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November 3, 2025

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, 9th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subj: Governor's Budget – Funding for Superior Court of California, County of San Joaquin, New Tracy Courthouse and Restoration of Services

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of the constituents of the Fifth Supervisorial District of San Joaquin County, I write to urge your support for the inclusion of funding for the New Tracy Courthouse project – designated as an “immediate needs” project – in your upcoming fiscal year proposed budget. I support the Judicial Council of California and San Joaquin County Superior Court efforts to secure funding – \$3,503,000 – for the Performance Criteria Phase of the project in Fiscal Year 2026–2027.

Our County previously wrote in support of your January 2025 Proposed Budget which included proposed funding to begin this capital outlay project to construct a new two-courtroom courthouse that would replace four existing, vacant court facilities. Ultimately, funding included in the proposed budgets for FY 2024–2025 and FY 2025–2026 for this project, was excluded from the final versions and deferred to a future fiscal year in effort to address the state's budget shortfall.

The Tracy Branch Court has been closed since October 3, 2011, and its reopening is contingent upon the construction of the new courthouse. The closure has created significant burdens on nearby courthouses, increased travel times for litigants and witnesses, and limited access to justice for the underserved residents in the southern part of the county. The southern portion of our county includes Tracy which is now home to more than 100,000 Californians, the City of Lathrop which is one of the fastest-growing cities in the state approaching 40,000 residents, and Mountain House, California's newest city approaching 30,000 Californians.

Broadly speaking, the merits of this project are significant and include; restoring local court services, providing a modern facility increasing safety and accessibility, consolidating and replacing outdated facilities, improving public access to justice, improving operational efficiency and security, avoiding future expenses to maintain the old facilities, and repurposing a Judicial Council-owned site for infill development, eliminating project costs for site acquisition.

“I hope I shall possess firmness and virtue enough to maintain (what I consider the most enviable of all titles), the character of an honest man.”
- George Washington -

GOVERNOR'S BUDGET – FUNDING FOR SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SAN JOAQUIN, NEW TRACY COURTHOUSE
AND RESTORATION OF SERVICES

The existing Tracy courthouse facilities are outdated, unsafe, noncompliant, and functionally inadequate. Their vacancy and poor condition create significant barriers to public service, operational efficiency, and compliance with modern standards. The new courthouse is urgently needed to restore and improve court services, enhance access to justice, and serve a growing population. The recommended project provides the best long-term value for the community and the judicial system in San Joaquin County.

The project was previously approved and included in the state's capital infrastructure plan but has been delayed solely due to fiscal constraints—not due to any question of merit. According to the judicial branch's 2019 ranked list of facility project needs, it was the next project in line to be funded. It would serve to restore court services to the Tracy community, enhance public service delivery for southern San Joaquin County, and replace four outdated and currently vacant court facilities.

This project and restoration of the long-needed services it will provide will have a significant positive impact on our residents and the judicial system for many years to come. I urge you to please exercise your executive privilege and prioritize the funding of this project and the Californians it will serve. Your time and consideration are appreciated, and I look forward to your favorable actions.

Sincerely,



Robert Rickman
Supervisor, Fifth District
San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors

Copy: SJC Superior Court Presiding Judge and CEO, SJC CAO, SJC CC, SJC COB, SJC Sheriff, SJC DA, SJC PD, City Mgr's Tracy-Mountain House-Lathrop, State Legislative Delegation

DTG: 30225/01ST

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