



Judicial Council of California
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

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TANI G. CANTIL-SAKAUYE
Chief Justice of California
Chair of the Judicial Council

STEVEN JAHR
Administrative Director of the Courts

August 30, 2013

Hon. Mark Leno, Chair
Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
State Capitol, Room 5019
Sacramento, California 95814

Hon. Nancy Skinner, Chair
Assembly Budget Committee
State Capitol, Room 6026
Sacramento, California 95814

Hon. Loni Hancock, Chair
Senate Budget and Fiscal Review,
Subcommittee No. 5
State Capitol, Room 5019
Sacramento, California 95814

Hon. Reginald Jones-Sawyer, Chair
Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 5
State Capitol, Room 4164
Sacramento, California 95814

Hon. Kevin de León, Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 5108
Sacramento, California 95814

Hon. Mike Gatto, Chair
Assembly Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 2114
Sacramento, California 95814

Hon. Noreen Evans, Chair
Senate Judiciary Committee
State Capitol, Room 2187
Sacramento, California 95814

Hon. Bob Wieckowski, Chair
Assembly Judiciary Committee
State Capitol, Room 4016
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: Individual Court Plans Regarding Expenditure of \$60 Million Budget Augmentation

Dear Senators Leno, Hancock, de León, and Evans, and Assembly Members Skinner, Jones-Sawyer, Gatto and Wieckowski:

Attached is the report required in Provision 12 of Item 0250-101-0932 of the Budget Act of 2013 (Ch. 20, Statutes of 2013), which provides the distribution of \$60 million to the trial courts pending the Legislature's receipt of individual court plans regarding activities intended to maintain or increase public access to justice. The individual court plans are attached to this report.

August 30, 2013

Page 2

If you have any questions related to this report, please contact Cory Jasperson, Director of the Judicial Council's Office of Governmental Affairs, at (916)323-3121 or cory.jasperson@jud.ca.gov.

Very truly yours,

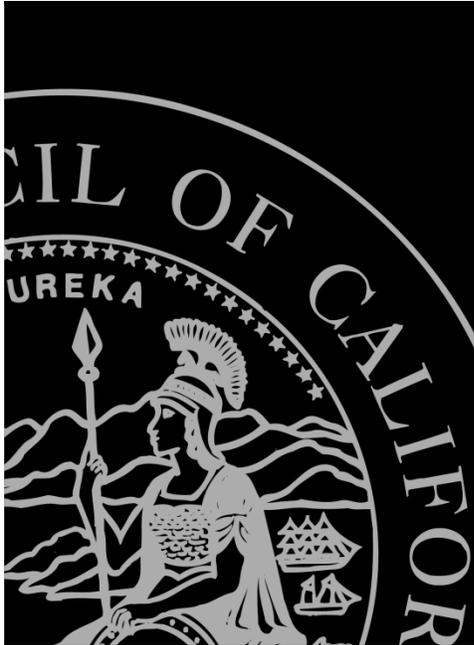


Steven Jahr
Administrative Director of the Courts

SJ/ABL

Attachments

cc: Hon. Bill Emmerson, Vice Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
Hon. Mimi Walters, Vice Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
Hon. Jeff Gorrell, Vice Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
Hon. Diane Harkey, Vice Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Hon. Don Wagner, Vice Chair, Assembly Judiciary Committee
Ms. Diane F. Boyer-Vine, Legislative Counsel, Office of Legislative Counsel
Mr. Gregory P. Schmidt, Secretary of the Senate
Mr. E. Dotson Wilson, Chief Clerk of the Assembly
Mr. Anthony Williams, Policy Director, Office of Senate President Pro Tempore Darrell Steinberg
Ms. Margie Estrada, Policy Consultant, Office of Senate President pro Tempore
Mr. Joe Stephenshaw, Consultant, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
Ms. Jolie Onodera, Consultant, Senate Appropriations Committee
Mr. Benjamin Palmer, Chief Consultant, Senate Judiciary Committee
Mr. Matt Osterli, Consultant, Senate Republican Fiscal Office
Mr. Mike Peterson, Consultant, Senate Republican Office of Policy
Ms. Fredericka McGee, General Counsel, Office of Assembly Speaker John Pérez
Mr. Drew Liebert, Chief Consultant, Assembly Judiciary Committee
Mr. Marvin Deon, Consultant, Assembly Budget Committee
Mr. Geoff Long, Chief Consultant, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Mr. Allan Cooper, Consultant, Assembly Republican Fiscal Office
Mr. Paul Dress, Consultant, Assembly Republican Office of Policy
Members of the Judicial Council
Ms. Jody Patel, Chief of Staff, Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)
Mr. Cory T. Jasperson, Director, AOC Office of Governmental Affairs
Mr. Zlatko Theodorovic, Director, AOC Fiscal Services Office



\$60 Million Augmentation in the 2013 Budget Act: Individual Court Plans Including Activities Intended to Maintain or Increase Public Access to Justice

REPORT TO THE FISCAL AND POLICY COMMITTEES IN EACH HOUSE OF THE LEGISLATURE AS REQUIRED BY THE BUDGET ACT OF 2013 (CHAPTER 20, STATUTES OF 2013, ITEM 0250-101-0932, PROVISION 12)

AUGUST 30, 2013



JUDICIAL COUNCIL
OF CALIFORNIA

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
OF THE COURTS

JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

As of July 9, 2013

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Chair of the Judicial Council

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Member of the California State Senate

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Second Appellate District, Division Two

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California State Bar Association

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Attorney at Law
Robie & Matthai

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County of Los Angeles

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Judge of the Superior Court of California,
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Attorney at Law
Robinson Calcagnie Robinson
Shapiro Davis, Inc.

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Judge of the Superior Court of California,
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Superior Court of California,
County of Santa Clara

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County of Alameda

**ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE
COURTS**

Hon. Steven Jahr
Administrative Director of the Courts
and Secretary of the Judicial Council

**JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS**

Hon. Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye
*Chief Justice of California and
Chair of the Judicial Council*

Hon. Steven Jahr
Administrative Director of the Courts

Jody Patel
Chief of Staff
**JUDICIAL COUNCIL AND
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Curt Soderlund
Chief Administrative Officer
**Judicial and Court
Administrative Services Division**

FISCAL SERVICES OFFICE
Zlatko Theodorovic
Director

OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
Cory T. Jaspersen
Director

Andi Liebenbaum
Primary Author of Report

**Individual Court Plans
of Activities Intended to Maintain or Increase Public Access to Justice**

**Report to the Fiscal and Policy Committees in Each House of the Legislature
as Required by the Budget Act of 2013**

August 30, 2013

Introduction

The Administrative Office of the Courts is providing this report to the fiscal and policy committees in each house of the Legislature responsible for court issues as required by Provision 12 of item 0250-101-0932 of the Budget Act of 2013. The report is broken into two parts. The first is a high-level review of court funding reductions and related considerations that provide the appropriate context within which to understand how the courts have approached allocating their share of the \$60 million augmentation included in the Budget Act.

The second part includes a synopsis of the courts' responses to how they plan to use their respective shares of the augmentation, and a compilation of the individual courts' plans. The courts were asked to provide their local plans utilizing a template in order to present to the Legislature a cohesive approach to responding to the accountability requirements contained in the Budget Act, namely, what can each court do to "maintain or increase public access to justice" with its share of the \$60 million augmentation provided by the Legislature and the Governor.

The budget control language of Item 0250-101-0932, Provision 12 is provided here:

12. Of the amount appropriated in Schedule (1), \$60,000,000 shall be allocated by the Judicial Council to trial courts based on the funding methodology approved by Judicial Council on April 26, 2013. Funding identified in this provision shall be made available to an individual trial court only upon receipt of a written plan meeting the following criteria:

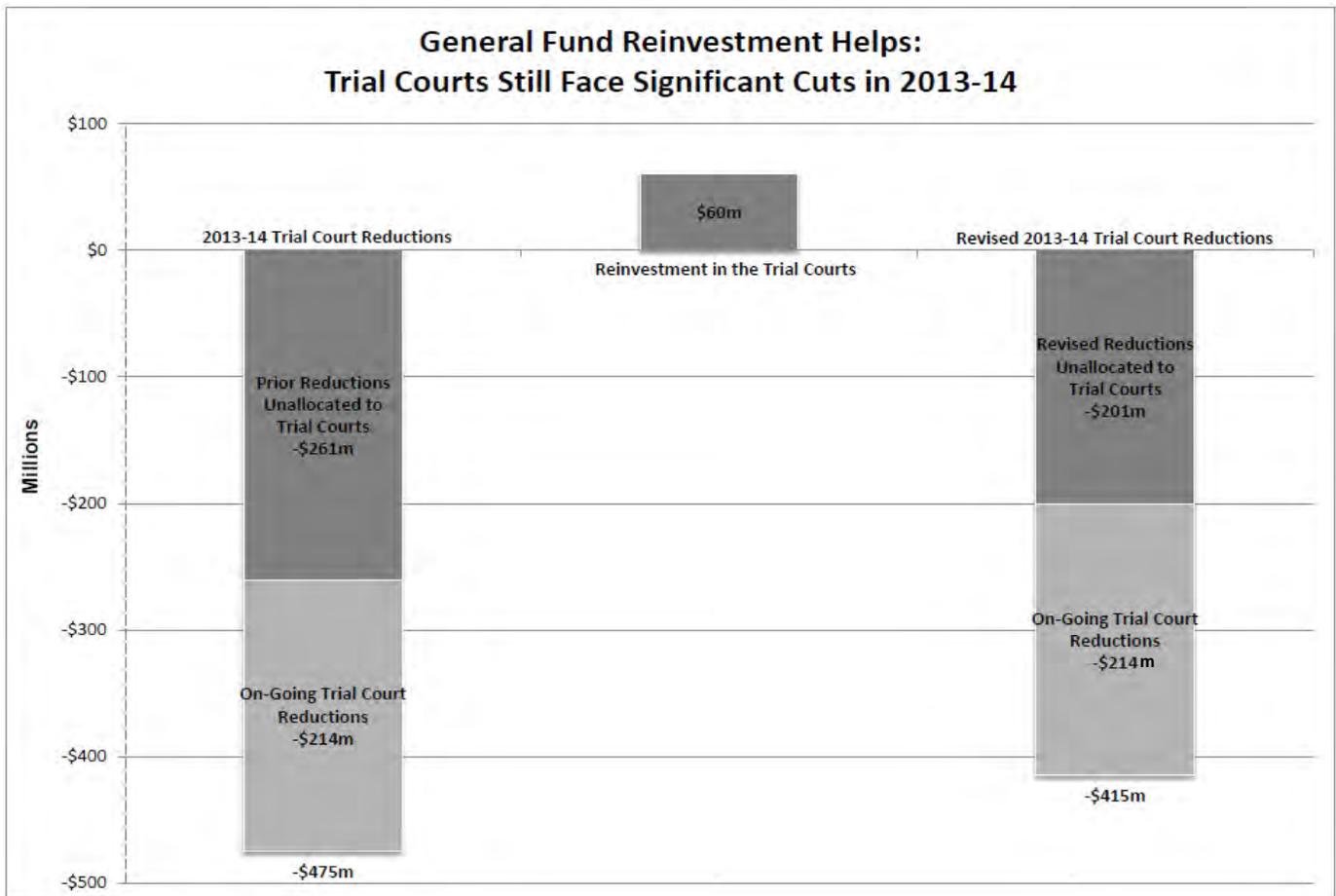
- (a) An individual court plan shall be submitted by the Administrative Office of the Courts to each fiscal and policy committee in each house of the Legislature responsible for court issues on or before September 1, 2013.
- (b) An individual court plan shall only include activities intended to maintain or increase public access to justice.

