



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

### Restoration of Funding –

- The Court's FY 2012 – 2013 funding allocation has decreased by 17.5% from Fiscal Year 2008 – 2009 with the majority of the state funding reductions identified as on-going and impacting future years;
- During five years of ongoing and deepening state budget cuts, the Court has implemented cost reductions of approximately \$2.36 million annually;
- Budget projections for Fiscal Year 2013 - 2014 indicate that the Court is facing **an additional \$1 million deficit at June 30, 2013;**
- Budget projections for Fiscal Year 2014 – 2015 indicate that the Court is facing **an additional \$1.6 million deficit at June 30, 2014;**
- Further cost reduction considerations will include the closure of court branch locations, closure of civil departments, reduction of self-help services, further personnel reductions and further reductions to the clerk's office hours open to the public.

### Elimination of Local Court Fund Balance –

- The Court is projected to use \$5 million of its \$6.6 million fund balance in the current fiscal year as a result of absorbing a state funding reduction of 21.30% or \$4.6 million in Fiscal Year 2012 - 2013. The elimination of the local fund balance will detrimentally impact the way that the court conducts business as follows:
  - Eliminates the local court's ability to plan strategically and implement projects that bring efficiencies to court operations, benefitting customers and court personnel; and
  - Creates severe cash flow issues throughout the year. The Court's expenditures frequently occur before the revenue and reimbursements are received on a monthly basis. Local and **adequate** fund balances assist with managing the cash flow cycles encountered throughout the year.

### Case Management System –

- The Court has a critical need to update its case management system (CMS) to a web-based system which will allow litigants to interact with the court in a paperless environment. The CMS is the backbone of the Court's technology, and enables the Court to process, track, manage and enter dispositions for the various cases filed in the Court each day. The Court's current CMS is not web based, uses antiquated technology and is limited in functionality, extensibility and integration options. **A web-based CMS is key to the Court's strategy to attain operating efficiencies necessitated by ongoing budget reductions.**

## Budget Impacts

### General Budget Reduction Impacts to the Public

- Increase in backlogs, at times reaching 30-60 days in arrears.
- Civil judgment backlog is 4 weeks; unprocessed writs and abstracts backlog is 4 weeks.

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

- Reduced Self-Help center business hours.
- Reduced the number of weekly domestic violence clinics.
- Terminated monthly (4 hour) on-site visits to King City Courthouse.

### Reduced Public Access: Court Reporters/Interpreters

- Eliminated providing employee court reporters for Civil Court and Jury trials.

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

- Reduced clerk's office hours from 40 to 30 hours per week.
- Longer public wait times on the phones and counters during office hours.
- Due to limited resources and reduced business hours, the public is required, at times, to return the following day for use of public computers and viewing files.
- The King City Branch closure on Mondays to the public has resulted in longer customer lines Tuesdays through Fridays.

### Closures: Courtrooms and Courthouses

- King City Branch is closed on Mondays.

### Cost Reductions: Services and Supplies

**Monitoring ongoing cost reductions in services and supplies** – to-date, the Court has streamlined and modified existing contracts, reducing the usage of contractors by \$140,000 annually, standardized ordering of office supplies resulting in cost savings of \$160,000, annually.

### Staff Reductions: Furloughs, Layoffs, Unfilled Vacancies & Reductions in Benefits

- Furloughed all trial court employees, except employee interpreters and commissioners as follows:
  - FY 09-10 - 9 furloughs days for a savings of \$400,000;
  - FY 10-11 - 12 furloughs days for a savings of \$500,000;
  - FY 11-12 - 3 furloughs days for a savings of \$120,000;
  - FY 12-13 - 3 furloughs days a savings of \$120,000
- In FY 10-11, ran a Voluntary Separation Incentive Program, eliminating 16 positions for an annualized savings of \$1,000,000.
- 20% Management Personnel Reduction in FY 2011-2012.
- 15.4% of permanent staff reduced from 2007-08 to 2012-13.
- **Employee Concessions at Bargaining in October 2012** – Employees will commence paying the 7% employee contribution to CalPERS retirement obligation for a total annualized savings of \$135,000 for FY 12-13; \$650,000 for FY 13-14 and annually thereafter \$750,000.

### \*Judicial Officers Overview

Monterey County Superior Court (the Court) has a total of 22.2 judicial positions as follows:

- ✓ **19 judge positions**, authorized and funded;
- ✓ **1 additional judge position, authorized pursuant to AB 159, but UNFUNDED.** The funding discussion for AB 159 judge positions has been deferred to Fiscal Year 2014-2015 due to the underlying state financial climate;
- ✓ **2.2 commissioner positions**, 1 full-time position assigned to traffic and small claims, .6 position assigned to the AB 1058 Child Commissioner Program (grant funded) and .6 position assigned to the Family law and motion pro per calendars.

Of the 19 authorized and funded judge positions, the Court has two vacant positions as follows:

- ✓ 1 vacated effective August 2011
- ✓ 1 vacated effective November 2012

The Court has allocated the judicial workload among the 17 remaining judges and 2.2 commissioners which has created significant issues with backlogged court calendars, having adequate courts to try jury trials and ensuring that cases are adjudicated in a timely manner in accordance with authority. The Court does utilize assistance from the Judicial Branch Assigned Judges Program to cover for calendar overload, vacations and/or extended absences.

## Annual Allocations\*

Total Allocation FY 2008-2009	\$ 23,304,339
Est. Allocation** FY 2012-2013	\$ 19,227,101
Percentage change	-17.5%

\*Does not reflect unfunded cost increases

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

## Monterey Facilities Overview

Number of court facilities	6
Capital construction projects (South County Courthouse)	1 (indefinite hold due to state budget reductions)

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

Population served	420,668
Judicial officers*	22.2
Judicial officers needed	24.1
Authorized staff positions	194
Filled staff positions (FTE)	184

## Case Filings (Fiscal Year 2010-11)

Criminal filings	81,017
Civil filings	7,525
Felony filings	2,967
Family and Juvenile filings	5,397
Probate/MH/Appeals/Habeas	926
Jury Trials	67

## Court Leadership

Presiding Judge	Hon. Marla O. Anderson
Court Executive Officer	Connie Mazzei