



Superior Court of California County of Mariposa BUDGET SNAPSHOT



JUDICIAL COUNCIL
OF CALIFORNIA
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

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Court Service Highlights in the Current Year

- **In-custody video arraignments**
- **California Courts Protective Order Registry (CCPOR)**
- **Website redesign**
- **Partial restoration of public hours**

Court Service Highlights in Detail

In-custody video arraignments

In collaboration with the County, the Superior Court of Mariposa deployed a new video arraignment system. New equipment provided by the County enables the court and the jail to conduct in-custody video arraignments for both misdemeanors and felonies.

California Courts Protective Order Registry (CCPOR)

In collaboration with the JCC, Mariposa deployed CCPOR. The court now has immediate access to the scanned images of restraining and protective orders housed in the statewide registry.

Website redesign

In collaboration with the JCC, we are updating our website to the trial court template design. This user friendly format will enhance the public's ability to navigate between the various screens and access information on the website.

Partial restoration of public hours

Counter and telephone access to the public has been reduced since 2009 (to 8:30-3:00). This fiscal year, the court will partially restore counter access to the public by an hour and a half each day (to 8:00-4:00), and will fully restore telephone access to the public (8:00-5:00).

Other court services

Drug Court expansion: We expanded our Drug Court program to include defendants with multiple DUI convictions. This has been implemented to address the addiction issues of this population.

For several years now, the Court and the JCC have addressed the needs of the Historic Courthouse and court operations with the County. We have taken part in bi-monthly meetings and stand ready to continue to participate with the County in its efforts to move forward.

Budget Challenges and Priorities

WAFM funding has enabled our court to move forward utilizing resources necessary to carry out our duties and serve our community. However, court efficiencies are limited because we do not have adequate resources to replace our obsolete case management (CMS) and telecommunication systems.

The court is unable to provide electronic access to the public. Our current CMS cannot support a paperless environment and its report functions are limited.

Mariposa has the distinction of having the oldest courthouse in continuous use west of the Rockies. However, the Historic Courthouse built in 1854 suffers from many years of neglect. It has safety and security issues and the accommodations are inadequate for the needs of today. It is imperative that these needs be addressed. It would also be an irreparable loss to both the County and the State to not address the needs of this historic treasure.



Court Demographics

Population Served	17,682
Square Miles Covered	1,449
Total Number of Court Facilities	1

The Workload-based Allocation & Funding Methodology (WAFM)

The Workload-based Allocation & Funding Methodology (WAFM) calculates the total funding needed for California's 58 trial courts based on case filings, workload and other factors.

To do this, WAFM relies on results from what we call the Resource Assessment Study (RAS) model to estimate total staffing needed using a weighted caseload model. Developed in partnership with national experts, the RAS model is based on a time study of over 5,000 case processing staff in 24 California trial courts. The study established a set of caseweights (amount of time in minutes to process a case from initial filing through any post-disposition activity) understanding that certain types of filings take more time and resources to handle than others. The weighted filings are used to estimate total staff needed in each court.

The WAFM model converts the staff need data into dollars, taking into account average salaries, benefits, operating expenses and equipment, and the local cost of labor using the Bureau of Labor Statistics as a benchmark. A "funding floor" is applied to the smallest trial courts because there is a basic operating threshold that must be met in order to provide service to the public. In other words, California's small courts do not have economies of scale, and yet there are basic expenditures that even the smallest courts must make. The result is, for each court, an estimate of the core operations funding required to adequately process its workload. This is known as the court's WAFM share.

Starting in FY 2013-14, a portion of each court's allocation is being recalculated according to its WAFM share. (A court's WAFM share is different from the courts' traditional share of the statewide funding. The WAFM calculation tells us what the trial courts need to function based on current filings, whereas the traditional share was based on the amount each court received from its county not taking into consideration the courts' filings or staff needs.)

Unfortunately, the total WAFM funding needed for all 58 courts exceeds the funding currently appropriated in the state budget. (This is the WAFM funding gap.) California's trial courts are underfunded by at least a collective \$444 million. The underfunding is made worse for those courts that experience a reduction of funding based on their WAFM share. To manage the budget reductions resulting from the implementation of WAFM in the absence of full trial court funding, the Judicial Council approved applying WAFM incrementally, applying it fully only to new money appropriated in the budget.

The rules of application adopted by the Judicial Council are:

- Each year beginning in FY 2013-14, and through/including to FY 2017-18, incrementally more of the historical (base) funding (using FY 2012-13 as the base) will be subject to WAFM, until 50% of the FY 12-13 base is distributed according to WAFM;
- All new state funding is distributed according to the WAFM shares; and
- For each dollar of new state funding, one dollar of the historical base will be reallocated using WAFM.