



# Superior Court of California County of Sutter BUDGET SNAPSHOT



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE  
OF THE COURTS  
OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

January 2014

## Budget and Program Priorities for FY 2014-15

*Restoration of services to the public, reduced wait times, securing necessary equipment for a new court facility, and investment in technology necessary to meet the demands of a more technologically informed public are priorities for FY 14-15. Achievement of these priorities will be a significant challenge absent the restoration of funding.*

### Self-Help / Mediation / Facilitator Services

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

### Court Reporters / Interpreter Services

- Court Reporters are provided in mandated proceedings only.
- No reduction in court interpreter services is anticipated.

### Counters / Clerks / Telephones

- Wait times at public counters have increased due to the consolidation of offices to accommodate the loss of positions.

### Courtrooms and Court Houses

- Lease for Self-Help Center terminated, resulting in further congestion for staff and services in already inadequate court space.
- The part-time Family Support Commissioner is forced to utilize the Family Law Center clinic room as a courtroom.

### Staff Impacts / Furloughs / Layoffs / Unfilled Vacancies

- 5 positions laid off in February 2013.
- 7 employees voluntarily separated in April 2012.
- 2 clerk positions were restored with FY 13-14 funding.
- Remaining unfilled positions will remain vacant.
- 30% vacancy rate includes a self-help attorney

### Court Security / Safety / Facilities

- New courthouse currently under construction with an estimated completion date in March 2015 will replace two unsafe and overcrowded facilities.

### Availability of Judicial Officers

- Court currently has 5.3 authorized judicial positions.
- Assessed judicial need is 7.3 judicial positions.
- Eligible for one additional judgeship per AB 159 subject to funding.

## Budget Considerations

|   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| Budgeted Revenues* FY 2013-2014                                     | \$5,422,524        |
| <u>Total Revenues* FY 2008-2009</u>                                 | <u>\$6,066,365</u> |
| Five-Year Revenue Reduction   | -\$643,841         |
| <small>*Excludes Sheriff-Provided Security</small>                  |                    |
| Current Year Unfunded Employee Health Benefits and Retirement Costs | -\$162,268         |
| Share of \$60 million augmentation                                  | \$165,851          |

## Court Demographics

|  |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| Population Served                          | 95,065                 |
| Square Miles Covered                       | 609                    |
| Total Number of Court Facilities           | 2                      |
| Filled Staff Positions FY 2013-2014        | 52                     |
| <u>Filled Staff Positions FY 2008-2009</u> | <u>74</u>              |
| Lost Positions in 5 years                  | -22<br>(30% reduction) |

## Court Leadership

|                          |                     |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Presiding Judge          | Hon. Susan E. Green |
| Court Executive Officer  | Mary Beth Todd      |
| Executive Office Contact | (530) 822-3309      |

## Budget Challenges for FY 2014-15

*Challenges for FY 14-15 include ongoing backlogs due to the loss of positions, developing strategies for absorbing the costs related to the move to a new court facility, and annualizing the costs of major equipment and software purchases due to the loss of our fund balance, which served as the mechanism by which we were able to save for large purchases.*