

# Superior Court of California County of Calaveras BUDGET SNAPSHOT

February 2016



JUDICIAL COUNCIL  
OF CALIFORNIA  
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Hon. Timothy S. Healy, Presiding Judge

Dan Vrtis, Court Executive Officer

(209) 754-6144

## Court Service Highlights in the Current Year

- All case type implementation of new Case Management System (CMS)
- Proactive implementation of traffic ticket/infraction amnesty program
- Greater access to Court records through new online portal

## Court Service Highlights in Detail

### All case type implementation of new Case Management System (CMS)

In 2015 the court took on the overwhelming task of replacing its old legacy case management system with a current state of the art CMS. As of June 19, 2015 the Court implemented the new system with all case types; a successful conversion of all cases from the old system to the new was accomplished. The court is moving towards a paperless system with the goal of having all case types paperless by the end of 2016, at which time the court may have e-filing capabilities.

### Proactive implementation of traffic ticket/infraction amnesty program

In October 2015, the amnesty program was implemented. The Court's collection clerk works daily assisting individuals who hope to qualify for the program by answering phone calls or providing in-person service at the counter.

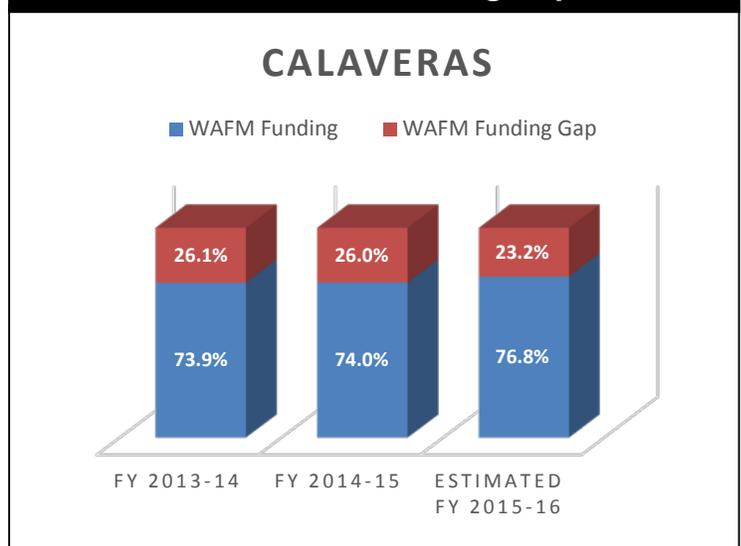
### Greater access to Court records through new online portal

As part of the new CMS and as a prerequisite of going paperless, all documents are scanned and attached to a case. Our justice partners now have access through the online portal to their related case documents. Other parties are allowed access as allowed by California Rules of Court.

## Budget Challenges and Priorities

As with most small courts in California, the WAFM funding model continues to have a significant impact on our court, resulting in a reduction of funding based on our WAFM share. We still must provide all necessary court services, but without the economies of scale enjoyed by larger courts. Despite this frustration, we continue to maintain full service hours, but we have been unable to provide COLAs for employees since 2008.

## Workload Allocation & Funding Gap (see reverse)



## Court Demographics

Population Served	44,650
Square Miles Covered	1,037
Total Number of Court Facilities	1

## The Workload-based Allocation & Funding Methodology (WAFM)

The Workload-based Allocation & Funding Methodology (WAFM) calculates the total funding needed for California's 58 trial courts based on case filings, workload and other factors.

To do this, WAFM relies on results from what we call the Resource Assessment Study (RAS) model to estimate total staffing needed using a weighted caseload model. Developed in partnership with national experts, the RAS model is based on a time study of over 5,000 case processing staff in 24 California trial courts. The study established a set of caseweights (amount of time in minutes to process a case from initial filing through any post-disposition activity) understanding that certain types of filings take more time and resources to handle than others. The weighted filings are used to estimate total staff needed in each court.

The WAFM model converts the staff need data into dollars, taking into account average salaries, benefits, operating expenses and equipment, and the local cost of labor using the Bureau of Labor Statistics as a benchmark. A "funding floor" is applied to the smallest trial courts because there is a basic operating threshold that must be met in order to provide service to the public. In other words, California's small courts do not have economies of scale, and yet there are basic expenditures that even the smallest courts must make. The result is, for each court, an estimate of the core operations funding required to adequately process its workload. This is known as the court's WAFM share.

Starting in FY 2013-14, a portion of each court's allocation is being recalculated according to its WAFM share. (A court's WAFM share is different from the courts' traditional share of the statewide funding. The WAFM calculation tells us what the trial courts need to function based on current filings, whereas the traditional share was based on the amount each court received from its county not taking into consideration the courts' filings or staff needs.)

Unfortunately, the total WAFM funding needed for all 58 courts exceeds the funding currently appropriated in the state budget. (This is the WAFM funding gap.) California's trial courts are underfunded by at least a collective \$444 million. The underfunding is made worse for those courts that experience a reduction of funding based on their WAFM share. To manage the budget reductions resulting from the implementation of WAFM in the absence of full trial court funding, the Judicial Council approved applying WAFM incrementally, applying it fully only to new money appropriated in the budget.

The rules of application adopted by the Judicial Council are:

- Each year beginning in FY 2013-14, and through/including to FY 2017-18, incrementally more of the historical (base) funding (using FY 2012-13 as the base) will be subject to WAFM, until 50% of the FY 12-13 base is distributed according to WAFM;
- All new state funding is distributed according to the WAFM shares; and
- For each dollar of new state funding, one dollar of the historical base will be reallocated using WAFM.