On or after April 14, 2014, but in no event later than May 14, 2014, the Judicial Council shall file a written report to the appropriate fiscal and policy committees of the Legislature on how funds identified in this provision were or will be expended during the 2013–14 fiscal year.

Context: Trial Court Allocations from 2008-09 to Present

In January 2013, the Legislative Analyst’s Office reported that the General Fund share of judicial branch funding declined from a high of 56% in 2008-09, to just 20% last year (2012-13), resulting in the loss of more than one billion dollars to the judicial branch. Over this same five-year period, to prevent catastrophic shut downs of courts, user fees and fines were increased, local court fund balances were substantially reduced, and statewide infrastructure project funds as well as more than \$1 billion in courthouse construction funds, were diverted to court operations.

As illustrated in the chart below, local trial courts find themselves starting 2013-14 facing



structural deficits and cash flow problems that have manifested as elimination of court services, reductions in staff, court room and courthouse closures, and other cost-cutting measures that have negatively impacted the public’s access to justice.

The critically needed reinvestment of \$60 million in the trial courts is an important first step that enables courts to begin to address some existing or impending service reductions. The Budget Act further directs that the \$60 million augmentation be divided among the trial courts according to the newly adopted funding methodology designed to distribute funds more transparently and equitably to the courts based on the Workload Allocation Funding Model (WAFM).

Historic New Funding Allocation Methodology for the Trial Courts

Concerns about the distribution of funding to the trial courts have been present since the Trial Court Funding Act of 1997 shifted responsibility for the funding of the courts from the counties to the state. Even after the Trial Court Funding Act became law, the distribution of General Funds remained locked in time, based largely on the historic allocations that each court received at the local level from the county. In 2012, the Chief Justice and the Governor appointed the Trial Court Funding Workgroup to evaluate the progress in implementing the Trial Court Funding Act. The Workgroup found that the judicial branch has essentially satisfied the stated goals and requirements of the Act by increasing access to justice; implementing greater uniformity; achieving efficiencies and economies of scale; simplifying court processes and procedures; and, making overall structural improvements in statewide access to justice. The Workgroup also concluded that work remained regarding a more transparent and equitable allocation of trial court funding. To that end, presiding judges and court executive officers developed a new workload-driven allocation methodology (WAFM), adopted by the Judicial Council, that will result in a more transparent and equitable distribution of funds among the 58 local trial courts – significantly benefiting the most under-resourced courts.

WAFM and its Trial Court Budget Impacts

The Budget Act states, “...\$60,000,000 shall be allocated by the Judicial Council to trial courts based on the funding methodology approved by Judicial Council on April 26, 2013.”

Utilizing the new WAFM formula, the 58 courts will share the budget augmentation as represented here.

Court	Share of Augmentation	Court	Share of Augmentation
Alameda	2,368,634	Placer	536,650
Alpine	7,226	Plumas	33,256
Amador	61,365	Riverside	3,028,558
Butte	312,533	Sacramento	2,625,130
Calaveras	62,926	San Benito	85,264
Colusa	41,323	San Bernardino	3,476,637
Contra Costa	1,418,488	San Diego	4,322,164
Del Norte	79,107	San Francisco	1,605,726
El Dorado	239,635	San Joaquin	1,162,391
Fresno	1,538,195	San Luis Obispo	432,381
Glenn	49,328	San Mateo	1,113,257
Humboldt	174,587	Santa Barbara	635,282
Imperial	282,675	Santa Clara	2,436,612
Inyo	50,201	Santa Cruz	367,125
Kern	1,597,067	Shasta	323,090
Kings	215,869	Sierra	7,615

Lake	89,607	Siskiyou	70,136
Lassen	68,479	Solano	758,555
Los Angeles	17,468,299	Sonoma	844,404
Madera	239,028	Stanislaus	839,468
Marin	340,244	Sutter	165,851
Mariposa	32,895	Tehama	117,632
Mendocino	166,754	Trinity	43,420
Merced	470,828	Tulare	558,947
Modoc	16,977	Tuolumne	92,130
Mono	45,169	Ventura	1,164,629
Monterey	602,622	Yolo	296,038
Napa	209,052	Yuba	108,126
Nevada	145,313	TOTAL	60,000,000
Orange	4,355,099		

The WAFM formula, based on case filings weighted by case type and other criteria that speak directly to the actual workloads experienced by California’s 58 trial courts, is being phased in over five years. All new money for general court operations, such as the \$60 million augmentation in the current year budget, plus a like amount of \$60 million in base funding, as well as 10% of existing baseline funds will be distributed to the courts using the WAFM in 2013-14 . In 2014-15, any new money for general court operations plus a like amount of base funding, and 15% of the remaining baseline will be allocated by the WAFM formula. The redistribution of baseline funds will continue to increase, 30% in 2015-16, 40% in 2016-17, and 50% in 2017-18. This phased approach is designed to both provide a relatively quick change to the distribution of funds in order to provide relief to underfunded courts, and acknowledge that the courts that will lose the greatest percentage of their allocations need time to adjust to the reduction in funds they will receive. It is important to note that while WAFM has the benefit of providing traditionally underfunded courts that have experienced population growth and resultant increased court filings with the appropriate percentage of funds they need, it also takes funds away from courts that have historically relied on that funding. Absent a robust and ongoing reinvestment in trial court funding, there are no options but to take funds away from some courts to better serve others. In the current year, WAFM’s redistribution of baseline funding results in a total positive adjustment of \$14.4 million for 22 courts, and a total negative adjustment of \$14.4 million for 21 courts.

Other Trial Court Budget Considerations

The trial courts must consider their share of the \$60 million augmentation in the context of other budget considerations, most notably the \$475 million in ongoing cuts from previous years. These ongoing cuts are now magnified because courts must operationalize their reduced allocations by depleting their fund balances, reducing services, closing courtrooms and courthouses, and implementing other measures that negatively impact the public’s access.

As becomes apparent when reading the individual court plans, the courts’ concerns related to public access to justice this year are overshadowed by worsening fears about the need for

significant cuts to services, programs and personnel next year, when court fund balances will be all but eliminated, cash flow will become an increasing burden, and unfunded cost increases and structural deficits may go unabated.

Synopsis of Individual Court Plans

All 58 courts submitted plans for the use of their respective shares of the \$60 million augmentation. Notably, courts intend to use their augmentations to maintain or increase public access to justice in the areas of reduced staffing, darkened courthouses and courtrooms, limited self-help services, shortened window and phone hours, and case backlogs.

Staffing. Almost half of the courts (27) plan to maintain current staff levels, and avoid additional staff reductions. Twenty courts plan to avoid or suspend furloughs this year, and four courts plan to add staff back to their payrolls.

Courtroom and courthouse closures. Eleven courts intend that the augmentations be used to avoid court closures. Another court said the funds may limit the closures that previously were planned. Two courts intend to reverse previously planned closures.

Self-help services. Many courts intend to use their funds to address the self-help services at their facilities. According to the plans, nineteen intend to maintain self-help services thanks to the augmentation, eight courts plan to restore self-help services, and four intend to increase the self-help programs they currently provide.

Window and phone services. A significant majority of the courts (42) plans to maintain, restore, or increase clerk hours to improve the public's access to clerks' windows and phone services.

Backlogs. Two dozen courts intend to dedicate all or a portion of their augmentation to reducing case backlogs to begin addressing the volumes of papers that courts manage daily in order for court to users have their issues disposed of more timely.

This is a sample of the goals and plans courts have for their share of the \$60 million augmentation. For specific details, please refer to the attached individual court plans.

Conclusion

Upon submission of these individual court plans, the funds made available to the courts by the Governor and the Legislature will be distributed to the courts more equitably than ever before, significantly benefitting the most under-resourced courts, according to the newly adopted funding allocation methodology.

While the \$60 million doesn't erase recent budget cuts or overcome the barriers to public access resulting from the accumulated funding reductions of the last several years, it reverses the course of yearly allocation reductions, and begins to close the gap that had been widening until now.

