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STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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June 25, 2024

Judicial Council of California Facilities Services 455 Golden Gate Avenue, 8th Floor San Francisco, CA 94102-3688 nvcity-court.project@jud.ca.gov

RE: Nevada County, New Nevada County Courthouse Site Selection – Support USDA National Forest Service Office Location

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the Nevada County Board of Supervisors, I am writing to express the County's support for the site selection of the USDA National Forest Service Office location and urge the Judicial Council of California (JCC) to select its location as the new Nevada County Courthouse in Nevada County, California. As the JCC consultants prepare the various technical review and scoring of the three sites with regard to architectural, engineering, environmental, planning, cost, and other related actions that require specialized review, we urge you to ensure the public and stakeholder feedback is incorporated into the JCC's final recommendation, which strongly recommends the USDA National Forest Service Office location.

As underscored by the Nevada City Council decision on May 22, 2024 to support the USDA National Forest Service Office site location, both the other two property options (Melo Pello/Hirschman area—northwest corner of Cement Hill Road and Hwy 49 Parcels at the corner of Highway 49 and Coyote) appear to have unfavorable impacts on the City's housing element and raise concerns for the local neighborhood. Community members have expressed their strong support and preference for the USDA site selection to ensure the preservation of the historic and local preferences of the surrounding area, lessen any need for zoning changes, complement the local housing element, and remain in alignment with long-term planning goals. It is important that the JCC site selection balances the state's need for a new courthouse with surrounding land-use objectives that advance economic and community development while elevating partnership opportunities for all of the stakeholders reflected in the Project Advisory Committee, and most importantly best serve the needs of the citizens of Nevada County.

Therefore, as consultants work to complete the necessary technical studies for the final scoring of the three sites, we urge the JCC to factor in considerations that are reflective of key issues of importance raised by the Project Advisory Committee and recommend the JCC select the USDA National Forest Service Office location as the new location for the Nevada County Superior Court Courthouse.

Thank you in advance for your attention and consideration to this matter. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at 530-265-1480 or at *Hardy.Bullock@NevadaCountyCA.gov*.

Sincerely,

Hardy Bullock, Chair Board of Supervisors