




A project qualifies for 15331 Class 31- Historical Resource Restoation/Rehabilitation if it is limited to maintenance, repair, stabilization, rehabilitation, restoration, preservation, conservation or reconstruction of historical resources in a manner consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring, and Reconstructing Historic Buildings. Not to be used where the activity would cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.

The project consists of repair, maintenance, rehabilitation and reconstruction of an interior aspect of an existing historic building to ensure it can continue to be used to as its primary function as a courthouse. The work will be conducted in a manner consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, with Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring and Reconstructing Historic Buildings (1995), Week and Grimmer, as the infrastructure that will be installed can be removed in the future, and the essential form and integrity of the historic space will remain unimpaired. The installation avoids destroying or altering the existing interior spaces, and only proposes to replace existing juror chairs with new ones.

A key consideration in the appropriateness of using these Categorical Exemptions is whether the project would be located on the same site, have substantially the same purpose and involves negligible or no expansion of an existing use. In terms of negligible expansion, the proposed project will take place within the existing Courtroom A with no expansions beyond existing conditions. The proposed project will replace existing juror chairs with new ones which will allow for the continued functioning of the space as a courtroom. Therefore, it has been determined that the proposed project qualifies for a Class 1 and Class 31 Categorical Exemption and has no reasonable possibility of having a significant effect on the environment. The site of the development is not in an environmentally sensitive area and is not on any of the lists of hazardous waste sites enumerated under Government Code Section 65962.5.

**LEAD AGENCY CONTACT PERSON:** Dana Morrison, Supervising Planner (PBES)

**PHONE:** (707) 253-4437

Signature:  Date: 5/17/2026 Title: Supervising Planner

- Signed by Lead Agency
- Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at OPR: 5/17/2026



## Planning, Building & Environmental Services

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**Brian D. Bordona**  
Director

To: Judicial Council of California c/o Patriana Reynaud	From: Dana Morrison, Supervising Planner Conservation Division, PBES
Date: May 6, 2026	Re: CEQA Determination for Installation of 9 Replacement Jury Chairs in Courtroom A

### Background:

Pursuant to Section 303 of Napa County's Local Procedures for Implementing the California Quality Act (CEQA), the Planning, Building & Environmental Services Department has prepared this environmental evaluation for the installation of nine replacement jury chairs in Courtroom A located within the Superior Court of Napa County.

The Courthouse building is a registered historical landmark which was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1992. The structure was built in 1878 in the High Victorian Italianate style. Since the structure is a historic landmark the County is obligated to ensure that the proposed addition to Courthouse is consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and demonstrate that the proposed alteration adhere to the Standards, ensuring no substantial adverse changes occur as result.

### Project Location:

The project is located at 825 Brown Street in Napa, California. Assessor's Parcel Number: 003-215-001-000. The project site is located in Downtown Napa and is surrounded by existing built urban uses consisting of roads, parking lots, offices and various commercial services with some limited mixed-use residential. The Napa River is located approximately 465 feet east from the existing Courthouse, and as noted existing development separate the project site from the River.

### Project Description:

The entirety of the project will occur within the existing building within the existing Courtroom A of the Superior Court of Napa County. The project specifically consists of removing and installing 9 replacement jury chairs, of similar size and style. The chairs will be bolted utilizing the existing holes, and the room and area will continue to serve the same function with minimal visual change. All work will be done in accordance with the Secretary of Interior Standards for Rehabilitation of Historic Structures.

### CEQA Exemption Criteria and Analysis:

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Section 15061(b)(3), it can be seen with certainty that the proposed installation of 9 replacement jury chairs will not result in a significant

effect on the environment or on the existing historic structure. The proposed improvements would be considered Categorically Exempt from CEQA pursuant to Title 14 CCR Section 15301 Class 1- Existing Facilities, which provides for the operation, repair, maintenance, or minor alterations to existing structures, facilities, including interior or exterior alterations involving negligible or no expansion of use, and allows for the restoration or rehabilitation of structures to meet current standards for public health and safety.

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The project consists of repair, maintenance, rehabilitation and reconstruction of an interior aspect of an existing historic building to ensure it can continue to be used to as its primary function as a courthouse. The work will be conducted in a manner consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, with Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring and Reconstructing Historic Buildings (1995), Week and Grimmer, as the infrastructure that will be installed can be removed in the future, and the essential form and integrity of the historic space will remain unimpaired. The installation avoids destroying or altering the existing interior spaces, and only proposes to replace existing juror chairs with new ones.

A key consideration in the appropriateness of using these Categorical Exemptions is whether the project would be located on the same site, have substantially the same purpose and involves negligible or no expansion of an existing use. In terms of negligible expansion, the proposed project will take place within the existing Courtroom A with no expansions beyond existing conditions. The proposed project will replace existing juror chairs with new ones which will allow for the continued functioning of the space as a courtroom. Therefore, it has been determined that the proposed project qualifies for a Class 1 and Class 31 Categorical Exemption and has no reasonable possibility of having a significant effect on the environment. The site of the development is not in an environmentally sensitive area and is not on any of the lists of hazardous waste sites enumerated under Government Code Section 65962.5.

This determination is solely based on information provided by Patrinna Reynaud. Should the proposed project be modified or new evidence be presented that environmental impacts have not been fully disclosed, this determination would not be valid.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Dana Morrison at (707) 253-4437 or by e-mail at [dana.morrison@countyofnapa.org](mailto:dana.morrison@countyofnapa.org).