



# Superior Court of California County of Ventura BUDGET SNAPSHOT



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE  
OF THE COURTS  
OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

January 2014

## Budget and Program Priorities for FY 2014-15

*To reinvest in and enhance access to the court impacted as a result of budget reductions over the past five years to programs and services including self help services, branch court operations, public counters, court closure days, family law mediation, court appointed dependency counsel, and technology.*

### Self-Help / Mediation / Facilitator Services

- Closure of East County Courthouse Self-Help Center
- Loss of two Family Law Facilitator attorneys
- Loss of two family law mediators

### Court Reporters / Interpreter Services

- Laid off 3.8 intermittent court reporters in FY 2012-13
- Parties must now arrange for their own court reporters in civil cases

### Counters / Clerks / Telephones

- Reduced clerks' counter hours by 2 hours
- No savings realized since court personnel use the hours the counters are closed to work on backlogs

### Closed Courtrooms and Court Houses

- Courtroom and courthouse closures due to mandatory furloughs
- Relocated 2 civil courtrooms and 1 family law courtroom
- Suspended operations at the East County Courthouse (Simi Valley) on June 25, 2012 except traffic arraignments and trials, small claims, and unlawful detainees heard two days a week; traffic and collections payment windows open five days a week

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

- 25 staff laid off in FY 2011-12 and FY 2012-13
- 42 vacant positions eliminated
- 15 positions eliminated by voluntary retirements
- Instituted 6 to 18 furlough days for all staff
- Vacancy rate of 5.6% in FY 2012-13

### Court Security / Safety / Facilities

- Redirected 1 perimeter screening deputy
- Redirected 5 courtroom bailiffs

## Budget Considerations

Budgeted Revenues* FY 2013-2014	\$42,853,001
<u>Total Revenues* FY 2008-2009</u>	<u>\$45,557,826</u>
Five-Year Revenue Reduction	<b>-\$2,704,825</b>
<small>*Excludes Sheriff-Provided Security</small>	
Current Year Unfunded Employee Health Benefits and Retirement Costs	<b>-\$993,947</b>
Share of \$60 million augmentation	\$1,164,629

## Court Demographics

Population Served	832,970
Square Miles Covered	2,208
Total Number of Court Facilities	3
Filled Staff Positions FY 2013-2014	352
<u>Filled Staff Positions FY 2008-2009</u>	<u>396</u>
Lost Positions in 5 years	<b>-44</b> (11% reduction)

## Court Leadership

Presiding Judge	Hon. Brian John Back
Court Executive Officer	Michael D. Planet
Executive Office Contact	(805) 654-3160

## Budget Challenges for FY 2014-15

- *Re-establishing staffing levels to provide access to all court services and programs 8 hours a day, 5 days a week.*
- *Reinvesting in family law mediation, self-help, and court appointed dependency counsel to meet growth in workload.*
- *Investing in technology to improve access to justice, and provide a broader range and higher quality services to all court users.*