



**NEVADA  
COUNTY**  
CALIFORNIA

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**Heidi Hall**

Supervisor, 1<sup>st</sup> District

Email: [heidi.hall@nevadacountyca.gov](mailto:heidi.hall@nevadacountyca.gov)

Office Location: 950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 200

Nevada City, California 95959

530.265.1480 | FAX: 530.265.9836

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**NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
**BOARD AGENDA MEMO**

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**MEETING DATE:** June 25, 2024

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Heidi Hall, District 1

**SUBJECT:** Letter of Support to the Judicial Council of California (JCC) for the site selection for the Nevada County Superior Courthouse

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**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve the attached Letter of Support and authorize the Chair to sign and submit.

**FUNDING:** N/A

**BACKGROUND:** The Judicial Council of California (JCC) is going to build a new Courthouse in a new location and are currently in the process of site selection in the greater Nevada City area. The Superior Court of Nevada County occupies three buildings in two cities in Nevada County. The court uses a mixed service model with court facilities located in Nevada City and Truckee. In Nevada City, the Nevada City Courthouse and Courthouse Annex serve as the primary court location for court filings and all case types. The one branch court facility, the Truckee Courthouse, is located at the Joseph Government Center in the Town of Truckee and serves the eastern portion of the county with all case types except for probate and juvenile dependency. Main administrative functions are housed in Nevada City, the County seat. Nevada County is geologically bisected by the Sierra Nevada mountain range, which presents challenges for access to court services during winter months. The new courthouse project will replace and consolidate the court's operations and courtrooms currently in the existing county-owned Nevada City Courthouse and Courthouse Annex buildings.

The Judicial Council of California (JCC) has approved and obtained initial funds for the relocation of the existing Nevada County Courthouse to a new location. The JCC is currently in the land acquisition phase of the project (see supporting documents for additional details). The JCC formed a Public Advisory Group (PAG) which includes representatives from a variety of stakeholders within Nevada County including representatives from the County of Nevada, City of Nevada City, City of Grass Valley, Town of Truckee, District Attorney, Sheriff, Probation, Public Defender, Nevada County Bar Association, Nevada County Court, and the JCC. The PAG is the designated interface

950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 200, PO Box 599002, Nevada City CA 95959-8617

phone: 530.265.1480 | fax: 530.265.9836 | toll free: 888.785.1480 | email: [bdofsupervisors@nevadacountyca.gov](mailto:bdofsupervisors@nevadacountyca.gov)

website: <https://www.nevadacountyca.gov/BOS>

for the JCC.

On March 21, 2024, the Judicial Council of California (JCC) announced the location for the new Nevada County Courthouse had been narrowed down to three potential sites out of fourteen identified locations. The three sites are listed and indicated in the JCC map (see supporting documents):

- USDA National Forest Service Office location
- Melo Pello/Hirschman area—northwest corner of Cement Hill Road and Hwy 49
- Parcels at the corner of Highway 49 and Coyote

Consultants to the JCC are completing technical review and scoring of the three sites with regard to architectural, engineering, environmental, planning, cost, and other related actions that require specialized review. Once complete, the information will be presented to the PAG in late August of 2024 or later. That meeting will also be an opportunity for the City of Nevada City to share the community's specific input on the three finalist sites.

In an effort to further embed public participation into the site selection process, the City of Nevada City formed an Ad Hoc Committee on February 14, 2024, which provided its recommendation to support the selection of the USDS National Forest Service Office location citing concerns on the other two sites that included, but are not limited to, impacts to the city's housing element and residential neighborhoods. Specifically, the Ad Hoc Committee identified a non-exhaustive list of concerns that included:

- Fire evacuation impacts
- Impacts on existing and future trails and open space projects
- Historic mining areas and disruption
- Proximity to historic neighborhoods
- Massing and size incompatible with the area
- Height of the structure blocking houses
- Traffic impacts
- Impact to riparian habitats
- Existing traffic on Coyote Street and Cement Hill
- Slope considerations from the highway
- Noise concerns for neighbors

On May 22, 2024 the Nevada City Council approved the adoption of the Ad Hoc Committee's recommendation (please find attached the staff report and packet information) to urge the USDA National Forest Service Office as the site selection.

Moreover, a multitude of District 1 constituents have reached out directly to me and expressed their support and urged the Board's support for the USDA National Forest Service Office location, including the Greater Cement Hill Neighborhood Association. In fact, the Association conducted a community survey and is strongly supporting the USDA National Forest Service Office location (supporting documents attached).

Therefore, as the JCC consultants are working on the various technical studies associated with the three (3) locations (as outlined above), I am recommending the Board authorize the Chair to sign and submit the attached letter supporting and urging the JCC to select the USDA National Forest Service Office location, as I believe it will provide the best

location that both accommodates the needs of the Court, County Staff, concerns of the community, and City of Nevada City.

Sincerely

Heidi Hall  
District 1 Supervisor