

# Superior Court of California County of Monterey

## BUDGET SNAPSHOT



February 2015

### Budget and Program Priorities for FY 2015-16

*To reinvest in and enhance access to court programs and services including the expansion of self-help services, implementation of a new case management system, automation of services including electronic files, e-Filing and continuing to enhance services provided by the court. To stabilize staffing levels which were reduced as a result of budget reductions over the past five years. To restore public access to self-help and other court services and improve access to court services through technological enhancements all negatively impacted as a result of budget reductions over the past five years.*

#### Self-Help / Mediation / Facilitator Services

- Reduced the number of weekly domestic violence clinics
- Dissolution workshops reduced by half
- Terminated monthly (4 hour) on-site visits to King City Courthouse provided to remote South County residents

#### Court Reporters / Interpreter Services

- Eliminated providing employee court reporters for Civil trials
- Reduced levels of reporters provided in Family Law cases

#### Counters / Clerks / Telephones

Longer public wait times on the phones and counters during office hours

#### Courtrooms and Court Houses

King City Courthouse closed, effective September 23, 2013

#### Case Filings / Backlogs

- Increase in workload due to Prop. 47 – Approximately 400 filings in the first month
- Takes up to 2 weeks to produce criminal minute orders
- Increase in backlogs, at times reaching 30-60 days in arrears
- Family Law, civil judgment /writs and abstracts backlogs are up to 7 weeks and mounting

#### Staff Impacts / Furloughs / Layoffs / Unfilled Vacancies

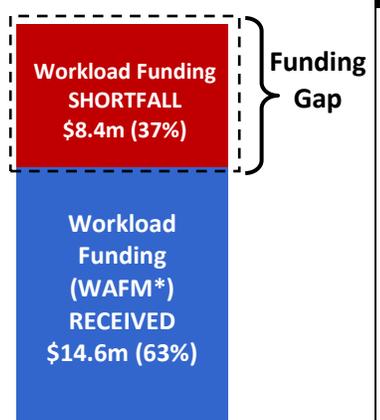
We continue to operate with an insufficient workforce (short about 30 positions), which forces us to contend with ongoing workload issues, resulting impacts to the public, and the inability to operate in a fully functional capacity. Some long-term and essential planning and safety testing must be delayed or remain incomplete to be responsive to the day-to-day needs of the public we serve. Items such as the continuity of operations, ergonomic assessments, security evaluations, worker compensation reviews and IT security testing are all negatively impacted due to the continued personnel resource limitations.

#### Employee Concessions

Employees have not received a cost-of-living increase in 5 years, while subject to unpaid furloughs during the same period and also committed to newly contributing a 7% employee contribution to the CalPERS retirement obligation beginning in 2013.

### Funding Shortfall

**\*WAFM is the Workload-based Allocation & Funding Methodology. It describes how much funding courts need based on their workload. In the current year, the workload-based allocation *needed* in Monterey was calculated at \$23.0 million but the court received \$14.6 million. See reverse for a detailed explanation of how WAFM is calculated.**



### Court Demographics

Population Served	428,826
Square Miles Covered	3,771
Total Number of Court Facilities	5

### Court Leadership

Presiding Judge	Hon. Marla O. Anderson
Court Executive Officer	Teresa A. Risi
Executive Office Contact	(831) 775-5678

### Availability of Judicial Officers

Total of 21.2 judicial positions with a .6 Family Law Commissioner vacancy the Court is unable to fill

### Budget Challenges for FY 2015-16

*Due to significantly reduced state funding to the judicial branch during a multi-year period, compounded by continuously increasing costs, ongoing reduced local revenues, and the elimination of the trial court's operating reserves, the Monterey County Superior Court has been forced to suppress staffing levels below an already dramatically reduced amount and what is required to fully function in meeting our obligations to the public. As the state continues its overall economic recovery, it is critical that additional funding is provided to this court to address these multiple and consequential impacts, enabling restoration and sustainability to the irreplaceable public services provided by the trial court. An additional \$2.4 Million (+11.5% of total revenues) and establishment of an operating fund balance limit representing two months of operating expenses ( 16%) is necessary to restore resources to the minimum level required to ensure full access to justice for our community in a sustainable manner.*

## **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' historical share of the statewide funding. The WAFM calculation tells us what the trial courts need to function based on current filings, whereas the historical share was based on the amount each court received from its county.)

Unfortunately, the total WAFM funding needed for all 58 courts exceeds the funding currently appropriated in the state budget by as much as \$800 million. (This is the WAFM funding gap.) 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 to each court's historical share of statewide funding, applying it 100% only to "new" money appropriated in the budget. New money is any undesignated general court operations funding increase above the FY 2012-13 State funding level.

The rules of application adopted by the Judicial Council are as follows:

- Each year beginning in FY 2013-14, and through/including 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 2012-13 base is distributed according to WAFM;
- All undesignated court operations state funding increases after FY 2012-13 are 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.