



## Judicial Branch Budget Snapshot Superior Court of California County of Alpine

### Key Budget Challenges/Priorities

- The Court is presently using fund balances/reserves to meet operational expenses, improve case management technology, and transition to critically-needed new facilities; those funds will be exhausted by the end of FY 2013-14.
- In this era of reductions, the Court could not function without the assistance of the Administrative Office of the Courts for duties/roles previously performed by court staff. "We have reached our limit," the Presiding Judge said.

### Budget Impacts

#### General Budget Reduction Impacts to the Public

- The staffing levels are at a bare minimum, no further reductions are possible, and even a modest increase in case filings will be a challenge if the Alpine Court is to deliver quality, accessible services to the public

#### Reduced Public Access: Self-Help/Mediator/Facilitator Services

- A recent contract change for Self-Help services reduced the scope of the program to realize cost savings

#### Reduced Public Access: Court Reporters/Interpreters

- Calendars were consolidated to effect savings on contract court reporter services; the court has no court reporter employees
- The court has no interpreter employees and uses telephonic services

#### Reduced Public Access: Public Service Counters and Clerks

- The court is operating with only 3 full-time employees and does not have a Court Executive Officer to oversee day-to-day operations
- Public counters remain open without reduction of hours except during the mandatory furlough period in FY 2009-10

#### Closures: Courtrooms and Courthouses

- Alpine Court uses courtrooms in neighboring El Dorado County when necessary for unscheduled, in-custody criminal matters

#### Staff Reductions: Furloughs, Layoffs, Unfilled Vacancies

- Three positions have been eliminated since 2009 by layoffs, retirement and termination, and those positions were not filled
- Court imposed mandatory one day per month furloughs in FY 2009-10

#### Impacts: Court Security Services

- Security is no longer part of the court's budget
- Existing facility lacks even the most basic security features

#### Fewer Judicial Officers

- Two Alpine Court judges are regularly assigned to other regional courts, including Amador, El Dorado, Mono, Inyo and others
- The absence of a Court Executive Officer requires the judges to cover administrative and personnel functions

### Annual Allocation\*

Total Allocation FY 2008-2009	\$ 663,103
Est. Allocation** FY 2012-2013	\$ 289,314
Percentage change	-56.4%

\*Does not reflect unfunded cost increases

\*\*For comparison purposes only, includes court security funding

### Alpine Facilities Overview

Number of court facilities	1
Capital construction projects	0

### Judicial Workload/Employees as of Dec. 2012:

Population served	1,097
Judicial officers	2.3
Filled staff positions FY 08-09	5
Filled staff positions FY 12-13	4

### Case Statistics (Fiscal Year 2010-11)

Felony Filings	18
Misdemeanor filings (incl. traffic)	91
Infraction filings (incl. traffic)	1,168
Civil filings	88
Family and juvenile filings	22

### Court Leadership

Presiding Judge	Hon. David L. DeVore
Court Executive Officer	N/A