

## Groundbreaking set Friday for new Yolo courthouse

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Two years from now, the first gavel will sound in a courtroom on the 1000 block of Main Street.

That now-empty lot is where the judicial branch will make its home once the new Yolo County courthouse is complete -- currently anticipated for March 2015.

The 14-courtroom, 163,000-square-foot structure will replace the historic Courthouse nearby on Court Street -- a much-needed upgrade, say advocates like Superior Court Judge Dave Rosenberg.

Construction will cost an estimated \$161.4 million. About \$133.8 million in lease-revenue construction bonds were sold late last year, to be repaid over a 25-year period through court user fees and penalties.

Rosenberg, a former presiding judge who worked for years to win approval of the project, has said the current Courthouse is outdated and not up to the task. The new one -- featuring tall windows and a Grecian entryway -- was designed by Fentress Architects with Dreyfuss & Blackford and will be built by Hensel Phelps Construction Co.

It will be the largest construction project in Woodland since the late 1980s, when County Fair Mall was built. Planners say more than 450 workers are expected to take part in the project.

But before construction there must be a groundbreaking ceremony. And planners have a big one scheduled for noon Friday.

The event will be attended by a huge number of city, county and state officials. The list of judges alone takes up half a page. Rosenberg will be there, along with Presiding Judge Steven Basha and most of the other Yolo County Superior Court judges.

California Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye will speak, as will state Sen. Lois Wolk and Assemblywoman Mariko Yamada, among others.

To feed all those people -- there are city council members coming from every town in Yolo -- refreshments will be provided by downtown Woodland restaurants.

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