



# Superior Court of California County of Alpine BUDGET SNAPSHOT

February 2016



Hon. Thomas Kolpacoff, Presiding Judge

Annie Long, Court Executive Officer

(530) 694-2113

## Court Service Highlights in the Current Year

- Implementation of traffic ticket/infraction amnesty program
- Implemented new case management system
- Filings have increased 11.5% since FY 2010-11

## Court Service Highlights in Detail

### Proactive implementation of traffic ticket/infraction amnesty program

Like all of California’s courts, Alpine was responsible for ramping up for the traffic ticket/infraction amnesty program (amnesty) that began October 1, 2015. But unlike other courts, Alpine has a full time staff of just four people, and a filings caseload that has increased by 11.5% over the last three years. The effort we expended preparing for and learning about amnesty helped us provide three people with reductions in the amounts of outstanding fines owed. We also have been able to release holds on three driver’s licenses.

### Implemented new case management system.

Using the last of our encumbered reserves as of two years ago combined with funds we could spare from operations these part two fiscal years, Alpine has invested in a case management system that will provide court users, our staff, judicial officers and others access to more reliable and manageable data about the cases and other operations at our court.

### Filings then and now

Comparing Alpine’s filings data from FYs 2010-11 and 2013-14, we have experienced an 11.5% increase in filings while, statewide, courts generally continue to experience a decline. (See the Court Statistics Report, found online at <http://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/2015-Court-Statistics-Report.pdf>.)

## Budget Challenges and Priorities

1. The court continues to function without staff court reporters.
2. We have no staff interpreters.
3. We had to operate for several years without the services of a Court Executive Officer, creating administrative burdens for the two judicial officers.
4. The two judicial officers are regularly assigned to serve in other courts in the region, including Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, Inyo, and Mono.
5. We must use courtrooms in neighboring El Dorado Superior Court for some criminal matters.
6. Our historic courthouse has a single courtroom, which means that our two judges cannot hear cases at the same time.
7. We do not have funding for technology staff, so the case management system and other technological enhancements we are implementing must be undertaken with costly contracted support.
8. We lack staff to manage procurement and contracting, placing the burden on our court executive for Judicial Branch Contracting Law/Manual compliance.
9. Our court executive is also responsible for all HR and bookkeeping functions due to a lack of staff support.

## Court Demographics

Population Served	1,079
Square Miles Covered	743
Total Number of Court Facilities	1
Number of judicial officers	2
Number of non-judicial staff	4 FTE