



Judicial Branch Budget Snapshot Superior Court of California County of Kern

Key Budget Challenges/Priorities

- Court users will be faced with fewer hours of court operations, longer lines at counters, and increased waits for telephone responses with little, if any, service alternatives
- The court forecasts a budget gap of \$3.7 million in FY 2013-2014

Budget Impacts

General Budget Reduction Impacts to the Public

- Reductions in court operations require litigants, attorneys, witnesses, jurors and police officers serving small municipalities to travel up to two hours each way to the Metro Bakersfield facility

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

- Family Law Facilitator appointments are filled by 10:00 am daily, requiring staff to turn away family law and self-help clients daily

Reduced Public Access: Court Reporters/Interpreters

- Reporter services in family law and civil will be terminated as of FY 2013-14
- Court has 4 vacant court reporter and 4 vacant interpreter positions

Reduced Public Access: Public Service Counters and Clerks

- Reduced daily counter and telephone service hours by one hour daily in 2009; anticipate additional 9 hours per week reduction in spring 2013

Closures: Courtrooms and Courthouses

- Family law, limited/unlimited civil, and felony courtrooms in outlying regional areas were centralized to the Metro Bakersfield facility
- Anticipate additional 10% courtroom reductions in FY 2013-14

Staff Reductions: Furloughs, Layoffs, Unfilled Vacancies

- Increase in employee vacancy rate to anticipated 30% by end of FY 2013-14, with corresponding service level reductions
- Deleted 26 positions in 2012; anticipate 25-35 additional deletions in 2013
- Furloughs implemented in FY 2009-10/10 days and FY 2011-12/6 days, exacerbating service delivery issues
- Vacancies in Family Court Services have caused an inability to complete required guardianship investigations in a timely manner

Impacts: Court Security Services

- Court security services have not been reduced

Fewer Judicial Officers

- Assigned judges used intermittently to hear overflow trials from centralization of cases from outlying areas to Metro facility

Annual Allocation*

Total Allocation FY 2008-2009	\$ 49,516,621
Est. Allocation FY 2012-2013**	\$ 44,468,601
Percentage change	-10.2%

*Does not reflect unfunded cost increases

**For comparison purposes only, includes court security funding

Kern Facilities Overview

Number of court facilities	11
Capital construction projects	2 (indefinitely delayed)

Judicial Workload/Employees as of Dec. 2012:

Population served	850,006
Judicial officers	46
Judicial officers needed	57.8
Filled staff positions FY 08-09	478
Filled staff positions FY 12-13	383

Case Statistics (Fiscal Year 2010-11)

Felony filings	8,013
Misdemeanor filings (incl. traffic)	33,378
Infraction filings (incl. traffic)	181,688
Civil filings	18,454
Family and juvenile filings	16,919

Court Leadership

Presiding Judge	Hon. Colette M. Humphrey
Court Executive Officer	Terry McNally