



Judicial Branch Budget Snapshot Superior Court of California County of Madera

Key Budget Challenges/Priorities

- Court is experiencing major backlogs in all areas: Criminal complaints data entry is 4 months behind; self-help clinic appointments are by referral only and set 10 days out; record searches have a 6-week waiting period; small claims, civil, family law and probate matters now take 1 week to process and return; traffic citation data entry is 500 citations and 2 weeks behind; collections referrals are months behind – hindering drivers from clearing holds on their licenses and delaying revenue collection for the state.

Budget Impacts

General Budget Reduction Impacts to the Public

- Decreased staffing levels have resulted in delays in processing paperwork, longer wait times for customers in longer lines, increased public complaints, and longer completion times for justice partners

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

- Due to inadequate funding, court may be forced to explore contracting for limited services, resulting in reduced services to the public with only mandatory case types handled

Reduced Public Access: Court Reporters/Interpreters

- Court anticipates reductions of up to 3 court reporters next year, resulting in no transcripts for civil and family law cases, no real-time read back of transcripts during trials, no transcripts for appeals and judgments, and increased complaints to judicial officers
- Anticipates 5% reduction in use of contract interpreters, causing longer wait times to hear child custody and other cases

Reduced Public Access: Public Service Counters and Clerks

- Clerks' office hours expected to be reduced by 5 hours per week in FY 2013-14, resulting in longer lines and wait times for court users

Closures: Courtrooms and Courthouses

- Sierra Division courtroom located in Bass Lake is expected to close in FY 2013-14, requiring customers to travel 50-75 miles each way to main courthouse in Madera

Staff Reductions: Furloughs, Layoffs, Unfilled Vacancies

- Laid off 2 full-time positions; anticipate lay off of additional 8 positions next year; court currently has 10.7% vacancy rate
- All employees furloughed 8 hours per month; anticipate 16 hours per month next year

Impacts: Court Security Services

- Eliminated one public security screening station; customers now wait outside in longer lines, often in inclement weather, to be screened
- Perimeter areas are unsecured resulting in a bomb incident last year

Fewer Judicial Officers

- Judge from closed Sierra Division will share chambers and a courtroom with another judge in main courthouse to cover transferred cases

Annual Allocation*

Total Allocation FY 2008-2009	\$ 9,699,303
Est. Allocation FY 2012-2013**	\$ 7,434,227
Percentage change	-23.4%

*Does not reflect unfunded cost increases

**For comparison purposes only, includes court security funding

Madera Facilities Overview

Number of court facilities	3
Capital construction projects	1

Judicial Workload/Employees as of Dec. 2012:

Population served	152,074
Judicial officers	10.3
Judicial officers needed	11.4
Filled staff positions FY 08-09	108.5
Filled staff positions FY 12-13	97

Case Statistics (Fiscal Year 2010-11)

Felony filings	1,818
Misdemeanor filings (incl. traffic)	5,236
Infraction filings (incl. traffic)	16,672
Civil filings	4,724
Family and juvenile filings	3,237

Court Leadership

Presiding Judge	Hon. Lynn Jones
Court Executive Officer	Bonnie Thomas