



Judicial Branch Budget Snapshot Superior Court of California County of Siskiyou

Key Budget Challenges/Priorities

- Staff vacancies and furloughs result in limited public hours due to insufficient staff coverage, which compromises access to justice
- Siskiyou County is historically depressed, with a persistent unemployment rate of over 15%; in this environment, saving jobs is very important to the Court

Budget Impacts

General Budget Reduction Impacts to the Public

- Where 90% of parties in Family Law cases are self-represented, reduction in facilitator and self-help services has compromised their ability to access to justice
- There is a delay of about eight weeks before a family may have access to mediation to discuss custody and visitation issues

Reduced Public Access: Self-Help/Mediator/Facilitator Services

- Reduced availability of Facilitator and self-help services by 50%, many services are now only available by appointment

Reduced Public Access: Court Reporters/Interpreters

- Reduced court reporter staff from 3 FTE to 2 FTE; this reduction causes delays because there are a limited number of court reporters in Siskiyou County
- The Court has a very difficult time getting interpreters for exotic languages often required in traffic cases and cannot afford the costs to have these interpreters brought in from around the state

Reduced Public Access: Public Service Counters and Clerks

- Reduced the number of hours of public access for divisions
- At the Yreka Courthouse, all windows close at 4pm and during the noon hour, which eliminates court users' ability to handle court business during their lunch hour or after work

Closures: Courtrooms and Courthouses

- Tulelake courtroom closed in FY 11-12 and remains closed; users of Tulelake must travel either 30 minutes to Dorris or 2 hours to Yreka
- All calendars and services from the Tulelake court were consolidated with the Dorris Branch of the Court
- There is only one day of court per week in Weed
- Court is held in Happy Camp on odd numbered months (e.g., Jan., March, etc.)

Staff Reductions: Furloughs, Layoffs, Unfilled Vacancies

- No layoffs, but staff reductions have been achieved through voluntary retirement, resulting in a 22% staff reduction
- Voluntary furloughs, with a 90% participation rate, instituted in FY 11-12 after statewide mandatory furloughs expired

Impacts: Court Security Services

- No reductions in court security services

Annual Allocation*

Total Allocation FY 2008-2009	\$ 5,455,417
Est. Allocation FY 2012-2013**	\$ 3,487,143
Percentage change	-36.1

*Does not reflect unfunded cost increases

**For comparison purposes only, includes court security funding

Siskiyou Facilities Overview

Number of court houses	1
Capital construction projects	1 (delayed to FY 14-15)

Judicial Workload/Employees as of Dec. 2012:

Population served	44,639
Judicial officers	5
Filled staff positions FY 08-09	53
Filled staff positions FY 12-13	42

Case Statistics (Fiscal Year 2010-11)

Felony filings	548
Misdemeanor filings (incl. traffic)	1,072
Infraction filings (incl. traffic)	18,510
Civil filings	840
Family and juvenile filings	860

Court Leadership

Presiding Judge	Hon. Laura J. Masunaga
Court Executive Officer	Mary Frances McHugh