



Superior Court of California County of San Joaquin

BUDGET SNAPSHOT

February 2016



Hon. José L. Alva, Presiding Judge

Rosa Junqueiro, Court Executive Officer

(209) 992-5216

Court Service Highlights in the Current Year

- Implemented and deployed a new case management system for all case types
- Rolled out a new Payroll System

Court Service Highlights in Detail

Replaced Case Management Systems

We deployed a new case management system (CMS) by Justice Systems, Inc. for all case types on October 19, 2015, replacing three different CMS systems and automating juvenile delinquency for the first time. The court continues to work on refining business processes and addressing backlogs in workload while using our new CMS. Future enhancements including e-filing are expected to be deployed in the coming year.

Rolled out a new payroll system

On January 1, 2016, we launched a new payroll system by ADP. This system provides online services to court employees by automating time keeping as well as recruitment, payroll and benefits.

Other Court Services

Increased staff resources

We hired six new staff members to address workload increases. In spite of hiring additional staff, several employees recently retired. The combination of retirements and implementation of a new CMS has slowed down our work flow, particularly the pace at which we process cases.

Use of county services

The deployment of our CMS and ADP payroll services completed the court's transition away from county services. We no longer rely on the county to provide any services to the court.

Clerk's offices

Our Clerk's offices continue to close at 3:00p.m. and phones go unanswered at 4:00p.m. due to workload and staffing.

Collaborative courts

Our collaborative courts have secured \$4 million in grant funding that supports 8 different collaborative court programs.

Budget Challenges and Priorities

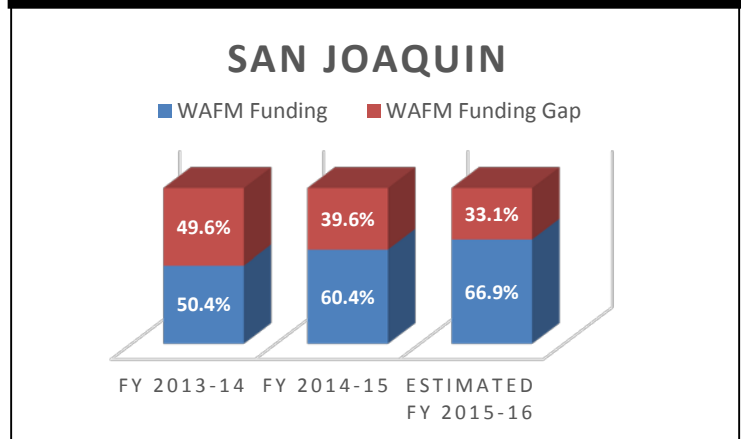
Facilities: Stockton - We will be moving into our new Stockton Courthouse at the end of this calendar year. Unfunded costs include: moving - \$550,000; ongoing janitorial - \$238,700; ongoing court security - \$137,000; mail courier, file retrieval, facilities, and IT staff - \$279,571.

Tracy - Our Tracy Court, which has 2 courtrooms, remains closed. Opening this branch is a priority and will help us better serve the South county residents and provide this population with better access to justice.

Amnesty - Although this program has assisted many with obtaining debt relief and driver's licenses, it has significantly decreased the collection of civil assessment revenue and increased the court's workload.

Vacant Judicial Officer - One commissioner position remains vacant due to lack of funds.

Workload Allocation & Funding Gap (see reverse)



Court Demographics

Population Served	710,731
Square Miles Covered	1,426
Total Number of Court Facilities	6

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' traditional share of the statewide funding. The WAFM calculation tells us what the trial courts need to function based on current filings, whereas the traditional share was based on the amount each court received from its county not taking into consideration the courts' filings or staff needs.)

Unfortunately, the total WAFM funding needed for all 58 courts exceeds the funding currently appropriated in the state budget. (This is the WAFM funding gap.) California's trial courts are underfunded by at least a collective \$444 million. The underfunding is made worse for those courts that experience a reduction of funding based on their WAFM share. 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, applying it fully only to new money appropriated in the budget.

The rules of application adopted by the Judicial Council are:

- Each year beginning in FY 2013-14, and through/including to 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 12-13 base is distributed according to WAFM;
- All new state funding is 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.