



## Judicial Branch Budget Snapshot Superior Court of California County of San Luis Obispo

### Key Budget Challenges/Priorities

- Trials only occur four days per week; telephones are not answered on Fridays resulting in long lines at the counter
- As self help services are reduced, there are additional backlogs in family law processing, more continuances, and longer waits for court hearings and trials
- Family law is the most likely target for additional reductions and many litigants will no longer have a court reporter to create a record for appeal and other purposes

### Budget Impacts

#### General Budget Reduction Impacts to the Public

- Due to furloughs, only one criminal and one juvenile court are in session on Fridays
- Staff vacancies have created backlogs, longer lines, elimination of many services to the public, justice partners, and attorneys

#### Reduced Public Access:

##### Self-Help/Mediator/Facilitator Services

- Self help services have been reduced by about 20% due to employee furloughs; further reductions are anticipated

##### Reduced Public Access: Court Reporters/Interpreters

- Eliminated three court reporter positions in civil courtrooms and will likely eliminate three more positions and the court reporter supervisor position if funding is not reinvested

##### Reduced Public Access: Public Service Counters and Clerks

- Telephone hours reduced; counter hours have not been reduced, but it takes longer for the public to receive service

##### Closures: Courtrooms and Courthouses

- Closure of the South County Courthouse in Grover Beach resulted in closure of one of the court's 15 courtrooms, which handled criminal misdemeanors, traffic, small claims, unlawful detainers, and limited civil; this closure requires police agencies and the public to travel farther for these services

##### Staff Reductions: Furloughs, Layoffs, Unfilled Vacancies

- Have not laid off employees except for three temporary court reporter positions; eliminated all temporary positions and will have to impose layoffs without budget reinvestment
- Imposed hiring freeze and offered early retirement incentives
- All employees, including commissioners, take 26 furlough days a year
- Judges and staff clean their own work areas because janitorial services have been eliminated

##### Impacts: Court Security Services

- Security costs were approx. \$600,000 prior to realignment, but further reductions are not anticipated

##### Fewer Judicial Officers

- Closure of the Grover Beach courthouse reduced the need for assigned judges and a bailiff

### Annual Allocation\*

Total Allocation FY 2008-2009	\$ 20,167,752
Est. Allocation FY 2012-2013**	\$ 16,589,372
Percentage change	-17.7%

\*Does not reflect unfunded cost increases

\*\*For comparison purposes only, includes court security funding

### San Luis Obispo Facilities Overview

Number of court facilities	3
Capital construction projects	0

### Judicial Workload/Employees as of Dec. 2012:

Population served	271,483
Judicial officers	15
Judicial officers needed	17.1
Filled staff positions FY 08-09	159
Filled staff positions FY 12-13	132

### Case Statistics (Fiscal Year 2010-11)

Felony filings	1,971
Misdemeanor filings (incl. traffic)	11,544
Infraction filings (incl. traffic)	41,170
Civil filings	5,375
Family and juvenile filings	3,134

### Court Leadership

Presiding Judge	Hon. Barry T. LaBarbera
Court Executive Officer	Susan E. Matherly