



Judicial Branch Budget Snapshot Superior Court of California County of Imperial

Key Budget Challenges/Priorities

- Potential loss of court staff will result in longer lines and waits for the public and longer times to disposition of cases.
- The consequences of reduced service, fewer filings, higher dismissals, fewer fines collected, and longer wait times is a community without enforcement.

Budget Impacts

General Budget Reduction Impacts to the Public

- Cases not processed timely due to staff furloughs, resulting in more dismissals and decreased fine revenue
- Minutes and case dispositions previously completed within 48 hours now take 5 days due to staff reductions

Reduced Public Access: Self-Help/Mediator/Facilitator Services

- Staff reduction of 50-75% anticipated, which will result in a wait time of at least 3 months for appointments with a facilitator
- Anticipate that 6,000 fewer customers will be served each year

Reduced Public Access: Court Reporters/Interpreters

- Reporter staff reduced by 28% for civil, family law and family support courtrooms
- Interpreters reduced by 20%; pro tem interpreter hired for 4 half-days per week

Reduced Public Access: Public Service Counters and Clerks

- Service reductions now under consideration for one court location which will result in reduced public access for case filings, making payments, or obtaining service on their cases

Closures: Courtrooms and Courthouses

- Closure of three locations by July 15, 2013
- Winterhaven Court to close on Mondays and Fridays as of May 2013
- Main courthouse damaged by seismic activity in April 2010 has not yet been repaired

Staff Reductions: Furloughs, Layoffs, Unfilled Vacancies

- Furloughs of one day per month instituted for all employees for 10 months in FY 2009-10
- Since FY 2011-12, 20 positions have been left vacant—a 14% staff reduction—and court anticipates a reduction of another 10 positions

Impacts: Court Security Services

- The court has not reduced security services, but contracts have been renegotiated

Fewer Judicial Officers

- No reductions at this time

Total Allocation FY 2008-2009	\$ 12,552,080
Est. Allocation** FY 2012-2013	\$ 7,152,604
Percentage change	-43.0%

*Does not reflect unfunded cost increases
**For comparison purposes only, includes court security funding

Imperial Facilities Overview

Number of court facilities	7
Capital construction projects	1

Judicial Workload/Employees as of Dec. 2012:

Population served	177,441
Judicial officers	11.4
Judicial officers needed	14.8
Filled staff positions FY 08-09	126
Filled staff positions FY 12-13	121

Case Statistics (Fiscal Year 2010-11)

Felony filings	2,008
Misdemeanor filings (incl. traffic)	4,742
Infraction filings (incl. traffic)	60,272
Civil filings	3,580
Family and juvenile filings	4,999

Court Leadership

Presiding Judge	Hon. William D. Lehman
Court Executive Officer	Kristine S. Kussman

Annual Allocation*