Critical to achieving significant restoration of services and access to justice will be mitigation of the remaining \$415 million in permanent ongoing reductions to trial courts since 2008-09.

Without additional funding to erase existing structural deficits, local courts anticipate additional service reductions next year.

The individual court plans attached with this report were prepared during the period of July 25, when Judicial Council approved of the distribution plan for the \$60 million augmentation, through August 27, 2013. The courts were provided templates into which they composed their plans directly. The plans have not been edited, although in some cases the formatting was corrected for the sake of consistency. Please direct any questions to Cory Jasperson, Director of the Judicial Council's Office of Governmental Affairs (916) 323-3121 or cory.jasperson@jud.ca.gov.

Attachments

Individual Court Plans from each of the 58 local trial courts.

**Superior Court of California,
County of ALAMEDA
FY 2013-14**

Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$2,368,634

There are a number of ways to maintain or increase public access to justice. Check all that are appropriate AND please provide as detailed an explanation for each as you can:

**PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TYPING DIRECTLY INTO THIS TEMPLATE.
TRANSMIT YOUR COMPLETED WORD DOCUMENT TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov BY/BEFORE
CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 22ND.**

___ **We will avoid (or limit) previously planned staffing reductions.**

- Please explain how many positions you will avoid reducing.

Type your response here

- Please describe the kinds of positions you will avoid reducing.

Type your response here

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice in applicable divisions of your court or courthouse(s).

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We will avoid (or limit) previously planned courtroom closures.**

- Please explain what types of hearings will be maintained.

Type your response here

- Please describe the impact on the public by keeping open a courtroom planned for closure.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We will avoid previously planned courthouse closures.**

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you are able to avoid closing.

Type your response here

- Please explain the impact on the public by keeping open this/these courthouse(s).

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

We will maintain, increase or restore public telephone hours.

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

We will maintain, increase or restore court clerk hours.

- Please explain what kinds of court clerk duties will be maintained, increased or restored.

Type your response here

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

X We will devote resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.

- Please explain the areas of backlog that will be addressed.

The Court plans to dedicate a significant portion of new funding received to a one-time elimination of the Civil Division backlog. In addition, personnel and technology

investments will be made to sustain that backlog reduction on an ongoing basis. The Court specifically plans to strategically utilize investments in overtime and comp time, along with the purchasing of high-capacity scanners, to sustain backlog reduction over time.

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog will maintain or increase public access to justice.

The public currently experiences delay at every stage of the Court's Civil case processing; from initial filing to scanning and uploading to the publicly accessible Civil case management system, to entry of orders and judgments. These delays lead to frustration, and the inability to enforce orders and judgments in a timely fashion.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

The Court is likely to sustain a level of investment in Civil backlog reduction beyond the current fiscal year.

___ We will suspend employee furloughs.

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ We will maintain, increase or restore services in our self-help center.

- Please explain the details of this proposed increase.

New funding will be used to re-institute a level of General Fund support for the Court's Self Help Center, specifically to provide funding for the copying and distribution of mandatory Family Law forms.

- Please explain how the increase in self-help services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Over the last five years, the Court has eliminated all General Fund support for Self-Help services, resulting in significant programmatic reductions, including discontinuation of a longstanding practice of providing mandatory Family Law forms free of charge. This discontinuation has resulted in many litigants having to go to the public library to print

forms (where they are charged a fee), or showing up in court without the necessary forms at all.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

The answer is dependent upon future year budget appropriations.

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore court reporting services.**

- Please explain how increased court reporting services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore specialty court(s).**

- Please describe the specialty court(s) to be maintained, increased or restored.

Type your response here

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

Using as much additional space as you need, answer the following questions:

- Explain any other ways Alameda intends to restore, maintain, or increase public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.
- What additional information would you like to add about the use of your court's share of the \$60 million augmentation?

Taking into account our Court's share of the \$60 million allocation, the Court has realized a nearly \$30 million reduction in funding over the last five years. Thus, while new funding totaling \$2.3 million is appreciated and will be used for targeted investments as noted above, the Court is not in a position to invest in the kinds of operational changes needed to mitigate the sustained reductions that have been realized over the last five years.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

As outlined above, investments in Civil case processing are likely to be sustained; continuation of General Fund support for the Court's Self-Help services is dependent on future appropriations.

- What are your projected revenues and expenditures for NEXT fiscal year (2014-15)?

Revenues: \$79.8 million

Expenditures: \$86.8 million

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AS WE PREPARE THIS SURVEY. AS A REMINDER, PLEASE SUBMIT THIS COMPLETED FORM TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov ON OR BEFORE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 22. PLEASE CALL ANDI AT 916-323-3121 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS

**Superior Court of California,
County of ALPINE
FY 2013-14
Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$7,226**

There are a number of ways to maintain or increase public access to justice. Check all that are appropriate AND please provide as detailed an explanation for each as you can:

**PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TYPING DIRECTLY INTO THIS TEMPLATE.
TRANSMIT YOUR COMPLETED WORD DOCUMENT TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov BY/BEFORE
CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 22ND.**

 We will avoid (or limit) previously planned staffing reductions.

- Please explain how many positions you will avoid reducing.

- Please describe the kinds of positions you will avoid reducing.

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice in applicable divisions of your court or courthouse(s).

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

 We will avoid (or limit) previously planned courtroom closures.

- Please explain what types of hearings will be maintained.

Type your response here

- Please describe the impact on the public by keeping open a courtroom planned for closure.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

 We will avoid previously planned courthouse closures.

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you are able to avoid closing.

Type your response here

- Please explain the impact on the public by keeping open this/these courthouse(s).

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ We will maintain, increase or restore public telephone hours.

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

x We will maintain, increase or restore court clerk hours.

- Please explain what kinds of court clerk duties will be maintained, increased or restored.

Will permit us to maintain regular counter/window clerk schedules (8:30-4:30)

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Self explanatory -

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ We will devote resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.

- Please explain the areas of backlog that will be addressed.

Type your response here

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

x We will suspend/avoid employee furloughs.

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice.
- *We have anticipated furloughs, and this will allow us to avoid them.*
- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

We will maintain, increase or restore services in our self-help center.

- Please explain the details of this proposed increase.

Type your response here

- Please explain how the increase in self-help services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

We will maintain, increase or restore court reporting services.

- Please explain how increased court reporting services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

We will maintain, increase or restore specialty court(s).

- Please describe the specialty court(s) to be maintained, increased or restored.

Type your response here

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

Using as much additional space as you need, answer the following questions:

- Explain any other ways Alpine intends to restore, maintain, or increase public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

Type your response here

- What additional information would you like to add about the use of your court's share of the \$60 million augmentation?

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

- What are your projected revenues and expenditures for NEXT fiscal year (2014-15)?

Type your response here

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AS WE PREPARE THIS SURVEY. AS A REMINDER, PLEASE SUBMIT THIS COMPLETED FORM TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov ON OR BEFORE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 22. PLEASE CALL ANDI AT 916-323-3121 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

Superior Court of California,
County of AMADOR
FY 2013-14

Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$61,365

There are a number of ways to maintain or increase public access to justice. Check all that are appropriate AND please provide as detailed an explanation for each as you can:

PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TYPING DIRECTLY INTO THIS TEMPLATE.
TRANSMIT YOUR COMPLETED WORD DOCUMENT TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov BY/BEFORE
CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 22ND.

 We will avoid (or limit) previously planned staffing reductions.

- Please explain how many positions you will avoid reducing.

At this juncture, unable to address this question.

- Please describe the kinds of positions you will avoid reducing.

At this juncture, unable to address this question.

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice in applicable divisions of your court or courthouse(s).

Although no comment has been made under this item, this Court's priority is to maintain public access to justice at the current level. Staffing levels cannot increase unless funding over and above the \$60 million dollars is restored to the Courts. If new funding is not realized for FY 2014-2015 we will not be able to maintain public access at the current service level as further reduction of workforce might be necessary, voluntarily or non-voluntary.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

No comment- as no action taken in respect to this item.

 We will avoid (or limit) previously planned courtroom closures.

- Please explain what types of hearings will be maintained.

Not applicable. We are a two judge; three courtroom courthouse.

- Please describe the impact on the public by keeping open a courtroom planned for closure.

Not applicable.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Not applicable

___ **We will avoid previously planned courthouse closures.**

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you are able to avoid closing.

Not applicable. We only have one courthouse facility.

- Please explain the impact on the public by keeping open this/these courthouse(s).

Not applicable. We only have one courthouse facility.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Not applicable.

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore public telephone hours.**

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

We will make it this Court's priority to maintain public telephone hours. However, investing in technology i.e., through document imaging retrieval will provide the public with better and improved access so they will be able to get court and case information over the internet if we are unable to restore public telephone hours. We are looking at a \$363,076 revenue reduction this fiscal year. Due to the FY 2012-2013 reduction in workforce, and having to come up with \$363,976 in cuts for FY 2013-2014, we do not have enough staff to answer phone calls at the same level prior to the reduction in workforce. Improving our case management system will enable us to provide improved efficiencies to the general public, providing them with another means by which they can get access to Court information and case files.

If we have monies left over from the \$61, 365, we will upgrade our phone system using the IVR system, which is approximately \$12,000-\$15,000. An RFP is going out on this as well.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

As stated above, improving our case management system will enable us to provide "long-term" improved efficiencies to the general public, attorneys, local and statewide agencies in this area.

___ We will maintain, increase or restore court clerk hours.

- Please explain what kinds of court clerk duties will be maintained, increased or restored.

