

# MADERA

Population: 153,897 • Authorized Judges: 9 • Staff: 106 FTE

Civil Filings: 2,268 • Criminal Filings: 18,539 • Family/Juvenile Filings: 3,371 • Other Filings: 334

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## OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES

Restore local court services and reopen courtrooms.

- **Staff in outlying community court in Eastern Madera County has been (again) reduced.**
- **The court has imposed a 2 month hiring freeze on vacant positions; reducing services court-wide.**

Reduce wait time for businesses and individuals to get money owed in civil disputes.

- **Delay of 3 weeks for processing civil judgments (delay is steadily increasing due to staff shortage).**

Provide greater access for the public and increased staff efficiency through technological innovations.

- **Currently only have one IT staff.**
- **In the process of two major IT projects: moving infrastructure onsite and new CMS implementation.**
- **Cannot currently participate in innovation projects such as imaging, video remote interpreting, or Jury management systems due to limited staffing.**

Help more self-represented litigants in family and housing cases with at the Self Help/Facilitator's office.

- **1-month delay for preparation of family law orders after hearing.**

Protect families with emergency orders and restore family stability with mediated custody agreements.

- **6-week delays for custody orders; up to 5 months if investigations are required.**
- **6-week backlog of family calendar minute orders.**

Reduce wait time for sealing/expunging criminal records to help people get jobs and to protect privacy.

- **3-month delay for criminal complaints impacting filings.**
- **4-month delay to input traffic citations.**
- **Backlog of records searches and cases to be sealed.**
- **9 month delay for sealing juvenile records.**

## PRIORITIES FOR REINVESTMENT

**Assuming an additional investment in operations funds, we intend to...**

- Lift 2 month self imposed hiring freeze enacted to help close budget gap in order to clear our backlog and provide overall improvements in customer service.
- Address inflationary cost increases and make needed adjustments to recruit qualified candidates and retain experienced staff.
- Hire IT staff member to support technological advances improving access to justice court wide.
- Hire 1 paralegal in Self Help office to provide greater public assistance and reduce delays.
- Hire 1 CCRC to reduce delays in mediated custody agreements by 50%.
- Hire 2 clerks for window and phone service to reduce wait times by 15 minutes per person and significantly reduce processing time across all case types.

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