

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 09, 2025**

**MINUTE ORDER NO. 18**

**SUBJECT: GENERAL SERVICES - APPROVE FIRST AMENDMENT TO LEASE AGREEMENT FOR THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER'S CENTRAL BRANCH, 451 A STREET, SAN DIEGO AND NOTICE OF EXEMPTION (DISTRICT: 1)**

**OVERVIEW**

The San Diego County Public Defender (PD) has operated its Central Branch, located at 451 A Street, San Diego, since 2010. The existing lease for approximately 92,303 square feet of office space was approved by the Board of Supervisors (Board) on March 23, 2010 (14) and expires on September 30, 2026. In Fiscal Year 2022-23, PD added 90 positions, increasing staffing in all branches with a large allocation of new staff assigned to the Central Branch. The current lease premises does not accommodate the additional staff. The Department of General Services (DGS) conducted a space validation study that supports the need for 106,776 square feet of space for Central Branch operations.

Staff from DGS have negotiated a first amendment to the lease agreement that will extend the term by seven years and five months, with two consecutive options of five years each. The proposed amendment includes an expansion of 14,473 square feet and five months of rent abatement in the first year of the amendment term. Today's request is for Board approval of the first amendment to the lease agreement.

**RECOMMENDATION(S)**

**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

1. Find the proposed lease for the Public Defender is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15301.
2. Approve and authorize the Director, Department of General Services, to execute the proposed lease amendment for the premises located at 451 A Street, San Diego.

**EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

The Public Defender's Central Branch supports the community in its current location. Extending the term of the lease would benefit the community by continuing to provide resources to a traditionally underserved community. A larger facility increases the availability of adequate programs and resources ensuring the community has equitable access to legal resources.

**SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

Implementing effective sustainability objectives is crucial to ensuring safe and healthy communities and contributing to the overall success of the region. The approval of this lease amendment supports the County's Strategic Initiative of Sustainability to ensure the capability to respond to immediate needs for individuals, families, and the region.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

Funds for the existing lease through the end of the term in September 2026 are already budgeted for the San Diego County Public Defender (PD). Funds for this request will be included in the Fiscal Year 2026-27 Operational Plan for PD. If approved, this request will result in estimated costs and revenue of

approximately \$1,259,957 to include five months of rent abatement. FY 2027-28 costs are estimated at \$3,866,359, which includes a 3% rent adjustment to go into effect October 1, 2027. Funds for the remaining contract term and for each option year (if exercised) will be included in future years' operational plans for PD. The funding source is General Purpose Revenue and there will be no additional staff years.

#### **BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

#### **ACTION:**

ON MOTION of Supervisor Montgomery Steppe, seconded by Supervisor Lawson-Remer, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended, on Consent.

AYES: Aguirre, Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Montgomery Steppe, Desmond

State of California)  
County of San Diego) §

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the Original entered in the Minutes of the Board of Supervisors.

ANDREW POTTER  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors



**Signed**  
**by** Andrew Potter