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## Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **Old Solano Courthouse Renovation Proceeds with Bidding**

FAIRFIELD — On Friday, the construction bidding process began for the \$27 million renovation of the Old Solano Courthouse in Fairfield, for the Superior Court of Solano County. The bidding process is being conducted by Plant Construction, the project's construction manager. The renovation project is scheduled to start in early 2013, with completion slated for the second quarter of 2014.

"Having this much needed courthouse is going to be tremendous. We very much need it and it will significantly improve our ability to deliver services to the people of California" stated the Hon. Paul L. Beeman, Presiding Judge.

The historic courthouse was one of three construction projects financed by the sale of lease-revenue bonds in late October. The bonds will be repaid over a twenty-five year period through court user fees and penalties without tapping into the state's General Fund.

Before the historic Solano project could proceed to bond sale, and then the bidding phase, it underwent a cost reduction effort, as mandated by the Judicial Council and its Court Facilities Working Group. The project team, consisting of members from the Solano County Court, the state Administrative Office of the Courts, the project architects, and the construction manager, proposed various changes to meet this mandate. More than \$1.3 million was carved out of the budget. Examples of savings include reusing an existing emergency generator, reducing new landscaping, and simplifying the design of an exterior stair structure. When completed, the courthouse will house three courtrooms, a clerk's office, a mediation center and a jury assembly room.

Vacant since 2005, the Old Solano Courthouse was designed by E.C. Hemming in 1911. It is considered a classic example of Beaux Arts architecture with its flat roof, large exterior colonnades, and sweeping central marble staircase. The San Francisco based architectural firm of Hornberger and Worstell, recognized for its achievements in restoration and modernization of historic structures, designed the plans for the renovation. The two-story, 29,000-square-foot courthouse will undergo complete seismic, mechanical, electrical, life safety, plumbing, telecommunications, and accessibility upgrades. The architectural design also incorporates many sustainability features and includes numerous energy-saving features that will make the courthouse economical to operate for many years to come.

More information about the Old Solano Courthouse renovation is available on the California Courts website at: <http://www.courts.ca.gov/facilities-solano.htm>

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