



## Judicial Branch Budget Snapshot Superior Court of California County of Stanislaus

### Key Budget Challenges/Priorities

- Stanislaus Court designated as a one of California's "historically underfunded" courts
- Staff vacancies have severely impacted court services and will force the court to handle only those cases deemed mandatory and high priority
- Court projects a budget deficit of \$1.7 million for FY 2013-14, potentially resulting in additional staff reductions

### Budget Impacts

#### General Budget Reduction Impacts to the Public

- Delays in processing judgments from 90 to 120 days; trial dates are set out months in advance
- The public and attorneys must wait in long lines to process files and documents
- Relationships with justice system partners are strained as services diminish and outreach efforts have been eliminated

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

- Staff reduced from 7 to 4; average wait time has doubled
- Funding reduced overall by 33% since FY 2008-09

#### Reduced Public Access: Court Reporters/Interpreters

- Eliminated 3 court reporter positions and will eliminate an additional 2 reporters in FY 2012-13
- Reduced expenditures for interpreters by 28%, with further reductions anticipated in FY 2013-14

#### Reduced Public Access: Public Service Counters and Clerks

- Public counters and telephones now close at 3:00 pm daily except Fridays, when public counters and telephones close at 12:00 pm.
- Backlogs exist as a result from staff losses

#### Closures: Courtrooms and Courthouses

- Branch court operations closed in Turlock and Ceres
- Closed one civil and one traffic/small claims courtroom
- Additional civil courtroom closure possible in FY 2013-14

#### Staff Reductions: Furloughs, Layoffs, Unfilled Vacancies

- Mandatory furloughs in FY 2009-10 and voluntary furloughs in FY 2012; 5% furlough for all employees effective June 2, 2013
- Twelve positions eliminated, with potential layoff of an additional 15-20 staff due to projected budget deficit in FY 2013-14
- Vacancy rate anticipated to rise from 17% to 20% by end of FY 2012-13.

#### Impacts: Court Security Services

- Court has cancelled an armed security contract

#### Fewer Judicial Officers

- One court commissioner position was eliminated

### Annual Allocation\*

Total Allocation FY 2008-2009	\$ 26,220,365
Est. Allocation** FY 2012-2013	\$ 20,234,879
Percentage change	-22.9%

\*Does not reflect unfunded cost increases

\*\*For comparison purposes only, includes court security funding

### Stanislaus Facilities Overview

Number of court facilities	7
Capital construction projects	1 (delayed to FY 14-15)

### Judicial Workload/Employees as of Dec. 2012:

Population served	519,940
Judicial officers	26
Judicial officers needed	36.1
Filled staff positions FY 08-09	265.1
Filled staff positions FY 12-13	230

### Case Statistics (Fiscal Year 2010-11)

Felony filings	5,807
Misdemeanor filings (incl. traffic)	12,395
Infraction filings (incl. traffic)	61,497
Civil filings	11,900
Family and juvenile filings	9,964

### Court Leadership

Presiding Judge	Hon. Loretta Murphy Begen
Court Executive Officer	Rebecca Fleming