

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



ITEM: 3.1
(ID # 28298)

MEETING DATE:
Tuesday, July 01, 2025

FROM : SUPERVISOR JOSE MEDINA

SUBJECT: SUPERVISOR JOSE MEDINA: Support for the Expansion of the United States District Courthouse for the Central District of California, Eastern Division

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Support the expansion of the United States District Courthouse for the Eastern Division of the Central District of California, located in Riverside County; and
2. Direct the Executive Office to identify stakeholders and coordinate advocacy for federal funding of the United States General Services Administration's (GSA) Phase One Feasibility Study to accelerate implementation of a Long-Term Facilities Plan for courthouse expansion.

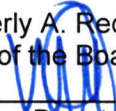
ACTION:Policy


Supervisor Jose Medina 6/26/2025

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

On motion of Supervisor Gutierrez, seconded by Supervisor Medina and duly carried by unanimous vote, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is approved as recommended.

Ayes: Medina, Spiegel, Washington, Perez and Gutierrez
Nays: None
Absent: None
Date: July 1, 2025
xc: BOS-D1, EO

Kimberly A. Rector
Clerk of the Board
By: 
Deputy

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE,
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

BACKGROUND

Summary

The Eastern Division of the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California, located in the City of Riverside, is critically undersized and under-resourced, creating a severe and inequitable burden on Inland Empire residents. Immediate steps must be taken to advance a long-term solution to address the region's growing judicial needs.

Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, home to a combined 4.7 million people, constitute one of the fastest-growing metropolitan regions in the United States. By 2030, the population is projected to exceed 5.4 million. Despite this growth, the region's only federal courthouse in Downtown Riverside has just four courtrooms, shared by six judges. And, the courthouse is the only federal facility in the nation where three Magistrate Judges share a single courtroom and two Magistrate Judges share chambers.

These constraints severely limit judicial capacity, restrict access to justice, and preclude the appointment of additional judges. Consequently, many federal cases that should be heard locally are reassigned to courts in Los Angeles or Orange County, creating undue hardship for residents.

To address this crisis, the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts has developed a Long-Term Facilities Plan for expanding the Riverside courthouse. Before the project can proceed, the GSA must conduct a Phase One Feasibility Study (estimated to cost \$1 million) which requires Congressional funding.

Currently, five other courthouse projects are ahead in the GSA's feasibility study queue. However, none match the urgency or population impact of the Riverside expansion. Riverside County should lead efforts to advocate for accelerated federal funding for this study to ensure fair access to federal judicial services.

This action supports key pillars of the County's 2025–26 Legislative Platform, including:

- Fair and Equitable Funding: Advocate for funding that matches the scale and diversity of Riverside County's population.
- Local Governance Requires Local Solutions: Enhance local control over judicial service delivery.
- Breaking Barriers & Building Bridges: Remove structural barriers to equitable access to federal services.

It also advances the platform's specific priority of Safe, Sustainable, and Healthy Neighborhood by:

- Supporting the creation of new judgeships;
- Advocating for court facilities that meet current and future needs; and
- Promoting funding formulas that address the region's long-standing judicial service gaps.

Federal investment in the Riverside courthouse expansion is essential to ensure timely and local access to justice for millions of Inland Empire residents. Immediate advocacy for the GSA Feasibility Study is the necessary first step toward equitable service delivery and long-overdue infrastructure improvements.