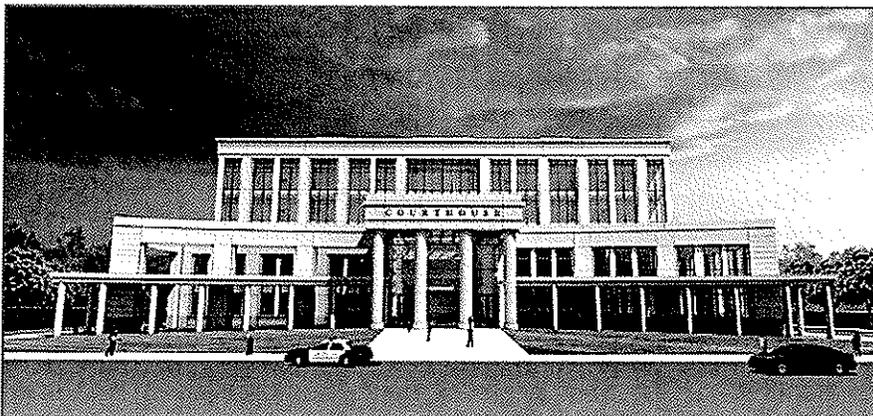


November 16, 2011 | Posted by [Lauren Keene](#)

Images of future courthouse unveiled to public



An artist's rendering depicts the new Yolo County Courthouse, which will be built in downtown Woodland. Courtesy photo

WOODLAND — Yolo Superior Court officials unveiled artistic renderings Tuesday of a 163,000-square-foot, \$167 million courthouse slated for the entrance to downtown Woodland.

“We are very mindful of the fact that this historic building has stood here and served this community well for a century,” Presiding Judge David Rosenberg said in an interview at the current courthouse on Court Street, which dates back to 1917.

“Our intent is to build a new courthouse that will stand and serve the community for the next century.”

If all goes as planned, the new courthouse will stand five stories tall on the Woodland city block bordered by Main, Lincoln, Fifth and Sixth streets. It will be constructed of pre-fabricated concrete, with a base of granite.

“It’ll be a new building, but it will have historical characteristics,” said Shawn Landry, Yolo’s assistant court executive officer.

Funding for the project will come from a statewide fund created in 2008 by Senate Bill 1407. It triggered an increase in court fines and fees to pay for the replacement of aging court facilities throughout California.

Despite the state’s recent cash grabs from that fund, Yolo County continues to rank near the top of the state’s priority list, Rosenberg said.

The partnership of Fentress Architects and Dreyfuss & Blackford Architects designed the project, with input from two working groups comprising local judges, court executives, city and county representatives. Several of them revealed images of the building to the Woodland City Council at its meeting Tuesday night.

A pillared portico facing onto Main Street is “reminiscent of the existing courthouse,” Rosenberg said. The front of the building is slightly curved in a way that designers intend to be welcoming to the public, with large windows meant to symbolize openness and transparency to the courts.

Inside, there will be 14 courtrooms ranging in size from 1,700 to 2,200 square feet, replacing the undersized courtrooms that are spread among six different buildings today. The largest two, on the ground floor, will be reserved for the court’s high-volume proceedings — arraignments and small claims/traffic/unlawful detainer matters.

Also on the ground floor will be the jury assembly room, clerks' offices and the criminal and civil divisions, where members of the public can pay their fines or file paperwork.

In-custody defendants, who get to court by walking in "chain gangs" from a holding facility to the main courthouse across the street, will have a separate entrance in the basement of the new building. A private elevator will take them from the sallyport to the courtrooms' holding cells.

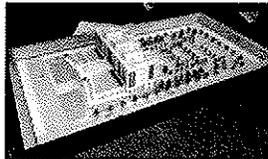
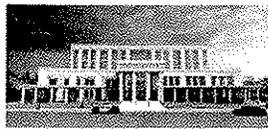
Additional features planned include a children's waiting room adjacent to the family law and juvenile courtrooms, as well as benches and public art outside the building. Plans call for employee parking behind the courthouse, and court officials are in negotiations to provide public parking on a lot east of the Woodland Police Department.

Landry said it is important to court officials that the courthouse remain in downtown Woodland, the county seat, so that court employees could remain close to the area's shops and restaurants.

The state Administrative Office of the Courts sent out a request for proposals last month and has received applications from 12 contractors seeking to build the project, said Jim Perry, Yolo's court executive officer. A builder will be selected early next month, while work continues on preliminary plans and working drawings.

AOC officials say the bidding process is slated for late 2012, with construction expected to start in early 2013 and last about a year or so. The existing courthouse will revert to county ownership, possibly for use as offices.

— Reach Lauren Keene at lkeene@davisenterprise.net or (530) 747-8048. Follow her on Twitter [@laurenkeene](https://twitter.com/laurenkeene)



Share

7



submit

0

Short URL: <http://www.davisenterprise.com/?p=105042>

View this story on [page A1](#)