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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **County to Assist Superior Court to Finance New Family Resources Court Facility in Downtown San Jose**

*Centralized Court Location Expected to Improve Security and Services*

SAN JOSE, CALIF.— Today, the County of Santa Clara Board of Supervisors approved in concept the assisting in the financing for the construction of a new Family Resources Court facility at the corner of St. James and Market Streets, directly across from the current Downtown Superior Court. The site is currently used by the Court as a parking lot. The new facility is expected to be occupied in 2013. The facility is estimated to cost \$209 million with the county agreeing to issue \$154 million in lease revenue bonds. The state will contribute \$44 million and the remaining balance will come from the sale of assets and the Court's reserves.

"The County, Superior Court and the State Administrative Office of the Court have been discussing building a new Downtown Court Facility for several years," said Supervisor Pete McHugh, Chair of the Board of Supervisors. "The new facility will improve security and better accommodate the needs of the public."

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The new court will consist of 18-22 courtrooms, Clerk's Office, Children's Waiting Room, Self-Service Center, appropriate Court Security, Administrative Offices and Ancillary Services. Once constructed, the facility will be able to include Family, Child Support, Juvenile Dependency, Drug Treatment, and Domestic Violence cases in one centralized location. It will expand the capacity of its Children's Waiting Room to serve additional litigants who would otherwise bring their children into the courtroom. It will also provide separate waiting rooms for victims and witnesses.

The existing courthouses are at four Court-occupied county leased facilities and one county owned facility. They were not designed for courtroom uses and are inadequate for courtroom operations and ancillary services. Existing space does not appropriately accommodate the volume of family and juvenile court cases heard in these locations.

The county's contribution to the project comes from sources including issuance of bonds, Civil Assessment revenues, lease expenses for court facilities, and sale of the Los Gatos Courthouse.

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