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DAILY REPUBLIC

Online Edition



11:00 am
Currently:
48 F

RealFeel® High:
Humidity: 57 %
Winds: N at 5.76 r

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County office hits deadline, on budget

In this day of government waste and inefficiency, when state and federal lawmakers can't solve budget deficit problems, it's big news when a government agency accomplishes something special when it comes to spending money.

Front and center is the new \$100 million Solano County government center that welcomed its first occupants this week, a month before the county predicted the six-story building would be ready for occupancy.

Granted, only a portion of the building is open. County supervisors, administrators and attorneys moved into the sixth floor with little fanfare. During the next couple of months, others will move in under a phased plan that should minimize confusion and congestion.

The remarkable achievement is that the government center was built within a strict timeline and, perhaps the most amazing thing, the project stayed within its budget. No delays. No cost overruns.

The county "campus," as county employees like to call it, will include the 300,000-square-foot main administration center, an outdoor plaza, a five-level parking garage with 1,000 stalls and a two-story, 43,000-square-foot probation building. Altogether, it will house 15 county departments.

An official dedication is planned for Dec. 16 in the lobby of the center, followed that evening with dinner.

On March 12, 2005, the county plans to host a day-long celebration when the outdoor plaza will be finished and landscaped.

The center is expected to be a catalyst for the revitalization of downtown Fairfield.

County officials, and especially Assistant County Administrator Darby Hayes, who oversaw the project, deserve a much earned congratulations from county residents for a job well done.

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