



COUNTY OF YOLO

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Yolo County One of First in State to Transfer Court Facilities

(Woodland, CA) – This week Yolo County became one of the first two counties to comply with SB 1732 (Escutia, 2002) by transferring responsibility of three county-owned court facilities back to the state. The historic courthouse, however, will stay under county ownership but will be used by the courts until they move to their new courthouse, yet to be constructed.

“This has been a complex and challenging process, but to be among the first two in the state is a very significant accomplishment,” noted Yolo County Board of Supervisors Chair Mariko Yamada during the May 1, 2007 Board of Supervisors meeting in which the transfer became official. “We look forward to a long, positive working relationship with our partners in the court.”

SB 1732 (Escutia, 2002) established a framework and protocol for the transfer of court facilities from the counties to the state and represents the third and final step in moving responsibility and authority for the courts, its employees, and court-related facilities to the state. The action taken this week by the Board of Supervisors makes the Yolo Courts Replacement project now eligible for planning and construction funding.

“The Yolo transfer is significant for a lot of reasons,” noted Jim Perry, Court Executive Officer. “The transfer paves the way for the new Woodland courthouse project that has already been approved by Judicial Council for funding in 2008-2009, and the transfer has been recognized by the state as a collaborative movement to get something done.”

County Administrator Sharon Jensen echoed these sentiments and acknowledged the extraordinary efforts of staff during this multi-year process as well as the cooperation of the court administration.

The three facilities being transferred include the Family Court, located in the old juvenile hall building, a portion of the old jail, and the historic courthouse adjacent to the County Administration Building. Occupancy and maintenance of the historic courthouse will revert to the county when vacated by the courts. With this action, the responsibility for these facilities is transferred from the county to the Judicial Council.

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