Unless funding is restored, Court Clerk hours will remain unchanged. If no additional monies are given to the Court FY 2014-2015, and revenue is cut, further reduction in Court Clerk hours will be needed to operate. The staffing level is now at 28.5 FTEs. This number is inclusive of Program 10 and Program 90 positions. The \$1,121,534 reduction to this Court between FY 2009-2010 to FY 2013-2014, has all but taken away our ability to extend these services as we have cut positions to meet our expenditures. FY 2011-2012 the clerk's office hours were changed from 9:00 am-3:30 Monday to Friday to 9:30 am-3:00 pm Monday thru Thursday and from 9:30 to 12Noon on Fridays. This small court had to reduce its workforce by three (3) FTEs. We are looking at another \$363,076 reduction this fiscal year. Due to the reduction in workforce, and having to come up with \$363,976, we will and do not have the staff to restore counter hours and telephone services. We are certain the technological advances we make will provide the much needed access to justice in this area.

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Unable to restore hours, but will expand access through technological advancements. Our priority is to maintain service level.

Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Unless some funding is restored, Court Clerk hours will remain unchanged, which is Monday to Friday 9:30 am-3:00 pm Monday thru Thursday and 9:30 to 12Noon on Fridays. But as clearly stated, we will expand access through technological advancements.

___ We will devote resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.

- Please explain the areas of backlog that will be addressed.

Cuts were made, staffing levels reduced; there will be no restoration of employees to help reduce backlog issues. Backlogs are an access to justice problem and the problem will not be fixed absent additional funding; an increase in staffing levels, and technology changes. We will however, use some of the funding for training of Court staff. Staff training has all but disappeared; it is also an impediment to this problem and we can fix some of the problems by training staff on procedural processes. Imaging of court documents will over-time reduce

backlog issues. Once again, technological changes will need to be made to address the backlog issues and the expediency in which the public can get access and retrieve information. Our much needed document imaging system, over-time will provide for true time-efficiency as we will not spend a lot of time pulling and retrieving case files, we will scan, and purge documents.

Please explain how decreasing the backlog will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Decreasing the backlog issues would provide better, faster access to court records. Reducing backlogs enables us to provide improved efficiencies to the general public, attorneys, local and statewide agencies. These efficiencies would include greater public access to records and court information.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

The action taken above is one positive step toward solving the access to justice problem.

___ **We will suspend/avoid employee furloughs.**

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice.

At this juncture, unable to address this question.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

At this juncture, unable to address this question.

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore services in our self-help center.**

- Please explain the details of this proposed increase.

This Court with this additional funding will increase and improve self-represented litigants access to justice.

- Please explain how the increase in self-help services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Setting up public access work stations in the court for self-represented litigants to access. Litigants will be able to come into the court, access fillable family law forms to complete on the computer themselves, thereby giving them more time to meet with the family law

facilitators; litigants will be provided with easy to read educational tutorials to aid them in completing the forms.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Would not be temporary.

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore court reporting services.**

- Please explain how increased court reporting services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Not applicable to this Court.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore specialty court(s).**

- Please describe the specialty court(s) to be maintained, increased or restored.

Not applicable to this Court

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

Using as much additional space as you need, answer the following questions:

- Explain any other ways Amador intends to restore, maintain, or increase public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

Our current case management system is approximately 11 years old. Our desire is not to replace the system we have, but to direct available funding to enhance our case management system which is an integral part of the court systems' ability to operate and function. The reinvestment funding we are to receive has already been earmarked for our enhanced technology

needs, which will consist of shoring up our infrastructure; purchasing a document imaging system; and a digital storage system. \$61,365, will at best, allow this Court to enhance its software applications to ensure compatibility with the interfacing with a document imaging system and digital storage equipment. I have already been working with my IT person on these issues and we will be issuing a RFP soon. These changes will both improve and increase public access to justice.

- *Funding in this area would enable us to provide improved efficiencies to the general public, attorneys, local and statewide agencies. These efficiencies would include greater public access to records and court information. In rural counties, public transportation is inadequate, often difficult for litigants to get to the Courthouse. A document imaging system will enable litigants to get a broader range of information on line.*
- *Additionally the more access we can provide to the public in terms of access to case information and documents on line will reduce the amount of time litigants and attorneys physically need to spend at the counter filing and seeking court case documents and information.*
- *Reduce the number of days in which litigants must wait for a file to be retrieved from an offsite storage facility.*
- *Reduce staff time to track and maintain paper files and their contents.*

Reduced cost for physical storage space

- ***What additional information would you like to add about the use of your court's share of the \$60 million augmentation?***

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

- What are your projected revenues and expenditures for NEXT fiscal year (2014-15)?

Projected revenue for FY 2014-2015 is \$2,498,364

Projected revenue for FY 2014-2015 is 2,768,079

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AS WE PREPARE THIS SURVEY. AS A REMINDER, PLEASE SUBMIT THIS COMPLETED FORM TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov ON OR BEFORE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 22. PLEASE CALL ANDI AT 916-323-3121 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

**Superior Court of California,
County of BUTTE
FY 2013-14**

Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$312,533

There are a number of ways to maintain or increase public access to justice. Check all that are appropriate AND please provide as detailed an explanation for each as you can:

**PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TYPING DIRECTLY INTO THIS TEMPLATE.
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X **We will avoid (or limit) previously planned staffing reductions.**

- Please explain how many positions you will avoid reducing.

Our Court will be able to avoid eliminating up to six positions from operations and other core areas with the augmentation monies.

- Please describe the kinds of positions you will avoid reducing.

The types of positions that would not be reduced include entry level positions up to senior level positions.

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice in applicable divisions of your court or courthouse(s).
- *By maintaining current staffing levels we will avoid reduction in public service hours as indicated below. We will also maintain our ability to provide full service Civil departments.*
- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Ongoing assuming funding continues at the current level or higher.

 We will avoid (or limit) previously planned courtroom closures.

- Please explain what types of hearings will be maintained.

N/A

- Please describe the impact on the public by keeping open a courtroom planned for closure.

N/A

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

N/A

 We will avoid previously planned courthouse closures.

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you are able to avoid closing.

N/A

- Please explain the impact on the public by keeping open this/these courthouse(s).

N/A

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

N/A

 X **We will maintain, increase or restore public telephone hours.**

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Our Court will be able to maintain our current level of public telephone hours with the augmentation monies as staffing will not have to be reduced.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Ongoing assuming funding continues at the current level.

 X **We will maintain, increase or restore court clerk hours.**

- Please explain what kinds of court clerk duties will be maintained, increased or restored.

Our Court will be able to maintain our ability to process Civil cases and maintain staffing phone and counter shifts in the Clerk's Office.

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

N/A

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Ongoing assuming funding continues at the current level.

 X **We will devote resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.**

- Please explain the areas of backlog that will be addressed.

Our Court will continue to devote existing resources to our criminal division, including addressing the backlogs for criminal prison packets and criminal case processing. However, backlogs will not be fully mitigated as felony filings continue to increase.

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Public access is increased as the timely reporting of case disposition information facilitates the accuracy of criminal background histories and thereby enhances public safety and the currency of the Court's record for public retrieval.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Without additional funding, the backlogs will continue to worsen.

X We will suspend/avoid employee furloughs.

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice.

Mandatory furlough remains during the Court's current labor contract period (through 2015). However, our Court has eliminated the option for voluntary furlough (in addition to the mandatory furlough) for employees, which ensures that more staff are available to provide continued public access hours and services.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Furlough options are currently set for the Court's current labor contract period. If no additional funding is granted, the Court will have to seek additional concessions during negotiations for the next labor contract period.

We will maintain, increase or restore services in our self-help center.

- Please explain the details of this proposed increase.

N/A

- Please explain how the increase in self-help services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

N/A

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

N/A

 We will maintain, increase or restore court reporting services.

- Please explain how increased court reporting services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

N/A.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

N/A

 X **We will maintain, increase or restore specialty court(s).**

- Please describe the specialty court(s) to be maintained, increased or restored.

Our Court will be able to maintain the following Collaborative Court programs:

1. *Adult Drug Court*
2. *Prop 36 Drug Court*
3. *Domestic Violence Court*
4. *High Intensity DUI Court*

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

N/A

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

N/A

Using as much additional space as you need, answer the following questions:

- Explain any other ways Butte intends to restore, maintain, or increase public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

Our Court will use the augmentation monies to maintain our status quo in terms of staffing levels, and will be able to maintain our existing level of service hours to the public.

- What additional information would you like to add about the use of your court's share of the \$60 million augmentation?

While our Court is appreciative of receiving additional funding provided by the augmentation monies this funding only allows us to maintain our status quo and is insufficient to address our workload needs.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

N/A

- What are your projected revenues and expenditures for NEXT fiscal year (2014-15)?

Projected Revenues: \$11,576,000

Projected Expenses: \$11,635,000

Please note that both figures are estimates and are subject to change based on additional financial information becoming available.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AS WE PREPARE THIS SURVEY. AS A REMINDER, PLEASE SUBMIT THIS COMPLETED FORM TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov ON OR BEFORE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 22. PLEASE CALL ANDI AT 916-323-3121 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

**Superior Court of California,
County of CALAVERAS
FY 2013-14**

Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$62,926

There are a number of ways to maintain or increase public access to justice. Check all that are appropriate AND please provide as detailed an explanation for each as you can:

**PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TYPING DIRECTLY INTO THIS TEMPLATE.
TRANSMIT YOUR COMPLETED WORD DOCUMENT TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov BY/BEFORE
CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 22ND.**

___ **We will avoid (or limit) previously planned staffing reductions.**

- Please explain how many positions you will avoid reducing.

Type your response here

- Please describe the kinds of positions you will avoid reducing.

Type your response here

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice in applicable divisions of your court or courthouse(s).

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We will avoid (or limit) previously planned courtroom closures.**

- Please explain what types of hearings will be maintained.

Type your response here

- Please describe the impact on the public by keeping open a courtroom planned for closure.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

We will avoid previously planned courthouse closures.

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you are able to avoid closing.

Type your response here

- Please explain the impact on the public by keeping open this/these courthouse(s).

