

## Superior Court of California County of Siskiyou

311 Fourth Street Yreka, California 96097

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## Notice of Discontinuance of Court Sessions and Court Operations in Weed, California and Happy Camp, California

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 68106(b), the Superior Court of California, County of Siskiyou hereby gives notice and seeks public comment concerning its proposal to cease to discontinue holding court and conducting court operations in Weed, California and Happy Camp, California, effective January 6, 2014.

The court currently holds session in Happy Camp the Second Monday of every other month, hearing infraction cases, small claims, and juvenile traffic matters. The Court currently holds session in Weed every Tuesday, hearing infraction cases, small claims, and misdemeanor arraignments. The Court does not conduct any other operations in Happy Camp, Ca. The Court maintains office hours for the clerk of the court in Weed Mondays through Fridays, from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Commencing January 6, 2014, all matters currently pending in Weed, California and Happy Camp, California are transferred to be heard at the Superior Court located at 311 Fourth Street, Yreka, California 96097. Commencing January 6, 2014, no court operations will occur in Weed, California or Happy Camp, California, and, no court sessions will be held in either location.

The proposed change is necessary due to conditions more fully described in the Report of the Court Executive Officer to the Presiding Judge and Judges dated November 4, 2013:

1. Current financial crisis—Siskiyou Superior Court's state allocated funding has been cut by more than \$1.6 million since FY 2011-12. As a result, the court has not been able to fill vacancies and has had to eliminate vacant staff positions. The Court has a budgeted deficit of \$308,495 for the FY 2013-14. This action will allow the Court to consolidate staff to achieve efficiencies of operations to maintain access to justice for the public. The Weed facility rental cost will not be

a savings for the Court as the Court is not the lessee of the facility and does not pay the rent; the need for this action is due to the reduction of funding and the resulting inability of the Court to staff the Weed and Happy Camp locations.

2. Desire for staff and calendar efficiency — Currently, due to the loss of personnel, the ability of the Court to maintain public hours in all locations is adversely impacted. All but one Court Division is closed during the noon hour to accommodate breaks required by federal law. It has become problematic to maintain public window hours and staff courtroom operations because of these constraints. This action will allow the Court greater flexibility and efficiency in scheduling, which in turn will free staff for other duties and restore public access hours in the Main Courthouse. It will also conserve the resources of judicial staff, clerk staff, and security staff which will be redeployed at the Main Courthouse.

The Report of the Court Executive Officer to the Presiding Judge and Judges dated November 4, 2013, is available at the Court's website in the Section: "Important Notices" and is incorporated in this Notice by this reference.

This action will be effective January 6, 2014. The public may provide comment regarding the Court's action during the sixty (60) day period. The manner of providing public comment is by the submission of written comments. Written comments may be submitted in person, by mail, fax, or e-mail to the attention of Court Executive Officer Mary Frances McHugh.

Date: November 7, 2013

SISKIYOU COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

Mary Frances McHugh

Court Executive Officer

Posted 11-7-13 (website and Courthouse bulletin boards)

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