



Judicial Branch Budget Snapshot Superior Court of California County of Sutter

Key Budget Challenges/Priorities

- Workload is backlogged due to inadequate staffing levels: 3-5 days for traffic citations data entry; additional 7-10 days for family law judgments; additional 4-6 days for processing writs and abstracts; additional two weeks to see a child custody mediator; up to 3 weeks for civil judgments; and up to 4 weeks for processing warrant requests and services.
- For the next fiscal year, the court will consolidate offices, reduce hours of operations, as well as implement other reductions in services in response to the ongoing budget reductions.

Budget Impacts

General Budget Reduction Impacts to the Public

- Longer lines and wait times of up to 45 minutes; delayed access to files (once per week) requires public to leave and return to view records since records staff were reassigned to cover criminal operations duties. Reduced access to self-help services.

Reduced Public Access:

Self-Help/Mediator/Facilitator Services

- Families face loss of contact between parents and children due to long waits to access mediators and reduction in available funding for attorneys to represent children in child custody and visitation proceedings
- Number of litigants seeking assistance has increased almost 80%

Reduced Public Access: Court Reporters/Interpreters

- Court does not employ court reporters; uses contracted reporters for mandated proceedings only
- No reduction in court interpreter services

Reduced Public Access: Public Service Counters and Clerks

- Due to the loss of staff, the court is consolidating offices which will result in fewer filing windows and longer wait times.

Closures: Courtrooms and Courthouses

- All courtrooms and clerks' offices were closed for 3 days in Nov-Dec 2012, with only courtroom open for emergency matters and statutorily mandated hearings
- Leased facility for Self-Help Center closed, resulting in further congestion of staff and services in already inadequate courthouse space

Staff Reductions: Furloughs, Layoffs, Unfilled Vacancies

- 5 positions laid off in February 2013; 7 employees voluntarily separated in April 2012; unfilled positions will remain vacant unless deemed essential; 20% vacancy rate includes a self-help attorney
- Mandatory furloughs instituted in FY2012-13 for all supervisors and confidential employees during limited service days

Impacts: Court Security Services

- No reduction in security services at this time

Annual Allocation*

Total Allocation FY 2008-2009	\$ 5,806,028
Est. Allocation FY 2012-2013**	\$4,428,978
Percentage change	-23.7%

*Does not reflect unfunded cost increases

**For comparison purposes only, includes court security funding

Sutter Facilities Overview

Number of court facilities	2
Capital construction projects	1

Judicial Workload/Employees as of Dec. 2012:

Population served	95,065
Judicial officers	5.3
Judicial officers needed	8.2
Filled staff positions FY 08-09	74
Filled staff positions FY 12-13	58

Case Statistics (Fiscal Year 2010-11)

Felony filings	1,021
Misdemeanor filings (incl. traffic)	3,069
Infraction filings (incl. traffic)	12,458
Civil filings	2,258
Family and juvenile filings	1,531

Court Leadership

Presiding Judge	Hon. Susan E. Green
Court Executive Officer	Mary Beth Todd