



Superior Court of California County of Santa Cruz BUDGET SNAPSHOT



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
OF THE COURTS
OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

January 2014

Budget and Program Priorities for FY 2014-15

- *Restoration of Court services: Watsonville Criminal, Santa Cruz Small Claims, Felton Juvenile Delinquency and Specialty Courts*
- *Improve Pro Per Self-Help Services to Mono-Lingual Spanish Speaking Court Users in Santa Cruz and Watsonville Courthouses*
- *Replace outdated and antiquated Case Management System*

Self-Help / Mediation / Facilitator Services

Discontinued Self-Help and Family Law Facilitator services at Santa Cruz Courthouse. Some bilingual services restored this fiscal year

Specialty Courts:

Demand and need exist for the following specialty courts subject to new and appropriate funding:

- Mental Health
- Drug Court
- Veteran's Treatment Court
- Homeless Court
- Family Preservation Court

Court Reporters

- In 2010, five of twelve court reporters were laid off
- Permanent removal of court reporters from civil, probate, and family law courtrooms
- One position was restored this fiscal year

Counters / Clerks / Telephones

- Clerk office hours reduced by one hour each day
- Telephone hours reduced to 4 hours each day

Closed Courtrooms (1) and Court Houses (1)

- One full courtroom closed on July 1, 2010
- Removed criminal and traffic calendars and services from Watsonville
- Closed juvenile courtroom in Felton; transferred caseload to Watsonville
- Reduced the use of the juvenile hall courtroom from a full-time courtroom to using it two half-days each week
- Criminal/Traffic Services Restored to Watsonville this fiscal year

Staff Impacts / Furloughs / Layoffs / Unfilled Vacancies

- Reduced staff by 29 FTEs
- Furloughed employees at all levels

Court Security / Safety / Facilities

Bailiff removed from civil courtrooms due to budget constraints

Availability of Judicial Officers

One full time commissioner laid off

Budget Considerations

Budgeted Revenues* FY 2013-2014	\$14,249,585
<u>Total Revenues* FY 2008-2009</u>	<u>\$15,560,876</u>
Five-Year Revenue Reduction	-\$1,311,291
<small>*Excludes Sheriff-Provided Security</small>	

Current Year Unfunded Employee Health Benefits and Retirement Costs	-\$320,455
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Share of \$60 million augmentation	\$367,125
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Court Demographics

Population Served	265,981
Square Miles Covered	607
Total Number of Court Facilities	4
Filled Staff Positions FY 2013-2014	119
<u>Filled Staff Positions FY 2008-2009</u>	<u>148</u>
Lost Positions in 5 years	-29 (20% reduction)

Court Leadership

Presiding Judge	Hon. Paul M. Marigonda
Court Executive Officer	Alex Calvo
Executive Office Contact	(831) 420-2401

Budget Challenges for FY 2014-15

- *New rules limiting Trial Court Fund Balances to 1% will result in further operations reductions, impacting access.*
- *Reductions to employee compensation are making it increasingly difficult to recruit and retain employees.*
- *Increasing and unfunded health benefit and retirement costs have resulted in decreased services to the community.*