

NEWS RELEASE

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA

COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO



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PRESIDING JUDGE ANNE-CHRISTINE MASSULLO ANNOUNCES PROGRESS ON PLANS FOR A NEW CRIMINAL COURTHOUSE IN SAN FRANCISCO

The *Judicial Branch Five-Year Infrastructure Plan for Fiscal Year 2025–26* proposes a request for funding in FY 2026–27 to replace the San Francisco Hall of Justice. The Judicial Council of California’s (JCC) 2019 report on the *Reassessment of Trial Court Capital-Outlay Projects* listed the replacement project as a Critical Need project. The JCC and the Court worked with San Francisco officials on a completed feasibility study to move forward with a long-overdue replacement for the Hall of Justice (HOJ), Presiding Judge Anne-Christine Massullo announced today.

“The building is more than 65 years old, and it is plagued by a bevy of structural and mechanical issues,” Presiding Judge Massullo said. “The HOJ has outgrown its useful life span.” The City and County of San Francisco (CCSF) previously identified the building as in need of seismic retrofitting to meet desired seismic performance objectives, and it was given a high-risk rating in the JCC’s 2017 report on the *Seismic Risk Rating of California Superior Court Buildings*.

A few months ago, the JCC completed a feasibility study on a HOJ replacement plan. It is the JCC which oversees new courthouse construction.

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“The study was the tangible result of a thriving, strong and productive collaboration with the Court, CCSF and the JCC,” Presiding Judge Massullo said. “The study was completed in seven months and reflects a shared commitment in the CCSF to agree on a plan and way forward. Recognizing the urgency of the project, the JCC was able to better define the scope and budget of the project.”

San Francisco City Administrator Carmen Chu said, “Over the last few decades the Hall of Justice at 850 Bryant has served as the central location for our City’s criminal court proceedings and law enforcement agencies. Unfortunately, it has become increasingly clear that the interim repairs and fixes are not enough. The persistent challenges at the site, combined with the importance of the functions at the Hall, is why the Hall of Justice project is not only recognized but included for future funding in our 10-Year Capital Plan – our City’s roadmap for long-term infrastructure investments.”

Chu continued, “I want to congratulate the SF Superior Court on the completion of the feasibility study and inclusion of the San Francisco Hall of Justice in their prioritized five-year plans. Under the tenacious and unwavering leadership of Presiding Judge Massullo, we have worked side-by-side to identify and evaluate real options on a path forward. I look forward to continuing to partner with the Court and JCC for the benefit of San Franciscans.”

Opened in 1958, the HOJ, located at 850 Bryant St., once housed the District Attorney, Public Defender, a police substation, and a myriad of other agencies. Today, those agencies have abandoned the county-owned building, leaving the Court as its main tenant, occupying about 23% of the space under a Joint Occupancy Agreement signed with the County in 2001. The building’s main wing, the remaining 76%, is at best, sparingly populated. The building also is the site of a county jail, and some police and sheriff operations remain.

The Court’s HOJ operations include the Criminal courts, Criminal Clerk’s office,

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Behavioral Health Court, Drug Court, Jury Assembly Room, Information Technology Group, and the Community Justice Center's in-custody defendants. Court space in the 850 Bryant St. building is confined to the first three floors.

"The daily challenges for operating at the Hall impact the Court's most fundamental service: meaningful access to justice," Presiding Judge Massullo said. "Routinely, the elevators are broken, denying access to individuals, including jurors, who are unable to manage the two or three flights of stairs it takes to get to the courtrooms. The water pipes frequently burst and flood courtrooms, rendering them unusable and delaying justice in criminal trials. Sewage pipes are prone to bursting, causing leaks in chambers, and the sheriff's locker room. Bathrooms are often off-line for service and repairs."

The next priority is to secure state funding to move the project forward. The HOJ capital project is targeted for an initial funding request in FY 2026-27 per the current [Judicial Branch Five-Year Infrastructure Plan](#) (see page 6).

"Recent progress and a shared commitment to moving forward to address the urgent need for a new Hall of Justice inspires confidence that one day in the near future San Franciscans will access justice in a modern, full-service courthouse," Presiding Judge Massullo said. "We look forward to working with the Governor and the Legislature to secure funding for this urgent need for San Franciscans."

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