

County Administrative Center Board Room

Background

The County Administrative Center (CAC) is located at 4080 Lemon Street in Riverside. It is built on county-owned land bounded by 12th Street, Lime Street, 10th Street and Lemon Street. The basement and three floors were completed in 1967 when the county population was approximately 400,000. Ten additional floors were completed in 1975. At that time, the county population was around 600,000.

The 1998 population of the county stands at 1,400,000. It is estimated that the year 2005 will see that number increased to approximately 2,300,000.

A structural evaluation report of the CAC by an outside firm was completed in May 1997. This report stated that the structure conforms to the life-safety standard of the current state code requirements.

Due in part to the growing concern for the security and safety of employees and the public, numerous security measures have been implemented, with many more in the planning stages.

A space utilization plan of the CAC has been developed for the reuse of partial first, third and seventh floors. This plan will relocate food services to the ground floor along with customer service areas for those departments having interaction with the public.

The fourteenth floor of the CAC is currently occupied by the supervisors' board room, supervisors' offices and offices of the clerk of the board.

This report is limited to the board room. It is used for the weekly public supervisors' meetings, planning commission meetings, LAFCO meetings, assessment appeals hearings, etc.

Findings

The supervisors' board room is inadequate to accommodate this county's growth. Though improvements have been made and continue to be made, the following problems still exist:

Inconvenient access for the public, particularly the disabled, with slow elevators which stop on nearly every floor.

Extreme difficulty of getting emergency personnel (medical or law enforcement) to the scene or evacuation during an emergency.

The board room is too small and not designed to accommodate the constant entering and leaving during the meeting which causes undue distraction.

The sound system is inadequate, and the lighting is insufficient. These cannot be improved due to the "theater" design constraints of the room.

The current board room is not adaptable to teleconferencing.

The electronic boards are not used to their full potential (such as lighting up the name of the person speaking or showing the item under discussion)

You cannot read the name plates of officials at the dais and it is hard to discern who is speaking or to follow the agenda items.

Recommendations

Board of Supervisors:

Direct the Executive Office to establish a time table and financing plan for the construction of new facilities which will house a state-of-the-art board meeting room. These facilities will also include offices for the Board of Supervisors and the Clerk of the Board.