



Butte



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

### Key Budget Challenges/Priorities

- While furloughs and staff reductions have saved money, they have also increased work backlogs and service times
- Reductions in court resources have increased case processing times

### Annual Allocation\*

Total Allocation FY 2008-2009	\$ 13,017,900
Est. Allocation FY 2012-2013**	\$ 9,510,046
Percentage change	-26.9%

\*Does not reflect unfunded cost increases

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

### Budget Impacts

#### General Budget Reduction Impacts to the Public

- While the court has experienced increased processing times, it has been able to meet all statutory time limits and wait times for hearing dates.

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

- No self help or facilitator reductions as these grant-funded programs have not experienced significant reductions.

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

- Eliminated contract court reporter positions, utilizing staff and pro tem reporters instead. However, no reductions have been made in overall court reporter availability.
- Pursues telephonic interpreter services whenever possible

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

- No reduction in service hours to the public

#### Closures: Courtrooms and Courthouses

- Courtroom activities ceased at the Paradise facility in 2009. The public counter remained open at that facility for filings until fall of 2010. Paradise facility is now closed to the public and is utilized only for internal court functions on an as-needed basis.

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

- Laid off three full time and one temporary employee in FY 11-12
- Eliminated a total of 43 positions over the last five years through layoffs and voluntary separation programs; however, when considering positions added over this same time period, the *net* reduction equates to 25.75 positions. Currently maintaining a 5% vacancy rate in remaining positions.
- Began a voluntary furlough program of two days per month in FY 09-10 with a 70% participation rate; negotiated mandatory furloughs of 13 days per year in FY 10-11 and FY 11-12.
- Negotiated 10 furlough days per year in FY 13-14 and 13 per year in FY 14-15.

#### Impacts: Court Security Services

- Due to realignment, ten court attendant positions were eliminated. Related jury and courtroom support services are now performed by clerks' office staff (security-related functions transferred to the responsibility of the local Sheriff's Department).

#### Fewer Judicial Officers

### Butte Facilities Overview

Number of court facilities	5
Capital construction projects	1

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

Population served	221,273
Judicial officers	14
Judicial officers needed	14.7
Filled staff positions FY 08-09	132
Filled staff positions FY 12-13	112

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

Felony filings	1,854
Misdemeanor filings (incl. traffic)	5,704
Infraction filings (incl. traffic)	27,434
Civil filings	4,868
Family and juvenile filings	4,170

### Court Leadership

Presiding Judge	Hon. Stephen E. Benson
Court Executive Officer	Kimberly Flener