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

 X **We will maintain, increase or restore public telephone hours.**

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

In FY 11-12 and 12-13 we instituted furloughs and limited service days. To offset the increased workload caused by the furloughs and limited service days, we reduced public counter and telephone hours. We discontinued furloughs as of 8/1/13 and restored counter and public telephone hours to 8:15 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. While furloughs were in place, counter and phone hours were 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

The Court is projecting an operating deficit of more than \$350,000 in 13-14. Unless there is a significant restoration of funding in 14-15, staffing levels will be reduced. It is very likely a corresponding reduction in services will also be required.

 X **We will maintain, increase or restore court clerk hours.**

- Please explain what kinds of court clerk duties will be maintained, increased or restored.

Clerks will be available to file and process court documents, accept payment of fines and fees, make referrals to the self-help center and other community resources such as the DV Crisis Center and answer questions about case status and upcoming hearings.

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

In FY 11-12 and 12-13 we instituted furloughs and limited service days. To offset the increased workload caused by the furloughs and limited service days, we reduced public counter and telephone hours. We discontinued furloughs as of 8/1/13 and restored

counter and public telephone hours to 8:15 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. While furloughs were in place, counter and phone hours were 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

The Court is projecting an operating deficit of more than \$350,000 in 13-14. Unless there is a significant restoration of funding in 14-15, staffing levels will be reduced. It is very likely a corresponding reduction in services will also be required.

 We will devote resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.

- Please explain the areas of backlog that will be addressed.

Type your response here

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

 X **We will suspend/avoid employee furloughs.**

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice.

In FY 11-12 and 12-13 we instituted furloughs and limited service days. The Court' relied on its share of the \$60 million in new funding (\$62,791), to partially offset the cost savings we gained through the use of furloughs.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

It is unknown at this time. One furlough day per month results in approximately \$90,000 in annual savings to the Court's budget. The Court faces a budget deficit of \$350,000. Therefore, it would be necessary to furlough staff 4 days/month to achieve the necessary level of costs savings. It would be very difficult for the Court to provide even a minimal level of service if we attempted to rely on furloughs alone to balance our budget. However, urloughs may be used in conjunction with other costs savings measures, such as a reduction n force.

X We will maintain, increase or restore services in our self-help center.

- Please explain the details of this proposed increase.

In FY 11-12 and 12-13 we instituted furloughs and limited service days. To offset the increased workload caused by the furloughs and limited service days, we reduced hours in the self-help center. We discontinued furloughs as of 8/1/13 and restored center hours to 8:15 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. While furloughs were in place, the center was open to the public from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

- Please explain how the increase in self-help services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Because the center will be open more, it should be able to serve a greater number of persons.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

It is unlikely we will be able to provide the same level of self-help services next year.

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore court reporting services.**

- Please explain how increased court reporting services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore specialty court(s).**

- Please describe the specialty court(s) to be maintained, increased or restored.

Type your response here

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

Using as much additional space as you need, answer the following questions:

- Explain any other ways Calaveras intends to restore, maintain, or increase public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

Type your response here

- What additional information would you like to add about the use of your court's share of the \$60 million augmentation?

It is not sufficient to maintain staffing and service levels unless we receive a substantial restoration of baseline funding in 14-15.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

- What are your projected revenues and expenditures for NEXT fiscal year (2014-15)?

Revenues - \$2,716,000

Expenditures - \$2,716,000

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AS WE PREPARE THIS SURVEY. AS A REMINDER, PLEASE SUBMIT THIS COMPLETED FORM TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov ON OR BEFORE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 22. PLEASE CALL ANDI AT 916-323-3121 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

**Superior Court of California,
County of COLUSA
FY 2013-14**

Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$41,323

There are a number of ways to maintain or increase public access to justice. Check all that are appropriate AND please provide as detailed an explanation for each as you can:

**PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TYPING DIRECTLY INTO THIS TEMPLATE.
TRANSMIT YOUR COMPLETED WORD DOCUMENT TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov BY/BEFORE
CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 22ND.**

_____ We will avoid (or limit) previously planned staffing reductions.

- Please explain how many positions you will avoid reducing.

Type your response here

- Please describe the kinds of positions you will avoid reducing.

Type your response here

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice in applicable divisions of your court or courthouse(s).

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

In FY13-14 Colusa Superior Court will be using existing fund balances in addition to its share of the \$60 million augmentation to sustain current service levels. However, in FY14-15 service levels will undoubtedly be decreased without any further augmentations and/or a change to the 1% cap on fund balances.

_____ We will avoid (or limit) previously planned courtroom closures.

- Please explain what types of hearings will be maintained.

Type your response here

- Please describe the impact on the public by keeping open a courtroom planned for closure.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

_____ We will avoid previously planned courthouse closures.

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you are able to avoid closing.

Type your response here

- Please explain the impact on the public by keeping open this/these courthouse(s).

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

_____ We will maintain, increase or restore public telephone hours.

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

In FY13-14 Colusa Superior Court will be using existing fund balances in addition to its share of the \$60 million augmentation to sustain current service levels. However, in FY14-15 service levels will undoubtedly be decreased without any further augmentations and/or a change to the 1% cap on fund balances.

_____ We will maintain, increase or restore court clerk hours.

- Please explain what kinds of court clerk duties will be maintained, increased or restored.

Type your response here

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

In FY13-14 Colusa Superior Court will be using existing fund balances in addition to its share of the \$60 million augmentation to sustain current service levels. However, in FY14-15 service levels will undoubtedly be decreased without any further augmentations and/or a change to the 1% cap on fund balances.

___ We will devote resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.

- Please explain the areas of backlog that will be addressed.

Type your response here

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

In FY13-14 Colusa Superior Court will be using existing fund balances in addition to its share of the \$60 million augmentation to sustain current service levels. However, in FY14-15 service levels will undoubtedly be decreased without any further augmentations and/or a change to the 1% cap on fund balances.

___ We will suspend/avoid employee furloughs.

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

In FY13-14 Colusa Superior Court will be using existing fund balances in addition to its share of the \$60 million augmentation to sustain current service levels. However, in FY14-15 service levels will undoubtedly be decreased without any further augmentations and/or a change to the 1% cap on fund balances.

___ We will maintain, increase or restore services in our self-help center.

- Please explain the details of this proposed increase.

Type your response here

- Please explain how the increase in self-help services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

In FY13-14 Colusa Superior Court will be using existing fund balances in addition to its share of the \$60 million augmentation to sustain current service levels. However, in FY14-15 service levels will undoubtedly be decreased without any further augmentations and/or a change to the 1% cap on fund balances.

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore court reporting services.**

- Please explain how increased court reporting services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

In FY13-14 Colusa Superior Court will be using existing fund balances in addition to its share of the \$60 million augmentation to sustain current service levels. However, in FY14-15 service levels will undoubtedly be decreased without any further augmentations and/or a change to the 1% cap on fund balances.

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore specialty court(s).**

- Please describe the specialty court(s) to be maintained, increased or restored.

Type your response here

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

In FY13-14 Colusa Superior Court will be using existing fund balances in addition to its share of the \$60 million augmentation to sustain current service levels. However, in FY14-15 service levels will undoubtedly be decreased without any further augmentations and/or a change to the 1% cap on fund balances.

Using as much additional space as you need, answer the following questions:

- Explain any other ways Colusa intends to restore, maintain, or increase public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

Type your response here

- What additional information would you like to add about the use of your court's share of the \$60 million augmentation?

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

In FY13-14 Colusa Superior Court will be using existing fund balances in addition to its share of the \$60 million augmentation to sustain current service levels. However, in FY14-15 service levels will undoubtedly be decreased without any further augmentations and/or a change to the 1% cap on fund balances.

- What are your projected revenues and expenditures for NEXT fiscal year (2014-15)?

Approximately \$1.7 million in revenues and \$2 million in expenditures.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AS WE PREPARE THIS SURVEY. AS A REMINDER, PLEASE SUBMIT THIS COMPLETED FORM TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov ON OR BEFORE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 22. PLEASE CALL ANDI AT 916-323-3121 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

**Superior Court of California,
County of CONTRA COSTA
FY 2013-14**

Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$1,418,488

There are a number of ways to maintain or increase public access to justice. Check all that are appropriate AND please provide as detailed an explanation for each as you can:

**PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TYPING DIRECTLY INTO THIS TEMPLATE.
TRANSMIT YOUR COMPLETED WORD DOCUMENT TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov BY/BEFORE
CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 22ND.**

_____ We will avoid (or limit) previously planned staffing reductions.

- Please explain how many positions you will avoid reducing.

Type your response here

- Please describe the kinds of positions you will avoid reducing.

Type your response here

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice in applicable divisions of your court or courthouse(s).

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

_____ We will avoid (or limit) previously planned courtroom closures.

- Please explain what types of hearings will be maintained.

Type your response here

- Please describe the impact on the public by keeping open a courtroom planned for closure.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

We will avoid previously planned courthouse closures.

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you are able to avoid closing.

Type your response here

- Please explain the impact on the public by keeping open this/these courthouse(s).

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

 √ **We will maintain, increase or restore public telephone hours.**

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Among other things, the Court will restore one hour per day of telephone access to our family law information line. There will be one more hour each day that the Court can answer questions such as "When is the next hearing in my case?" "I wasn't able to attend the last Court hearing, can you tell me what happened?" "How do I postpone the upcoming hearing on my case?" and "What happens next in my case?" This should also help to minimize the frequency with which members of the public are kept on hold for extended periods of time.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

If the additional allocation is provided on an ongoing basis, and no further cuts are imposed, the restoration of the public telephone hours will be ongoing. This may be contingent on the continued ability of the court to utilize reserves to pay for limited term employees and on the continued receipt of funds that historically were provided to the branch but that have become "one-time" receipts. See below.

 √ **We will maintain, increase or restore court clerk hours.**

- Please explain what kinds of court clerk duties will be maintained, increased or restored.

