



Judicial Branch Budget Snapshot Superior Court of California County of San Mateo

Key Budget Challenges/Priorities

- Current and projected clerk's office and courtroom closures will cause delays in traffic, civil, child custody, and family law
- Wait times on the phone can regularly average 45 minutes; wait times in line are about 30 minutes and expected to increase

Budget Impacts

General Budget Reduction Impacts to the Public

- Traffic arraignment calendars reduced by 50%; small claims calendars reduced over 30%, which will increase to over 50% in July 2013
- Consolidation of small claims and traffic clerk's offices, including all traffic arraignments to Redwood City - plan to consolidate criminal clerk's office, traffic and small claims trials to Redwood City in July 2013
- Traffic trials will be reduced from 9-5 calendars per week in July 2013
- Criminal arraignments will be reduced from 9 to 6 and pre-trials reduced from 8 to 6 calendars per week in July 2013
- Reduction of three trial departments (approx 25%) in July 2013
- Backlogs in clerk's office processing of documents/filings, resulting in delays in obtaining judgments, etc.; wait time for public to view and receive copies of files has doubled; ADR program reduced by 60% and responses to ADR requests have lengthened by 30-60%

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

- Phone and counter hours for ADR and Family Court Services reduced by 50%
- Wait times for self help services exceed three hours with the public lining up before 7:00 am and still not reaching the counter in one day

Reduced Public Access: Court Reporters/Interpreters

- Reduced court reporter staff through attrition; no longer providing a court reporter in civil case management conferences

Reduced Public Access: Public Service Counters and Clerks

- Clerk counter and phone hours have been reduced over 30%; public counter hours of 8:00/8:30-2:00 Mon.-Thur. and 8:00/8:30-12:00 on Fridays. Phone hours are 10:00-2:00 Mon.-Thur. and 10:00-12:00 on Fridays.

Closures: Courtrooms and Courthouses

- Closed the equivalent of two courtrooms and projecting closure of an additional four courtrooms by July, 2013.
- No courthouses have been closed, but San Mateo branch courthouse will only be used for trials and operations at the South San Francisco branch courthouse have or will be severely curtailed

Staff Reductions: Furloughs, Layoffs, Unfilled Vacancies

- Reduced budget by 120 positions (30%) over last five years through layoffs, attrition, and voluntary incentive programs; projecting 20-25 additional layoffs in July and September, 2013, including court commissioners
- Mandated 10 furlough days in FY 09-10; may consider furloughs as a temporary option in the future; Court has not maintained any vacancies by eliminating positions as they became vacant

Impacts: Court Security Services

- In 09-10, in conjunction with the County Sheriff's Office, security expenditures decreased commensurate with reductions in Court services.

Fewer Judicial Officers

- Reduction of 70% of its Commissioner positions (5 of 7) in July, 2013

Annual Allocation*

Total Allocation FY 2008-2009	\$ 48,114,244
Est. Allocation FY 2012-2013**	\$ 42,768,171
Percentage change	-11.1%

*Does not reflect unfunded cost increases

**For comparison purposes only, includes court security funding

San Mateo Facilities Overview

Number of court facilities	5
Capital construction projects	0

Judicial Workload/Employees as of Dec. 2012:

Population served	729,443
Judicial officers	33
Judicial officers needed	33.8
Filled staff positions FY 08-09	359
Filled staff positions FY 12-13	269

Case Statistics (Fiscal Year 2010-11)

Felony filings	3,134
Misdemeanor filings (incl. traffic)	11,725
Infraction filings (incl. traffic)	153,810
Civil filings	15,150
Family and juvenile filings	8,754

Court Leadership

Presiding Judge	Hon. Robert D. Foiles
Court Executive Officer	John Fitton