

State budget includes money for Sac courthouse, River District complex



The Office of State Publishing's Print Plant.

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Gov. Jerry Brown's state budget proposal for 2018-19 includes several million dollars for both improvements of existing facilities and construction of new state buildings in downtown Sacramento. For the state's judicial branch, California would issue lease-revenue bonds to pay for several courthouse projects. That would include a new Sacramento County courthouse at H and Sixth streets, an 18-story project pegged at a cost of \$450 million.

Issuing those bonds would allow construction to start on the new Sacramento courthouse during the 2019-20 fiscal year, which begins July 1, 2019, according to the state Judicial Council. Though court officials have long seen a need to replace the existing county courthouse at 720 Ninth St. in Sacramento, funding to do so was missing. The state diverted money for such projects to its general fund during budget deficits in recent years, according to the council. California has also relied on traffic fines to help pay for courthouse construction projects, but that source has been shrinking recently.

If the proposal is included in the final budget and Sacramento courthouse construction begins in 2019-20, it would be slated for completion in fall 2022.

The budget proposal introduced by Brown Wednesday also pledges \$30.4 million for other state building projects. The largest amount, about \$18.8 million, would go toward current and future plans for state-owned property on the southwest corner of Seventh Street and Richards Boulevard, in Sacramento's River District.

Within that \$18.9 million, \$815,000 in this fiscal year would go toward demolishing the existing

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building on the site, the Office of State Publishing's Print Plant. The remaining \$18.1 million would go toward developing a new four-building office campus on the same footprint. That complex would also include food service and an auditorium. The demolition is set to start in March 2020.

Remaining funds for state buildings in the 2018-19 budget proposal include \$6.3 million to renovate the Jesse M. Unruh State Office Building at 915 Capitol Mall. That project, including fire safety improvements, is slated for December 2020 with performance criteria laid out in the 2018-19 fiscal year. Another \$5.2 million would go toward a comprehensive renovation of the Bateson Building at 1600 Ninth St., with the same timeline as the Unruh Building work.

Those projects are separate from two other state office buildings planned in downtown Sacramento that are expected to be under construction sooner. One would be a 20-story project on a state parking lot between 7th, 8th, O and P streets, slated to begin this year. The other is an 11-story project at 1215 O St., on the site of an existing but vacant state building. Construction firm Rudolph and Sletten, ZGF Architects LLP and Lionakis are the design-build team for that project. Construction of the 1215 O St. building will begin after the existing building is demolished, a step set to start this summer.