The Court will restore one additional hour a day of service to the public at the family law filing windows. This will enhance the Court's capacity for providing assistance to litigants, decrease current backlogs, and reduce wait times for those in line at clerk's windows in the Martinez Family Law building.

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Members of the public now must wait an average of one to two hours to file a family law document. These lengthy waits have a disproportionate impact on the most vulnerable segments of our population: self-represented wage earners who do not have benefits and are not paid if they do not come to work; parents with young children who cannot afford daycare and so must bring them to the courthouse to wait for hours; and the elderly and infirm whose access to food or medication may be disrupted while they wait. We expect to reduce the waiting time at the filing windows to substantially less than one hour.

The beneficial impact of this change will not be immediately apparent as newly hired staff will require training in their new duties. Training is critical because clerks in these positions frequently deal with self-represented litigants who often make mistakes in their paperwork; the clerks must be able to spot these mistakes in order to prevent delays and needless complications later in the case. In addition, the clerks must become fluent in a computer case management system and obtain an in-depth understanding of complex legal issues. Average training time for clerks who have previous experience working with a court varies from two to six months.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

If the additional allocation is provided on an ongoing basis and no further cuts are imposed, the restoration of court clerk hours will be ongoing. This may be contingent on the continued ability of the court to utilize reserves to pay for limited term employees and on the continued receipt of funds that historically were provided to the branch but that have become "one-time" receipts. See below.

√ **We will devote resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.**

- Please explain the areas of backlog that will be addressed.

FAMILY LAW

At present, it takes approximately 12 weeks to process a final judgment of divorce. The Court will hire additional staff who will spend dedicated time to address this backlog, and to process those types of papers on an ongoing basis to try to keep up with the workload, with the expectation that processing time for final divorce judgments will be reduced to four to eight weeks.

CRIMINAL/CIVIL LAW

The Court will hire staff to address backlogs in criminal and civil cases and to process those types of papers on an ongoing basis to try and keep up with the workload.

The current Criminal backlogs consist of 431 new complaints; 238 plea and sentencing documents; 50 transfer in/out cases; and, approximately 3,000 documents awaiting filing in existing cases.

The Civil backlogs are predominantly in limited jurisdiction cases where damages are \$25,000 or less and consist of 880 new complaints; 2,025 defaults; and, 1,409 Writs/Abstracts/Memoranda of Costs.

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog will maintain or increase public access to justice.

FAMILY LAW

Parties cannot dissolve their marriages without a court judgment. They need access to the courts to obtain that judgment. When we do not have the staff to process the final judgment, litigants are denied access to the judgment to which they are entitled. By assigning staff to the task of processing those judgments, we will increase the necessary access.

Families that would benefit from reaching final resolution of an acrimonious dispute, and those who would like to move on with their lives by remarrying, will be able to do so. Litigants who require proof of the dissolution, such as employers, health care providers, creditors and others will get this documentation far sooner than 12 weeks, thereby speeding the transition to their new status, and avoiding unnecessary payments for health care insurance and separate debt obligations.

CRIMINAL/CIVIL LAW

The backlog in criminal case filings means that those who the District Attorney has charged with a crime do not know they have been charged and cannot deal with the problem. It also means that the District Attorney cannot prosecute the case and the defendant defend it while the evidence is fresh and the witnesses' memory strong. Sometimes, a bond defendant purchased when arrested is exonerated, only to have the defendant need to post bond again when the charge is finally filed – in effect requiring him or her to purchase a bond twice.

There are other problems when the criminal justice system is slowed. For example, when plea and sentencing documents are not processed timely, the associated fines and fees imposed by the Court are neither collected nor distributed as revenue to government agencies. Delays in integrating new filings into court files can result in judges not being able to review documents in advance of the hearing, or forcing the judge to rely on outside agencies, such as Probation, the District Attorney or the Public Defender, to have a complete record in that case while the parties are in the courtroom. Delaying probation transfers out of our county lengthens the time that local probation officers

must monitor probationers who have been or will be transferred to other jurisdictions. The 30-day backlogs in processing certain victim restitution orders can mean delays in repairing or replacing vandalized property.

In Limited Civil the backlog effectively denies access to justice to those trying to collect debts of less than \$25,000. Many are small businesses, banks and credit card companies. Others are plaintiffs in "small" personal injury or motor vehicle cases. Simply put, the doors are closed to them – or, they must wait a very long line to get access. By the time the case is filed and processed, debtors have disappeared, evidence has gotten stale, and the delay in collecting a receivable has had adverse effects on a small businessperson. Plaintiffs in personal injury and motor vehicle cases do not timely receive needed treatment or compensation for their losses.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

If the additional allocation is provided on an ongoing basis and no further cuts are imposed, the court will continue to manage the backlogs on an ongoing basis. This may be contingent on the continued ability of the court to utilize reserves to pay for limited term employees and on the continued receipt of funds that historically were provided to the branch but that have become "one-time" receipts. See below.

___ **We will suspend/avoid employee furloughs.**

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore services in our self-help center.**

- Please explain the details of this proposed increase.

Type your response here

- Please explain how the increase in self-help services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

_____ We will maintain, increase or restore court reporting services.

- Please explain how increased court reporting services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

_____ We will maintain, increase or restore specialty court(s).

- Please describe the specialty court(s) to be maintained, increased or restored.

Type your response here

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

Using as much additional space as you need, answer the following questions:

- Explain any other ways your court intends to restore, maintain, or increase public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

Since 2007 our permanent court staff has been cut from 450 permanent employees to 296. That is not enough to provide a proper level of access to justice, particularly in, civil, family and probate matters. To provide access, we have been using our reserves to hire limited-term employees. With our share of the additional \$60 million (and with the funding described below) we plan to make some of those limited term employees permanent. As a practical matter, our talented limited term employees (who know they have a job for only six months or a year at a time) tend to look for other work and the turnover is too high. This will enable us retain some of those employees. Limited term employees work in many areas of the court, including child custody mediation, family law self-help, research, at the public counters, answering telephones, processing filings and other paperwork, and in the courtroom. By making limited term employees permanent we will help to insure increased access to justice in many areas of court operations and to serve the public better.

- What additional information would you like to add about the use of your court's share of the \$60 million augmentation?
- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

The above responses are based upon certain assumptions about our funding stream. As things stand, there is more than the usual amount of uncertainty about what are one-time allocations and what are continuing allocations. Funds that we received, historically, without question, such as increased retirement and health benefits costs, are now being funded on a much less certain (and less timely) basis. We need that continued funding in our base allocation to maintain the current level of service to the public, keep current backlogs from growing even more than they are today and avoid further reductions in service. Our response assumes they will hereafter be funded on an ongoing basis.

As noted above, the court has been maintaining greater access to justice than would be possible with our limited operating income by using our reserves to hire about 30 limited term employees. Since we have been spending nearly \$3,000,000 a year on limited term employees, unless we receive increased funding or are permitted to continue to use reserves, we will not necessarily be able to retain all those employees. The court will then have to make difficult decisions regarding (i) these limited term employees, (ii) the people hired with our share of the \$60 million, and (iii) furloughs that are currently contracted for FY 14-15 and FY 15-16 for employees, many of whom are on a thin financial margin.

- What are your projected revenues and expenditures for NEXT fiscal year (2014-15)?

According to the AOC's calculations, our projected revenues (and therefore our expenditures) for next fiscal year (assuming no increased funding) will increase only \$11,000. That will not be enough to retain our limited term employees if our reserves are swept. We will spend only what a balanced budget allows us to spend.

We prefer to assume the other two branches of government will restore a proper level of funding to the trial courts and that we will have an allocation of approximately \$41 million for fiscal year 2014-2015. Then we will be able to begin restoring access to justice in a significant way.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AS WE PREPARE THIS SURVEY. AS A REMINDER, PLEASE SUBMIT THIS COMPLETED FORM TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov ON OR BEFORE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 22. PLEASE CALL ANDI AT 916-323-3121 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

**Superior Court of California,
County of DEL NORTE
FY 2013-14**

Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$79,107

There are a number of ways to maintain or increase public access to justice. Check all that are appropriate AND please provide as detailed an explanation for each as you can:

**PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TYPING DIRECTLY INTO THIS TEMPLATE.
TRANSMIT YOUR COMPLETED WORD DOCUMENT TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov BY/BEFORE
CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 22ND.**

___ **We will avoid (or limit) previously planned staffing reductions.**

- Please explain how many positions you will avoid reducing.

Maybe ½ position

- Please describe the kinds of positions you will avoid reducing.

Courtroom Clerk

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice in applicable divisions of your court or courthouse(s).

Maintain a level of staffing for the courtroom support.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

This is unknown at this time. We have a substantial pot of reserves we are being forced to use to exist and at the end of 13/14 fiscal year we will see just what our budget will be and what we may have to reduce at that time.

___ **We will avoid (or limit) previously planned courtroom closures.**

- Please explain what types of hearings will be maintained.

Type your response here

- Please describe the impact on the public by keeping open a courtroom planned for closure.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We will avoid previously planned courthouse closures.**

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you are able to avoid closing.

Type your response here

- Please explain the impact on the public by keeping open this/these courthouse(s).

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore public telephone hours.**

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore court clerk hours.**

- Please explain what kinds of court clerk duties will be maintained, increased or restored.

Type your response here

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We will devote resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.**

- Please explain the areas of backlog that will be addressed.

Type your response here

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We will suspend/avoid employee furloughs.**

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore services in our self-help center.**

- Please explain the details of this proposed increase.

Type your response here

- Please explain how the increase in self-help services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore court reporting services.**

- Please explain how increased court reporting services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ We will maintain, increase or restore specialty court(s).

- Please describe the specialty court(s) to be maintained, increased or restored.

Type your response here

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

Using as much additional space as you need, answer the following questions:

- Explain any other ways Del Norte intends to restore, maintain, or increase public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

Type your response here

- What additional information would you like to add about the use of your court's share of the \$60 million augmentation?

