



Superior Court of California County of Riverside BUDGET SNAPSHOT



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
OF THE COURTS
OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

January 2014

Budget and Program Priorities for FY 2014-15

Promoting access to justice with minimal means by increasing court services available on-line and at off-site facilities; increasing self-help services that offer 'turn-key' instructions and information to the general unrepresented public; and increasing the availability of multi-lingual court information.

Reduction in Public Services

- Closed three courthouses and 12.4 courtrooms
- Reduced public service hours
- Forced to shift high-volume case types (traffic, small claims) to facilities ill-equipped to handle long lines, congestion, and delays
- Ceased answering traffic-related questions at public counters and stopped answering traffic phones

Availability of Judicial Officers

Currently have 76 judicial officers to process the caseload of 136 judges (**deficit of 62 judges**)

Funding/Contracts

Without the ability to carry over more than 1% of reserves, the court's Information Technology infrastructure will be severely hampered, especially since the court must automate court services in light of diminished resources. Most notably, continuing or entering into planned contracts to upgrade video technology, courtroom efficiencies, and on-line court services will not be possible.

Court Security / Safety / Facilities

Shifting cases to other court locations creates the potential for security risks inherent with lack of adequate space, public flow, and potential conflicts with witnesses, family members, and litigants.

Budget Considerations

Budgeted Revenues* FY 2013-2014	\$124,993,538
<u>Total Revenues* FY 2008-2009</u>	<u>\$133,269,042</u>
Five-Year Revenue Reduction	-\$8,275,504
<small>*Excludes Sheriff-Provided Security</small>	
Estimated Deficit Due to Ongoing Reductions	-\$15,000,000
Current Year Unfunded Employee Health Benefits and Retirement Costs	-\$2,899,999
Share of \$60 million augmentation	\$3,028,558

Court Demographics

Population Served	2,227,577
Square Miles Covered	7,303
Total Number of Court Facilities	14
Filled Staff Positions FY 2013-2014	1,078
<u>Filled Staff Positions FY 2008-2009</u>	<u>1,116</u>
Lost Positions in 5 years	-38 (3% reduction)
Actual Positions Reduced Due to Employee Fluctuations During 5-Year Period	-153 (12% vacancy rate)

Court Leadership

Presiding Judge	Hon. Mark Ashton Cope
Court Executive Officer	W. Samuel Hamrick, Jr.
Executive Office Contact	(951) 777-3162

Budget Challenges for FY 2014-15

Funding restoration is desperately needed to keep court doors open to the public. More funding is needed to hire critical clerical staffing simply to maintain key court services. Continued technology projects need funding to sustain on-line services in light of the diminishing face-to-face services. Those hardest hit will be families, children, and the elderly.