



# Superior Court of California County of Butte BUDGET SNAPSHOT



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE  
OF THE COURTS  
OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

January 2014

## Budget and Program Priorities for FY 2014-15

*The public is experiencing increased processing times while the court has been struggling to meet all statutory time limits and accommodate hearing dates. If sufficient funding is available, the court will begin the procurement of a new case management system that will enhance the public's access to justice by replacing a system that will soon be no longer supported.*

### Court Reporters / Interpreter Services

- Eliminated contract court reporter positions, utilizing staff and pro tem reporters instead. However, no reductions have been made in overall court reporter availability.
- Pursues telephonic interpreter services whenever possible

### Closed Courtrooms and Court Houses

Courtroom activities ceased at the Paradise facility in 2009. The public counter remained open at that facility for filings until fall of 2010. Paradise facility is now closed to the public and is utilized only for internal court functions on an as-needed basis.

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

- Laid off three full-time and one temporary employee in FY 2011-12, laid off one full time employee in FY 2013-14.
- Net reduction of 24.25 positions from 2009. Currently maintaining a 4% vacancy rate in remaining positions.
- Began a voluntary furlough program of two days per month in FY 2009-10 with a 70% participation rate; negotiated mandatory furloughs of 13 days per year in FY 2010-11 and FY 2011-12.
- Negotiated 10 furlough days per year in FY 2013-14 and 13 per year in FY 2014-15.
- Employees now contribute 3.5% of salary towards retirement costs
- No employee COLAs since 2009.

### Court Security / Safety / Facilities

Due to the realignment of court security funding, ten court attendant positions were eliminated. Related jury and courtroom support services are now performed by clerks' office staff (security-related functions transferred to the responsibility of the local Sheriff's Department).

### Technology modernization

The court will have difficulty funding technology infrastructure modernization (for the maintenance of existing systems) due to current budget realities.

## Budget Considerations

Est. Revenues* FY 2013-2014	\$11,115,392
Total Revenues* FY 2008-2009	\$14,026,788
Five-Year Revenue Reduction	-\$2,911,396
<small>*Excludes Sheriff-Provided Security</small>	
Current Year Unfunded Employee Health Benefits and Retirement Costs	-\$250,492
Share of \$60 million augmentation	\$312,533

## Court Demographics

Population Served	221,539
Square Miles Covered	1,636
Total Number of Court Facilities	5
Filled Staff Positions FY 2013-2014	112
Filled Staff Positions FY 2008-2009	132
Staff reductions over 5 years	-20 (15% reduction)

## Court Leadership

Presiding Judge	Hon. Kristen A. Lucena
Court Executive Officer	Kimberly Flener
Executive Office Contact	(530) 532-7013

## Budget Challenges for FY 2014-15

- *While furloughs and staff reductions have saved money, they have also increased work backlogs and service times.*
- *Reductions in our court's fiscal resources have increased case processing times.*
- *Staffing levels are unsustainable and impede the court's ability to provide current levels of public access to justice.*