Our share is not substantial enough to spare any sort of reductions to staff, like I say maybe ½ position.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

- What are your projected revenues and expenditures for NEXT fiscal year (2014-15)?

Type your response here

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AS WE PREPARE THIS SURVEY. AS A REMINDER, PLEASE SUBMIT THIS COMPLETED FORM TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov ON OR BEFORE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 22. PLEASE CALL ANDI AT 916-323-3121 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

**Superior Court of California,
County of EL DORADO
FY 2013-14**

Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$239,635

There are a number of ways to maintain or increase public access to justice. Check all that are appropriate AND please provide as detailed an explanation for each as you can:

**PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TYPING DIRECTLY INTO THIS TEMPLATE.
TRANSMIT YOUR COMPLETED WORD DOCUMENT TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov BY/BEFORE
CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 22ND.**

_____ We will avoid (or limit) previously planned staffing reductions.

- Please explain how many positions you will avoid reducing.

Type your response here

- Please describe the kinds of positions you will avoid reducing.

Type your response here

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice in applicable divisions of your court or courthouse(s).

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

_____ We will avoid (or limit) previously planned courtroom closures.

- Please explain what types of hearings will be maintained.

Type your response here

- Please describe the impact on the public by keeping open a courtroom planned for closure.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We will avoid previously planned courthouse closures.**

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you are able to avoid closing.

Type your response here

- Please explain the impact on the public by keeping open this/these courthouse(s).

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore public telephone hours.**

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore court clerk hours.**

- Please explain what kinds of court clerk duties will be maintained, increased or restored.

Type your response here

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We will devote resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.**

- Please explain the areas of backlog that will be addressed.

Floating holidays will be utilized to address case backlogs. Court will be closed to the public but staff will be required to work. Fund will be used to pay the hours worked on those specific dates and hotel and transportation costs for staff to travel between locations. Floating holidays will be utilized to address case backlogs. Court will be closed to the public but staff will be required to work. Fund will be used to pay the hours worked on those specific dates.

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog will maintain or increase public access to justice.

With the current 27% shortage in staff, case processing is delayed and further proceedings become delayed as well. Having available funds to compensate staff, will give us time to bring case backlogs into a more current status.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ We will suspend/avoid employee furloughs.

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice.

Twelve furlough days were scheduled for FY13/14 with limited an operation scheduled for three days the Thanksgiving holiday week, four days the Christmas holiday week and three floating days. These days are now scheduled for full court access for all case types.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

At this time, they are temporary for FY 13/14 as the court has no guarantee of funding into the coming FY14/15.

___ We will maintain, increase or restore services in our self-help center.

- Please explain the details of this proposed increase.

Type your response here

- Please explain how the increase in self-help services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore court reporting services.**

- Please explain how increased court reporting services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore specialty court(s).**

- Please describe the specialty court(s) to be maintained, increased or restored.

Type your response here

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

Using as much additional space as you need, answer the following questions:

- Explain any other ways El Dorado Superior Court intends to restore, maintain, or increase public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

Implementation of the Family Centered Case Resolution program, requiring the filing of additional documents, scheduling additional hearings and utilizing more self help services.

- What additional information would you like to add about the use of your court's share of the \$60 million augmentation?

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Program increase in workload will be monitored during the FY 13/14. If the additional workload presents a burden on processing and creates a priority of case filings, the program will be discontinued.

- What are your projected revenues and expenditures for NEXT fiscal year (2014-15)?

Revenues: \$7,869,228

Expenditures: \$8,282,444.

Deficit (\$ 418,216)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AS WE PREPARE THIS SURVEY. AS A REMINDER, PLEASE SUBMIT THIS COMPLETED FORM TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov ON OR BEFORE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 22. PLEASE CALL ANDI AT 916-323-3121 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

**Superior Court of California,
County of FRESNO
FY 2013-14**

Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$1,538,195

There are a number of ways to maintain or increase public access to justice. Check all that are appropriate AND please provide as detailed an explanation for each as you can:

**PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TYPING DIRECTLY INTO THIS TEMPLATE.
TRANSMIT YOUR COMPLETED WORD DOCUMENT TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov BY/BEFORE
CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 22ND.**

X We will avoid (or limit) previously planned staffing reductions.

- Please explain how many positions you will avoid reducing
- *With the augmentation we will avoid reducing approximately 15 positions. The average salary and benefits for a Fresno Superior Court employee is approximately \$100,000. Fresno is considered an under resourced court based on the latest RAS model. We currently have a 20% vacancy rate.*
- Please describe the kinds of positions you will avoid reducing.
- *Self-help positions where the cost exceeds the grant funds, and the court general fund has to supplement the programs. The money will help us to maintain self-help services at the current level. Case Management Conferences (CMC) were mandated in Family Law as of January 1, 2013. Since that time we have had to reallocate services from the self-help center to assist the self-represented litigants in the CMC's. If we did not have the additional funds we would be limited to our grant funding for our self-help center and assistance provided to self-represented litigants. The grant money is not sufficient to pay for the staff necessary to assist with the CMC's and to maintain our current self-help hours. We were facing the decision to further reduce our public hours since we did not have the money to supplement the grant money to maintain staffing at the current level. We would have had to reduce staff in self-help thus reducing the hours we are open to the public. The additional money will prevent us from having to further reduce public hours in the self-help center.*
- *Courtroom and clerk office staff because they are the largest percentage of the whole. This would delay courtrooms and clerk's offices.*

We have closed outlying courthouses and reduced office hours. Not only have we save hard costs but we have gained operational efficiencies by consolidating employees together. This augmentation will delay closing of the M Street courthouse (five courtrooms, and/or further reducing clerk's office hours.

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice in applicable divisions of your court or courthouse(s).

***Self-help** – We currently close our self-help center one day a week to process backlogs. This augmentation will prevent us from having to further reduce office hours, and will help us from increasing backlogs.*

***Access (backlogs)** - By keeping backlogs to a minimum in all departments, this increases public access to justice. Example: if documents are not processed timely, the parties must wait to move forward with their case. This causes a delay in parties' ability to be heard, and therefore the resolution of their case.*

***Closing of M Street (five courtrooms)** – at this court location traffic, small claims, and SARB cases are heard daily. It has multi-hearing courtrooms. If we did not receive this augmentation, we would be forced to close this courthouse to use the lease cost savings for operational needs.*

***Summary** – the additional money will allow the Court to maintain (rather than implement further reductions) the current reduced hours schedule in Self-help, courtrooms and clerk's offices. By keeping the same hours, it will allow the public to access court services for most of the day. This will allow the Court to keep the M Street courthouse open. This allows the public increased access to justice by providing an efficient, expedited process to resolve traffic disputes.*

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Without additional money in FY 14/15, all of the actions listed above would continue at the reduced level. If the court receives additional money in FY 14/15, then services, hours, access, etc. potentially would increase depending on the amount of money.

X We will avoid (or limit) previously planned courtroom closures.

- Please explain what types of hearings will be maintained.

***Small claims** – These types of cases would have to be greatly reduced or eliminated completely without this augmentation.*

***Civil** – With this additional money we are able to keep the current reduced office hours instead of making further reductions. If we did not receive this augmentation, we would have to close a majority of our five Civil courtrooms. Current Civil cases would be backlogged for months, if not years. The public would not be able to have their day in court.*

New money is insufficient to allow us to reopen previously closed outlying courts or to restore reduced hours. In addition, we do not want to lose the efficiencies we have gained by closing the outlying courts and consolidating staff to the main courthouse.

- Please describe the impact on the public by keeping open a courtroom planned for closure.

Fresno County is geographically large. We have already closed all of our outlying locations. The residents of those communities must travel in excess of 90 miles to attend

court now. In addition, the closing of these courtrooms has had a dramatic effect on our Main Criminal courthouse. The increased amount of people in the downtown court locations creates long lines into the building, elevators are over taxed, there is not enough seating for prospective jurors, and the public is extremely frustrated. By closing the M Street courthouse, thousands more of people will need to enter through security at our main criminal courthouse. Currently, almost 4,500 people access this facility on a weekly basis. This will overload the Main Criminal courthouse already under great pressure. This building is fifty plus years old, and although it was slated to be remodeled to upgrade the facility to accommodate the demands of the public, however that remodel has been placed on indefinite hold. In addition, there are hearings at the current M Street courthouse where mentally unstable people are present for medication hearings. By closing that facility, those defendants would be brought to the Main Criminal courthouse and place more demands on security. The M Street courthouse is a smaller facility, one level and easier to contain the defendants that require more security supervision.

Closing the M Street court will decrease public access, increase security threats, and cause people to take more time off work to plan for delays due to congestion. We simply do not have the proper facilities to bring the all of the cases currently heard at the M Street courthouse to the Main Criminal courthouse.

In the Spring of 2013 the court implemented an innovative pilot project, Remote Video Proceeding (RVP) in an effort to provide access to offset the closures of the outlying courts. Because of the closing of all of Fresno's outlying courts, some communities were left without a local branch court in their community, and some people must travel more than 90 miles one way to the Main Criminal courthouse. RVP allows the defendants in the communities of Coalinga and Mendota to appear by video for traffic cases. The judge and court staff is in one location, while the defendant is in another. The arresting officer may appear in either location. This innovative project has helped law enforcement in these area communities keep costs down as they do not have to drive to downtown Fresno to personally appear for court hearings.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

If we do not receive a further augmentation in FY 14/15 the M Street courthouse (five courtrooms) will have to be closed in the FY 14/15. By closing this facility, 4,500 citizens who currently use this facility per week, would have to go to the Main Criminal courthouse to be served.

The M Street courthouse is a smaller facility, one level and easier to contain the defendants that require more supervision. This decreases public access, increases security threats, causes people to take more time off work to plan for delays due to

congestion and the volume of cases in one place. We simply do not have the room to bring all of the public users and the defendants to the Main Criminal courthouse.

