



Superior Court of California County of Santa Barbara BUDGET SNAPSHOT



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
OF THE COURTS
OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

January 2014

Budget and Program Priorities for FY 2014-15

Clerk's Office in Solvang to close in 2014 • Santa Barbara Juvenile Court to be closed and consolidated into other facilities • Traffic Night Court cut 50% in Santa Maria • Civil default judgments take over 5 months to complete

Self-Help / Mediation / Facilitator Services

- Self-help services to the community have been slashed due to funding reductions.
- Child custody mediations that took 3 weeks to schedule have been extended to 5 weeks in FY 2013-14.

Counters / Clerks / Telephones

- Default dissolutions once taking 7 days to complete now require over 6 weeks to complete.
- Public counters that closed at 4:30pm in FY 2007-08 now close at 3:00 pm daily.

Closed Courtrooms in Solvang and Juvenile

- Small claims filings eliminated at the Solvang Courthouse. Litigants must get help at other courts.
- Solvang Court will be reduced to hearing traffic matters one day per month and the clerk's office closed.
- The Juvenile Court in Goleta will be closed and matters transferred to downtown Santa Barbara. Juvenile detention hearings may be conducted via remote video from the juvenile hall located 75 miles to the north.

Staff Impacts / Furloughs / Layoffs / Unfilled Vacancies

- 41 full-time staff positions reduced since FY 2007-2008 through attrition and voluntary separation program.
- Both Assistant Executive Officer positions have been eliminated along with Executive Administrative Support.
- There is over a 15% vacancy factor.
- Inadequately trained extra help cover some vacancies on a part time basis.

Court Security / Safety / Facilities

- The Historic Courthouse has no perimeter security screening for volatile family law and small claims matters.
- Inmates are escorted through public areas.

Availability of Judicial Officers

Commissioner position has been frozen forcing consolidation of traffic, and severely limiting services to restorative and therapeutic justice courts.

Budget Considerations

Budgeted Revenues* FY 2013-2014	\$27,278,010
Total Revenues* FY 2008-2009	\$29,636,377
Five-Year Revenue Reduction	-\$2,358,367
<small>*Excludes Sheriff-Provided Security</small>	
Current Year Unfunded Employee Health Benefits and Retirement Costs	-\$512,226
Share of \$60 million augmentation	\$635,282
Net Augmentation of \$60 million after WAFM Historical Funding Adjustment	\$183,263

Court Demographics

Population Served	427,267
Square Miles Covered	3,789
Total Number of Court Facilities	8
Filled Staff Positions FY 2013-2014	250
Filled Staff Positions FY 2008-2009	291
Lost Positions in 5 years	-41 (14% reduction)
Additional Staff Losses (as of July 1, 2013)	-5 (16% vacancy rate)

Court Leadership

Presiding Judge	Hon. Arthur A. Garcia
Court Executive Officer	Darrel E. Parker
Executive Office Contact	(805) 614-6594

Budget Challenges for FY 2014-15

Despite years of hiring freezes, early retirements, and the implementation of many operational efficiencies, the Court must still reduce services to Solvang, Buellton and the Santa Inez Valley by closing the clerk's office in addition to closing and relocating the Santa Barbara Juvenile Court.