## SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF CONTRA COSTA

**Public Information Office** 



 $\underline{media in fo@contracosta.courts.ca.gov}$ 

925-608-2607

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Magda Lopez, Public Information Officer September 29, 2017

## **New Juvenile Justice Center in Walnut Creek**

On August 14, 2017 the Court's Juvenile Division, which hears delinquency and dependency matters, moved from Martinez to Walnut Creek. Hon. Rebecca C. Hardie, Supervising Judge of the Juvenile Division pointed out that "this move allows better access to Juvenile Court for people throughout the County." Buses and BART are within walking distance. There is also ample parking.

Hon. Jill Fannin, Presiding Judge of the Superior Court of Contra Costa County added that "detained minors will now be transported through private entry points and will no longer have to walk shackled down public hallways."

This move re-opens three courtrooms and clerks' offices that were vacated in 2012 as a result of significant budget cuts.

Departments presided over by Hon. Rebecca C. Hardie, Supervising, Hon. Lois Haight and Hon. Barbara C. Hinton as well as the Juvenile Clerk's Office are now housed at 640 Ygnacio Valley Road in Walnut Creek. Juvenile Hall in Martinez will continue to house the department which is currently presided over by Hon. Susanne M. Fenstermacher.

The Court is holding an Open House on October 11, 2017 to showcase this new location. Presiding Judge Fannin and Supervising Juvenile Judge Hardie will take this opportunity to express their gratitude for the support that the Court has received from the County Board of Supervisors, the City of Walnut Creek, our county justice partners, and the juvenile bar. Their combined efforts helped to make the move a resounding success. "The support of local government and the legal community for this change has been tremendous" said Judge Hardie.