to previous mediation records that clearly evidenced our daughter River had a very long history of failing and truancy while under her mother’s care.

There were No charges of neglect, and no abuse. Just a unilateral, cursory examination, another quickie, 17-minute so-called “formal mediation” session, the court chose to rule upon opinions of court-appointees rather than even reading clear and convincing contrary evidences. All, in clear disregard to the CRCs for Mediators and Therapists under 5.210. **As a direct outcome: Our daughter, River, went from a consistent Honor Roll student in a 50/50 shared custody, *instantly* down to a truant, failing, at-risk youth. And she**

has stayed consistently in that preventable outcome to date.

When it comes to the lives of children, proper records can be a powerful ally in keeping litigants, and court professionals, on an even, ethical playing field while protecting due process, and sustaining the healthiest decisions for our children.

I have asserted and proven in declaration after declaration for over two years that an “irregular” Shasta County mediator/Executive Director and a mentally-failing “assigned judge” are without oversight and select their own facts. I believe, in a systematic retaliation. To date there are no protections nor remedy for the harm that has befallen my children by these PREJUDGING officers of the court.

IF, an “irregular” mediator or supervisor chooses to make a life altering recommendation to the court, only to choose destruction of the supporting documents thereafter, due process and the possibility to right wrongdoing and errors will be lost. The selective destruction of a rich history of information, possibly helpful for other children of unfortunate circumstances, disappears.

In closing, it is probably too late now to help my oldest daughter River out of an at-risk, downward spiral as she goes into the passageway of adulthood. It is probably too late for critical sibling bonding to take place between my beloved daughters. There has been no PERMANENCE in our lives for years.

It seems to me this esteemed body has had two years to make a decision, to not to decide nor take action on a significantly important policy. As a lay, tax-payer I am troubled by that thought. As a heartbroken father of an illegally abducted daughter I am outraged.

I used to believe in the chance at justice for my children... but, your court-appointed mediators, retired-judges; court-appointed therapists, court-appointed GALs, AOC and inept clerks have all have attacked my kids, bringing them lasting harm - and you can bank on my civility. But I wonder what you would do if you were in my shoes?

BUT, it is not too late, to take action, today. In the depths of my despair I

urgently request this powerful group of greater minds to take real steps and abolish mediation as a requirement of the family law process. It fails too many kids when they have so much power to select their own facts AND destroy evidence. If you truly want to save funds abolish the assigned judges program as it is. In the least, I respectfully urge that you expeditiously enact uniform practices of mediation records retention until majority.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Ernesto Phillips

11342 Puffin Way

Redding CA 96003

530/242/1741

County of Placer Board of Supervisors

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JACK DURAN
District 1

ROBERT M. WEYGANDT
District 2

JIM HOLMES
District 3

KIRK UHLER
District 4

JENNIFER MONTGOMERY
District 5



October 24, 2012

The Court Facilities Working Group and,
The Judicial Council and,
Jody Patel, Administrative Office of the Courts

From: Placer County Supervisors Jennifer Montgomery and Jack Duran

Dear Sirs and Madams,

Please accept this letter as our formal request that the Court Facilities Working Group (CFWG) and the Judicial Council (JC) reconsider their decision to “indefinitely delay” the purchase of property in the Tahoe City area of Placer County for a new State Courthouse.

Property values in the Tahoe Basin will never again be as low as they are now—a \$1.5 million dollar purchase price for the proposed site is frankly a bargain basement price. Additionally, the purchase of the land does not obligate the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) to construction of the facility at any time in the near future—it merely acquires the land at an extremely reasonable cost to hold until such time at the State budget has recovered enough to fund construction.

Perhaps, lost in the discussion of constructing a court facility, is the fact that this is a revenue generating property and that income will help offset the costs associated with the land purchase. According to one of the owners of the parcels, at the present time, the total monthly rents for the office building on the lot on the east side of Lake Forest and Highway 28, are in the \$3,000.00 per month range and that pre-recession, the rents were in the \$10,000.00 per month range.

An additional point for our request for reconsideration is that the Tahoe Area Courthouse was ranked fifth overall in terms of need in the Trial Court Capital Outlay Plan as approved by the Judicial Council. This high-priority ranking was based on the Judicial Council approved criteria and as applied by the AOC and its consultants. The determination that the Tahoe Area Courthouse was one of the most needed courthouse projects was the result of many months of study and based upon the application of well-determined criteria. The need for a replacement courthouse facility at Tahoe has not changed and is readily apparent to all members of the public, court employees and attorneys who must continue to use the existing inadequate and security-plagued structure. We believe it is important not to disregard the previous hard work and analysis of the AOC, the Executive and Planning Committee and the Judicial Council.

We would also like to address several concerns that were expressed at the last meeting of the CFWG.

Cost Concerns

A concern was expressed that at \$22.5 million the project is too expensive. We agree and do not believe that the estimate is an accurate reflection of true costs. While it is true that building costs in the Tahoe Basin will always be substantially higher than in the Sacramento Valley due to specialized requirements and regulations, we do not believe the professionals at the Office of Court Construction and Management (OCCM) have had an opportunity to develop a feasible and reasonable alternative budget that still meets the court’s needs. As a comparison, a recently constructed Fire Station of Twenty-two (22) thousand (plus) square feet in Tahoe City was completed for just under \$9 million dollars.

TRPA Restrictions

It was suggested that the proposed site may have too many restrictions placed on it by the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA). The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency is an operating agency formed by an interstate compact between the States of California and Nevada, as approved by Congress. Its primary purpose is to safeguard the environmentally sensitive area within this region of the Sierras. Properties subject to TRPA regulation have specific allowances for land coverage. The proposed site has very favorable land coverage potential--in other words, the restrictions on the proposed site are not significant when compared to other parcels in the Tahoe Basin and can we are confident that your project can be constructed within TRPA’s regulations and limitations.

To recap, we believe it would be financially prudent to recommend site acquisition for the Tahoe Courthouse construction to proceed, recognizing that construction may not occur until further funding becomes available. Site acquisition is possible now at a favorable market price, with a willing seller. There is virtually no downside to proceeding with the purchase of the current proposed site as it has an existing office building with tenants. Thus, even if construction did not occur for some period of time, this is an income-generating property. We respectfully suggest that there is a golden opportunity to at least acquire the property that may be lost if not acted upon.

From Placer County’s perspective, we support this acquisition since the proposed site is only ¼ mile from the Placer County Sheriff’s Substation. We have already met with the local community and there is no known opposition to the current site – indeed, the community and its leaders embrace this project and the safety and access to justice it will provide.

We submit that site acquisition, as suggested above, is a responsible and cost efficient way to keep the project on track, without significant financial risk. We ask for your reconsideration and that the CFWG recommend that the Tahoe Courthouse Project be removed from the “indefinite delay” status for the limited purpose of allowing site acquisition to proceed. In making this suggestion, we thus recognize that construction of a new Tahoe Courthouse – with the fifth highest priority ranking in terms of need – will not be built until funding sources return. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Montgomery
5th District Supervisor



Jack Duran
1st District Supervisor