



SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF KINGS

*****PUBLIC NOTICE*****

Pursuant to Government Code § 68106 and Rule 10.620 of the
California Rules of Court

August 10, 2011

Effective November 2, 2011, the Court will change the hours that it is in session at its Avenal location. Currently, the court holds courtroom proceedings at that location for a half day, between 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. each Wednesday of the week. Beginning November 2, the court will move to a new schedule of holding courtroom proceedings for a full day, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on the first, third and fifth (when applicable) Wednesday of every month. The hours that the court clerk's office is open at the Avenal location will remain unchanged. The office will still be open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., with the exception of the lunch hour. A drop box is located outside the Avenal Court for payment of tickets and filing of paperwork. (The court previously invited input from the public regarding this proposed change and received no comments.)

The Superior Court Judges in Kings County have concluded that the change in courtroom hours in Avenal is necessary because of the continuing state budget crisis. That crisis has caused significant permanent reductions to the state's funding for the judicial branch, with resulting cuts to this court's annual budget. The court has taken a number of prior steps to institute cost-savings, while reserving services to the public. It has instituted a hiring freeze, eliminated positions, and negotiated contractual cost-savings. Given the new state budget recently enacted, and the resulting amount of the court's likely budget allocation this year, the court concludes it has no alternative but to act now to institute the change described in this notice, to achieve maximum efficiencies and to avoid further greater cost-cutting action in the future.