

Statement of Purpose

Project Scope

In November 2001, the County of Marin retained Gensler to develop a comprehensive master plan to address the use of the Marin County Civic Center and other County facilities ten years into the future. The County's request for Proposals identified the following principle tasks for the project:

- Identify current space needs and develop projections for space needs for five and ten years in the future.
- Develop optimal adjacencies for Departments and functions.
- Determine optimal space utilization of County facilities with special focus on the Marin County Civic Center Building.
- Assess County properties and provide a long term plan for the disposition, lease, purchase or construction of new County facilities.
- Establish workplace planning and interior design guidelines for all County facilities with special consideration of the Marin County Civic Center Building.
- Develop implementation and phasing activities to implement the Master Plan recommendations.

This Facilities Master Plan addresses the tasks listed above in the context of the County's mission, goals and its Strategic Plan adopted in Fall 2001.

Certain facilities were excluded and outside the scope of the study. Fire stations, Sheriff Sub-stations, Juvenile Hall, Jail Facilities and corporation yards were not considered either in terms of location or the adequacy of space – present or future.

The issue of security improvements to the Civic Center and other County facilities was also outside of the scope of this study. However, we believe that the recommendations made for the Civic Center will measurably improve security at this important facility.

The Marin County Superior Court was included in the scope of this report. It should be noted that the Marin County Superior Court is funded by the State of California and receives policy direction from the Judicial Council.

It is therefore distinct from County Government. However, the clients of the County Government and the Court are all Marin County residents who may not understand this distinction. Additionally, the County is, according to law, responsible for providing 'necessary and suitable' facilities for judicial officers and court staff for judgeships created before July 1, 1996. Further, the Court has a close working relationship with several County criminal justice departments and the Court occupies a historic place in the County Hall of Justice, which was specifically designed by Frank Lloyd Wright for this purpose. Accordingly, the Court has been included in this study and we are grateful for their cooperation and assistance.

In our analysis of Court space needs we have consulted numerous resources including a 1997 study prepared by DMJM for the purpose of identifying future capital needs for courts statewide. Unfortunately the timing of our work did not allow us to benefit from a study to be prepared specifically for the Marin County Superior Court and focusing on facilities needs. This space study will be completed in June of 2003. Our study shows that the court has a significant shortfall in needed space at the present time and we have recommended that the Court be included in the planning for new construction on the Civic Center campus within a short term timeframe. Additionally all of our recommendations concerning the use of space can be applied to the Court. The Court has adopted space standards which the rest of Marin County Facilities has not. They may choose to continue to use these standards with no detriment to the proposed Master Plan.

The upcoming Court study will undoubtedly concur in the need for additional space but since it will focus exclusively on the Court, different conclusions may result. We expect that our recommendations and the future court study will both be useful tools and that they will be taken together in determining future facilities solutions for the Marin County Superior Court.