



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

### Key Budget Challenges/Priorities

- Placer Court has addressed funding reductions and unfunded costs through reductions in nearly every area of court services, including severe reductions in filled positions and changes to employee compensation.
- The result has been a continual and near constant decline in the court's ability to service the public going forward.

### Budget Impacts

#### General Budget Reduction Impacts to the Public

- Court has discontinued valuable programs like Youth Peer Court, Family Law and Domestic Violence Case Management Programs, and programs supporting families in highly conflicted child custody cases.

#### Reduced Public Access:

##### Self-Help/Mediator/Family Law Facilitator Services

- Operating hours for Family Law Facilitator and Self-Help Center significantly reduced, now only open until noon most days.
- Telephone services discontinued in 2009 and remain unavailable.
- One-on-one appointments severely reduced starting FY 12/13.

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

- Clerk's office hours cut by two hours on Fridays, closing at 1:00 pm
- Limited Service Days – where only emergency matters are handled and all but one clerk's office is closed – 8 days this fiscal year.
- Telephone waits of over one hour for traffic ticket information
- Criminal records searches take up to 30 days to issue responses
- In person waits of as much as 3 hours or more to file a domestic violence restraining order, requests child custody modifications, or other family law matters.

#### Closures: Courtrooms and Courthouses

- Closed two criminal and civil trial courtrooms in July 2009, severely reduced use of an additional trial courtroom in FY 12/13, and reduced courtroom hours on Fridays and limited services days.
- Placer County Jail courtroom only operated on limited services days: 12 days in FY 2011-12, 8 days in FY 2012-13

#### Staff Reductions: Furloughs, Layoffs, Unfilled Vacancies

- Reduced non-judicial positions by 45% since FY 2008-09, including 56 staff subject to layoff. Anticipate some additional layoffs this FY.
- Employees subject to furloughs each fiscal year since FY 2009-10
- Employees pay full share of retirement costs.

#### Impacts: Court Security Services

- Implemented "roving bailiffs" in civil courtrooms due to insufficient funding, increasing security risks.

#### Fewer Judicial Officers

- Reduced the use of assigned judges, due to need to close courtrooms for lack of staff.

### Annual Allocation\*

<b>FY 2008-2009</b>	
Total Allocation	\$ 19,748,411
Total Allocation excluding Security	\$ 16,531,545
<b>FY 2012-2013</b>	
Est. Allocation **	\$ 17,358,891
Est. Allocation excluding Security	\$ 13,628,260
Percentage change	-12.1%
Percentage change excluding Security	-18%

\*Does not reflect unfunded cost increases

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

### Placer Facilities Overview

Number of court facilities	6
Capital construction projects	1 (indefinitely delayed)

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

Population served	355,328
Judicial officers	16.5 (2 unfunded)
Judicial officers needed	20.4
Filled staff positions FY 08-09	185
Filled staff positions FY 12-13	124
Filled staff positions March '13	103

### Case Statistics (Fiscal Year 2010-11)

Felony filings	2,124
Misdemeanor filings (incl. traffic)	6,045
Infraction filings (incl. traffic)	40,024
Civil filings	8,344
Family and juvenile filings	5,530

### Court Leadership

Presiding Judge	Hon. Alan V. Pineschi
Court Executive Officer	Jake Chatters

