

Santa Cruz»



## Judicial Branch Budget Snapshot Superior Court of California County of Santa Cruz



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE  
OF THE COURTS  
OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

### Key Budget Challenges/Priorities

- Longer wait times and reduced access to court services
- Elimination of homeless court program, night court services and drug court program
- Longer commute times for the public and public agencies in outlying cities and communities

### Budget Impacts

#### General Budget Reduction Impacts to the Public

- Impacted access to misdemeanor hearings, traffic, juvenile and small claims courts

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

- Discontinued Self-Help and Family Law Facilitator services at Santa Cruz Courthouse

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

- In 2010, five of twelve court reporters were laid off
- Permanent removal of court reporters from civil, probate, and family law courtrooms

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

- Clerk office hours reduced by one hour each day
- Telephone hours reduced to 4 hours each day

#### Closures: Courtrooms and Courthouses

- One full courtroom closed on July 1, 2010
- Removed criminal and traffic calendars and services from Watsonville
- Closed juvenile courtroom in Felton; transferred caseload to Watsonville
- Reduced the use of the juvenile hall courtroom from a full-time courtroom to using it two half-days each week

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

- Reduced staff by 58 FTE positions
- Furloughed employees at all levels
- Current vacancy rate from FY 2007-08 level is 34%

#### Impacts: Court Security Services

- Bailiff removed from a civil courtroom due to budget constraints

#### Fewer Judicial Officers

- Judges voluntarily reduced their own salaries
- One full time commissioner laid off

### Annual Allocation\*

Total Allocation FY 2008-2009	\$ 17,605,613
Est. Allocation FY 2012-2013**	\$ 15,472,598
Percentage change	-12.1%

\*Does not reflect unfunded cost increases

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

### Santa Cruz Facilities Overview

Number of court facilities	4
Capital construction projects	0

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

Population served	265,981
Judicial officers	12.5
Judicial officers needed	14.7
Filled staff positions FY 08-09	148
Filled staff positions FY 12-13	114

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

Felony filings	1,663
Misdemeanor filings (incl. traffic)	10,735
Infraction filings (incl. traffic)	31,533
Civil filings	5,140
Family and juvenile filings	3,305

### Court Leadership

Presiding Judge	Hon. John Steven Salazar
Court Executive Officer	Alex Calvo