

**MONDAY MORNING GROUP OF WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY
ANNUAL ADVOCACY TRIP – WASHINGTON, DC
APRIL 7 – 10, 2025**

EXPANSION OF THE FEDERAL COURTHOUSE SERVING INLAND SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

ISSUE: Inland Southern California urgently needs a larger federal courthouse. The current United States District Courthouse for the Central District of California, Eastern Division, in Riverside does not have the adequate facilities to accommodate the Judges and staff to serve the growing populations of Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. The Administrative Office of the United States Courts has developed a plan to expand the courthouse in Riverside; however, a feasibility study must be conducted before proceeding with a Long-Term Facilities Plan.

ACTION: The Monday Morning Group urges immediate funding from the United States General Services Administration's (GSA) Phase 1 Feasibility Study to accelerate implementation of the Long-Term Facilities Plan for six courthouse projects (including the expansion of the federal courthouse in Riverside).

BACKGROUND: Riverside and San Bernardino Counties are the 11th and 12th most populated counties in the nation respectively, with 4.7 million people collectively. The region's population is projected to increase to 5.4 million people by 2030. The existing federal courthouse in Downtown Riverside is not large enough to serve the region, as it has only four courtrooms, shared by six Judges. Due to the extreme space limitations, the Riverside courthouse is the only in the nation requiring three Magistrate Judges to share a courtroom, and two Magistrate Judges to share chambers space.

To properly serve the Inland Empire, the Administrative Office has developed the Long-Term Facilities Plan to expand the current Riverside courthouse. However, to move forward, GSA must first complete its Phase 1 Feasibility Study, which Congress must fund. Currently, there are five other courthouse projects (four ahead of the Riverside courthouse expansion project) in the funding queue for GSA Feasibility Studies. None of those courthouse projects, however, impact the access to justice of so many Americans as the Riverside courthouse expansion.

In order to expedite the Riverside courthouse expansion, while also recognizing the importance of the other judicial districts and projects, the Monday Morning Group is advocating that all six GSA Feasibility Studies to be funded. This would allow the GSA to immediately begin moving forward on the Phase 1 Feasibility Study for the Riverside courthouse expansion project. Each of the GSA Feasibility Studies is estimated to require less than \$1 million in funding, making the total expenditure modest for all five studies. Expanding the Riverside courthouse must be a priority to ensure access to justice for all residents of Inland Southern California.