

# Public Defender

The Public Defender's mission is to provide competent legal counsel to indigent defendants in criminal cases, minors brought before the juvenile court, those alleged to be in need of restriction due to mental illness or a developmental disability, and other cases of people entitled to representation in the Courts of Santa Barbara County.

In order to provide the highest level of customer service and maximize cooperative efforts with the County's law and justice agencies, the proposed construction and remodel is intended to improve accessibility for the public (particularly the disabled), increase employee safety and security, improve workflow, maximize use of space, and maintain the integrity of the historic Courthouse.

The Public Defender's most significant space need is in the Courthouse Annex in downtown Santa Barbara. A draft of the 2005 Space Utilization Report-South County noted that the Santa Barbara office's immediate need is for an additional 7,597 square feet with a projected space deficit of another 7,037 square feet in 2010, totaling 14,634 square feet. The office was fortunate to receive 2,752 square feet previously occupied by General Services on the first and second floors. The space requires remodeling to correct deficiencies and hazards. Renovation of the new as well as existing work space will enable the Department to expand the number of offices through better space planning taking advantage of wide under utilized corridors and addresses the more serious deficiencies in space and related fire safety problems.

The process of identifying space needs included participation from the County Administrative Office, General Services, the Superior Court, and Public Defender Executive and Management staff. The resulting study concluded that the Courthouse Annex was best suited for use by the Public Defender's Office as it fits both the Office and County's needs.

The project will improve security for the Public Defender as well as the Grand Jury. Currently there is access to all levels by the public, putting employees at personal risk. The reception area will be moved from the third to the first floor and the remainder of the building will be restricted. This will alleviate the space deficit identified by the County's January 2000 Space Utilization Report by 5,652 square feet.

Installation of an elevator is key to improving safety by providing an alternative to Attorneys, Investigators and support staff for transporting large case files (seventy pounds or more) daily, requiring the use of carts

up and down multiple flights of stairs to and from court. At this time, handicapped clients can access the first floor of the building only. To get to the existing elevator, they must climb two sets of stairs and there is no accessible restroom. The elevator and remodel will correct these shortcomings.

For more information about services provided by the Public Defender, visit our website at [www.publicdefendersb.org](http://www.publicdefendersb.org)

**Santa Barbara Courthouse Annex Remodel**

**Function:** Law & Justice

**Department:** Public Defender

**StartDate:** 9/14/2005

**EndDate:** 10/1/2010

**This project is managed by General Services.**

**Description**

This project remodels 16,000 square feet of an existing building. In addition, an elevator will be installed and all four levels will be reconfigured to enhance workflow efficiency, increase ease of access for the public, maximize customer service, and improve safety in the workplace.

A study was conducted to determine options that were the most practical for the County, best suited for the Public Defender's needs and most cost efficient for the County. This study concluded that the Public Defender was the best fit in the Courthouse, meeting the Public Defender and County's needs. This project will increase public accessibility while ensuring greater safety and security for employees. Installation of an elevator is key to improving safety by providing an alternative for transporting carts of large case files (70lbs+) up and down multiple flights of stairs.

The budget includes preliminary fees (\$20,000), design fees (\$418,000), construction fees (\$4,402,000) and equipment, furniture and Arts Commission (\$1,160,000). \$5,050,000 is pending funding through debt financing recommended by the Debt Advisory Committee and approved by the Board of Supervisors in FY 2007-08 and delayed until late FY 2008-09.



**Estimated Project Costs**

<b>Construction Costs</b>		<b>Annual O &amp; M Costs</b>	
Preliminary	20	Utilities	43
Design	418	Maintenance	69
Acquisition	0	Personnel	0
Construction	4,402	Other	0
Other	1,160		
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>6,000</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>112</b>

**Status**

The design process continues and construction is anticipated to begin in FY 2008-09. The project will be funded with Certificates of Participation using the General Fund as the repayment source. \$400,000 in project funds from General Fund Capital Designation was transferred to Betteravia Expansion Building D to be repaid at a future date.

**Net Impact on Operating Budget**

Annual operating costs will increase current budgeted utility costs by approximately \$11,000 and maintenance costs by \$9,000.

Source of Funds	Fund	Prior Year(s) Expense	Est Act 2008-09	Proposed 2009-10			Projected Requirements					Five Year Total	Future Years	Project Total
				Carry Forward	New Funding	Year 1 Total	Year 2 2010-11	Year 3 2011-12	Year 4 2012-13	Year 5 2013-14				
Criminal Justice Facilities Construction F	0070	60												60
General Fund Capital Designation	0001	101	516	273		273						273		890
Unfunded	0001				3,657	3,657	1,393					5,050		5,050
<b>Totals</b>		<b>161</b>	<b>516</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>3,657</b>	<b>3,930</b>	<b>1,393</b>					<b>5,323</b>		<b>6,000</b>

<b>Operating &amp; Maintenance Costs for Fund 0001</b>	75	Year 1 Impact:	75	75	84	112	112	458
--	----	----------------	----	----	----	-----	-----	-----