



Superior Court of California County of San Joaquin BUDGET SNAPSHOT



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
OF THE COURTS
OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

January 2014

Budget and Program Priorities for FY 2014-15

Reopening the Lodi and Tracy Court Branches continues to be a priority. Reopening these facilities will allow the Court to restore important court services and increase the public's access to justice.

Restored Services in FY 13-14

Between September 1, 2012 and October 1, 2013, small claims litigants could file their claims, but were not assigned a hearing date. Small claims hearings resumed November 4, 2013. There was a backlog of 1,200 small claims cases, which was cleared as of January 2014.

Court Reporters / Interpreter Services

In October 2012, we stopped providing court reporters in all five civil courtrooms; litigants are now required to bring their own reporter.

Counters / Clerks / Telephones

Closures have impacted the Stockton branch significantly; lines are longer, phones are busier, and the public's patience is being tried; average wait times have jumped from no more than 5 minutes, to 30 minutes or more.

Closed Courtrooms (4) and Court Houses (3)

- Three courtrooms have been closed since October 2011; and one courtroom closed in March 2013
- Closed Tracy Court branch location and both Lodi Court branch facilities.
- Because of the court closures, many litigants and jurors must travel up to 45 minutes one way to the main branch court in Stockton where there is unreliable public transportation and insufficient public parking.
- Security lines into the Stockton courthouse have lengthened significantly due to the increased number of people being directed to that courthouse due to the closed court branches.

Staff Impacts / Furloughs / Layoffs / Unfilled Vacancies

- FY 09-10: 12 furlough days (all staff)
- FY 10-11: 8 furlough days (all staff)
- FY 11-12: 4 furlough days (all staff); 42 staff laid off on 10/1/11
- FY 12-13: 12 furlough days (unrepresented staff); 8 furlough days (represented staff); 11 staff laid off on 8/1/12; one commissioner laid off 3/4/13; 5 court reporters laid off on 4/5/13; 2/8/13 through 11/1/14- 2 floating holidays eliminated for all court employees
- FY 13-14: 4 furlough days (represented staff)

Availability of Judicial Officers

- One judge has no courtroom and the presiding judge shares a courtroom with another judge.
- Judges are used to fill vacant judicial officer positions in order to rely less frequently on assigned judges.
- Keeping two commissioner positions vacant due to budget reductions. In March 2013, one commissioner was laid off.

Budget Considerations

Budgeted Revenues* FY 2013-2014	\$32,377,692
Total Revenues* FY 2008-2009	\$36,948,963
Five-Year Revenue Reduction	-\$4,571,271
Current Year Unfunded Employee Health Benefits and Retirement Costs	-\$1,028,321
Share of \$60 million augmentation	\$1,162,391

*Excludes Sheriff-Provided Security

Court Demographics

Population Served*	703,919
Square Miles Covered	1,426
Total Number of Court Facilities	4
Filled Staff Positions FY 2013-2014	249
Filled Staff Positions FY 2008-2009	348
Lost Positions in 5 years	-99 (29% reduction)

*From the Department of Finance as of July 2013

Court Leadership

Presiding Judge	Hon. Lesley D. Holland
Court Executive Officer	Rosa Junqueiro
Executive Office Contact	(209) 468-2827

Budget Challenges for FY 2014-15

- *There are longer wait times at the clerk's office and too many telephone calls go unanswered.*
- *The complete closure of two court branches (Lodi and Tracy) has decreased access to justice for members of the public who would otherwise be served by these locations. The closures have also added to delays in justice at the Stockton Courthouse now that this location processes cases and workload from the closed court branches.*