



# Superior Court of California County of Yuba BUDGET SNAPSHOT



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE  
OF THE COURTS  
OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

January 2014

## Budget and Program Priorities for FY 2014-15

*Case processing is delayed; increased number of cases are backlogged; research services eliminated; workload and pressure to meet deadlines have increased; trials are delayed; access to justice is denied*

### Self-Help / Mediation / Facilitator Services

- Lines often form as early as 7:15am for Self-Help/Family Law services.
- Self-Help/Facilitator must refer 10-15 customers per week to return on the next business day and routinely borrow court staff to triage clients
- Mediation appointments are set up as much as one month out (not two), and we now hold mediation orientation every week now (instead of every two weeks).
- Clients seeking services have increased dramatically, to between 800 and 900 (or more) each month, including court users contacting us in person, at the counter, in the courtroom, in workshops, by telephone, and in mediation.

### Court Reporters / Interpreter Services

Calendars have been adjusted to schedule all interpreter matters on Friday, minimizing the need to have interpreters.

### Counters / Clerks / Telephones

Court has not curtailed public service hours, but based on the reduction of staff we have more windows closed to allow clerks to finish their other duties, resulting in longer waiting times for the public.

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

- Remaining staff members have increased workloads due to unfilled vacancies; much difficulty taking personal time off.
- Jury clerk has been assigned other duties due to unfilled vacancies resulting in reduced public service to jurors.

### Availability of Judicial Officers

Fewer staff means that judicial officers are not receiving case files in a timely manner to meet calendar review deadlines.

## Budget Considerations

Budgeted Revenues* FY 2013-2014	\$4,972,798
<u>Total Revenues* FY 2008-2009</u>	<u>\$6,169,746</u>
Five-Year Revenue Reduction <small>*Excludes Sheriff-Provided Security</small>	<b>-\$1,196,948</b>
Current Year Unfunded Employee Health Benefits and Retirement Costs	<b>-\$107,639</b>
Share of \$60 million augmentation	\$108,126

## Court Demographics

Population Served	72,615
Square Miles Covered	644
Total Number of Court Facilities	2
Filled Staff Positions FY 2013-2014	48
<u>Filled Staff Positions FY 2008-2009</u>	<u>53</u>
Lost Positions in 5 years	<b>-5</b> (8% reduction)

## Court Leadership

Presiding Judge	Hon. Debra L. Givens
Court Executive Officer	Steve Konishi
Executive Office Contact	(530) 749-7610

## Budget Challenges for FY 2014-15

*Workload is backlogged due to inadequate staffing levels: several weeks or a month for issuing warrants; missing 30-day and 180-day deadlines for bail bond processing; 4-month delay in reporting felony and misdemeanor case dispositions to the Department of Justice; small claims cases set 60 or more days out; and family law mediation appointments are set up to 1 month out, with orientation held every week.*

*In Dec 2013, Court signed a 7 year contract with Tyler Technologies for a new CMS system (\$999,932). The Court needs its reserves to pay said contract.*