



El Dorado



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
OF THE COURTS
OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Judicial Branch Budget Snapshot Superior Court of California County of El Dorado

Key Budget Challenges/Priorities

- Court currently has backlogs in Juvenile Dependence Counsel Collection Program, civil law, family law, and records management; traffic and small claims are regularly out of compliance with statutory timelines
- IT department is unable to upgrade infrastructure to provide basic public access such as web-based document viewing, website that is user friendly and easily navigated, document management system for imaging of records and electronic filing

Budget Impacts

General Budget Reduction Impacts to the Public

- Discontinue sending courtesy notices for traffic citations, impacting members of the public without internet access
- Rely on staff delivery of inter-court mail, which only happens weekly and can delay service to court users
- Statutorily restricted funds for future Children's Waiting Room and Micrographics used to balance budget in FY 12/13
- Cases are delayed; delays in civil motions of up to three to four months; Family law trials take one to two weeks longer to be heard. Small claims hearings scheduled over 70 days from filing. Traffic trials calendars have been reduced increasing the time it takes to get to trial
- Small claims, DCSS and civil case management hearings by video conference between S. Lake Tahoe and western slope court facilities
- ADR program reduced to eliminate status conference hearings which assist litigants in moving their civil case to disposition

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

- Estimate that the Court turns away 120 persons per year seeking self-help services due to lack of resources
- Elimination of paralegal and attorney contract services which has reduced self-help center service hours

Reduced Public Access: Court Reporters/Interpreters

- Only schedule matters needing interpreters on specific days
- No longer have Court Reporters for non-mandated hearings and trials

Reduced Public Access: Public Service Counters and Clerks

- Reduced clerk hours from 8:00-4:00 to 8:00-3:00 in Aug. 2012
- Counter lines have increased due to reduction in staff
- Staff absences have increased, additional worker's compensation claims and time out for stress related illness and injury which impacts the timeliness in providing services

Closures: Courtrooms and Courthouses

- Limited operations Dec. 24, 2012-Jan. 4, 2013. Single courtrooms in Placerville and South Lake Tahoe provided mandatory services only.

Staff Reductions: Furloughs, Layoffs, Unfilled Vacancies

- 12 furlough days in FY 12/13; Positions held vacant, 20% staff reduction
- Voluntary Separation Incentive Program with 10 retirements.

Impacts: Court Security Services

- Unable to afford to install security cameras in courthouses

Fewer Judicial Officers

- One commissioner handles DCSS matters and is required to travel each week between South Lake Tahoe and Placerville.

Annual Allocation*

Total Allocation FY 2008-2009	\$ 11,141,457
Est. Allocation FY 2012-2013**	\$ 9,335,432
Percentage change	-16.2%

*Does not reflect unfunded cost increases

**For comparison purposes only, includes court security funding

El Dorado Facilities Overview

Number of court facilities	5
Capital construction projects	1 (delayed to FY 14-15)

Judicial Workload/Employees as of Dec. 2012:

Population served	180,712
Judicial officers	9
Judicial officers needed	10.6
Filled staff positions FY 08-09	92.4
Filled staff positions FY 12-13	84.8

Case Statistics (Fiscal Year 2010-11)

Felony filings	971
Misdemeanor filings (incl. traffic)	3,437
Infraction filings (incl. traffic)	18,436
Civil filings	4,236
Family and juvenile filings	3,126

Court Leadership

Presiding Judge	Hon. Suzanne N. Kingsbury
Court Executive Officer	Tania Ugrin-Capobianco