X We will avoid previously planned courthouse closures.

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you are able to avoid closing.
- *The M Street courthouse is a smaller facility, one level and easier to contain the defendants that require more supervision. This decreases public access, increases security threats, causes people to take more time off work to plan for delays due to congestion and the volume of cases in one place. We simply do not have the room to bring all of the public users and the defendants to the Main Criminal courthouse.*
- Please explain the impact on the public by keeping open this/these courthouse(s).
- *By closing the M Street courthouse, thousands more of people will need to enter through security at our main criminal courthouse. Currently, almost 4,500 people access this facility on a weekly basis. This will overload the Main Criminal courthouse already under great pressure. This building is fifty plus years old, and although it was slated to be remodeled to upgrade the facility to accommodate the demands of the public, however that remodel has been placed on indefinite hold. In addition, there are hearings at the current M Street courthouse where mentally unstable people are present for medication hearings. By closing that facility, those defendants would be brought to the Main Criminal courthouse and place more demands on security. The M Street courthouse is a smaller facility, one level and easier to contain the defendants that require more security supervision.*
- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.
- *If we do not receive a further augmentation in FY 14/15 the M Street courthouse (five courtrooms) will have to be closed in the FY 14/15. By closing this facility, 4,500 citizens who currently use this facility per week, would have to go to the Main Criminal courthouse to be served.*

X We will maintain, increase or restore public telephone hours.

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

The additional money will help us from further reducing already reduced telephone hours. Staff does not answer the public telephone calls after the clerk's office is closed at 3 pm. This allows staff to work on the backlog of paperwork and thereby helping to cases moving within the court system. It is a delicate balance to keep backlogs under control and providing telephone access to parties.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

If the Court does not receive additional funding in FY 14/15 it is likely that telephone hours will be reduced further because backlogs will continue to increase as we maintain vacant positions. At the very least, the current reduced telephone hours will continue throughout FY 14/15.

X We will maintain, increase or restore court clerk hours.

- Please explain what kinds of court clerk duties will be maintained, increased or restored.
- *Self-help positions where the cost exceeds the grant funds, and the court general fund has to supplement the programs. The money will help us to maintain self-help services at the current level. Case Management Conferences (CMC) were mandated in Family Law as of January 1, 2013. Since that time we have had to reallocate services from the self-help center to assist the self-represented litigants in the CMC's. If we did not have the additional funds we would be limited to our grant funding for our self-help center and assistance provided to self-represented litigants. The grant money is not sufficient to pay for the staff necessary to assist with the CMC's and to maintain our current self-help hours. We were facing the decision to further reduce our public hours since we did not have the money to supplement the grant money to maintain staffing at the current level. We would have had to reduce staff in self-help thus reducing the hours we are open to the public. The additional money will prevent us from having to further reduce public hours in the self-help center.*
- *Courtroom and clerk office staff because they are the largest percentage of the whole. This would delay courtrooms and clerk's offices.*

We have closed outlying courthouses and reduced office hours. Not only have we save hard costs but we have gained operational efficiencies by consolidating employees together. This augmentation will delay closing of the M Street courthouse (five courtrooms, and/or further reducing clerk's office hours.

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

When we are able to increase the office hours the public will be able to receive self-help services. By maintaining current reduced hours, staff are able to help litigants complete the necessary paperwork to finalize their cases. This helps with delays in the courtrooms due to paperwork not being properly completed. The majority of our Family Law cases are pro per. These parties would not be able to understand the process or complete their cases without the staff that make up the Self-help department.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.
- *Without additional money in FY 14/15, the actions listed above would continue at the reduced level. If the court receives additional money in FY 14/15, then services, hours, and access, will potentially increase depending on the amount of money.*

X We will devote resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.

- Please explain the areas of backlog that will be addressed.

Criminal – copy work, background checks, JUS 8715, and probation warrants

Civil – writs, opening new cases, and default judgments

Family Law- Child Support Services data entry, scanning and indexing of judgments, filing loose documents, minute orders data entries, and defaults.

Self-Help - Judgments

We have reduced clerk's office hours to reduce case backlogs. Keeping backlogs to a minimum increase public access. If documents are not filed in the case file, court proceedings cannot move forward. New case filings in Civil are not processed if there is a backlog and this prevents parties from accessing justice on their case

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Cases will be processed timely and within the statutory timelines, and therefore building the trust and confidence of the public.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.
- *Without additional money in FY 14/15, all of the actions listed above would continue at the reduced level. If the court receives additional money in FY 14/15, then services, hours, access, etc. potentially would increase depending on the amount of money.*

X We will suspend/avoid employee furloughs.

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice.

We did not institute mandatory furloughs in the current year. The court implemented mandatory and voluntary furlough for the past 3 years. Without furlough there are more employees available to work and therefore there is an increase public access. Staff had to take 96 hours of mandatory furlough over the past few years which equates to a 4.62% pay decrease.

Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

We will have to consider implementing mandatory furlough in FY 14/15. This also includes maintaining a limited staff during the holiday seasons.

X We will maintain, increase or restore services in our self-help center.

- Please explain the details of this proposed increase.

The \$1.5 million augmentation is not enough to allow us to increase our self-help services. However, we are able to maintain the current staffing level and public hours.

- Please explain how the increase in self-help services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

The public will be able to receive self-help services. By maintaining current reduced office hours paperwork is being completed correctly. This helps with delays in the courtrooms due to paperwork not being properly completed. The majority of our Family Law cases are pro per. These parties would not be able to understand the process or complete their cases without the staff of the Self-help department.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.
- *Without additional money in FY 14/15, all of the actions listed above would continue at the reduced level. If the court receives additional money in FY 14/15, then services, hours, access, etc. potentially would increase depending on the amount of money.*

X We will maintain, increase or restore court reporting services.

- Please explain how increased court reporting services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

We would maintain our current court reporters services which means the court reporters are in mandated case types only. We had to layoff court reporters in Civil(non-mandated case types).

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

This will continue for future years if no additional funding is received.

X We will maintain, increase or restore specialty court(s).

- Please describe the specialty court(s) to be maintained, increased or restored.

Maintaining current specialty courts at the current level including:

Domestic Violence

Drug Court

Behavioral (Mental) Health

Elder Abuse

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

If the Court did not receive the \$1.5 million augmentation we would have reduced or eliminated all specialty courts. These specialty courts serve our most delicate clients.

Any reduction or elimination of these specialty courts would affect the community. These courts help defendants find programs, employment, counseling, etc. In turn, when these clients are able to get specialized care, the community is safer and these clients can become law abiding, contributing members of the public.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Without further funding in FY 14/15 these specialty courts will be reduced and/or eliminated.

Using as much additional space as you need, answer the following questions:

- Explain any other ways \$1,538,195 intends to restore, maintain, or increase public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.
- What additional information would you like to add about the use of your court's share of the \$60 million augmentation?

Fresno has operated in a structural deficit for many years. We managed our budget by utilizing our fund balance for facility projects and other one-time costs. Our FY 13/14 deficit is approximately \$1 million. Without the \$60 million augmentation our structural deficit would be \$2.5 million. That equates to 25 court positions. With the threat of our Fund Balance being swept, we will not be able to operate at any deficit in FY 14/15 and beyond.

Benefit increase funding has been sporadic and uncertain. In FY 12/13, Fresno received a payback of increases owed from FY 10/11, FY 11/12 and FY 12/13. Because we cannot count on the benefit funding to be regular and ongoing, the augmentation is more important than ever to cover our benefit increases that we are not in control of.

This augmentation will help the Court pay for core cost increases to general operating expenses.

In the budget there is language that limits the trial courts to a 1% reserve. This is an impossible expectation. The courts will not have enough money each month to make payroll. In Fresno, our payroll is approximately \$1.5 million every two weeks. Since the formula for the 1% reserve is not yet defined, we estimated 1% to be approximately \$330,000. Since the courts do not receive their monthly allocation until the middle of the month, you can see that if there is a payroll before the middle of the month, the court will not be able to pay employees. In addition, the limit on the reserve will severely hamper our ability to pay invoices timely. We simply will not have the cash. The court will not have the ability to plan for one-time expenditures or emergency items.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

- What are your projected revenues and expenditures for NEXT fiscal year (2014-15)?
Revenue: \$55,081,281
Expenditures: \$55,081,281

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AS WE PREPARE THIS SURVEY. AS A REMINDER, PLEASE SUBMIT THIS COMPLETED FORM TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov ON OR BEFORE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 22. PLEASE CALL ANDI AT 916-323-3121 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

**Superior Court of California,
County of GLENN
FY 2013-14**

Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$49,328

There are a number of ways to maintain or increase public access to justice. Check all that are appropriate AND please provide as detailed an explanation for each as you can:

**PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TYPING DIRECTLY INTO THIS TEMPLATE.
TRANSMIT YOUR COMPLETED WORD DOCUMENT TO andi.lichenbaum@jud.ca.gov BY/BEFORE
CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 22ND.**

 We will avoid (or limit) previously planned staffing reductions.

- Please explain how many positions you will avoid reducing.

Type your response here

- Please describe the kinds of positions you will avoid reducing.

Type your response here

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice in applicable divisions of your court or courthouse(s).
- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

 We will avoid (or limit) previously planned courtroom closures.

- Please explain what types of hearings will be maintained.

Type your response here

- Please describe the impact on the public by keeping open a courtroom planned for closure.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

 We will avoid previously planned courthouse closures.

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you are able to avoid closing.

Type your response here

- Please explain the impact on the public by keeping open this/these courthouse(s).

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore public telephone hours.**

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.
- *As a result of the \$60 million augmentation Glenn Superior Court will receive \$49,000. The court will be purchasing a new VOIP telephone system. Riverside Superior Court (through our MOU) is currently preparing a Request For Proposal which will be placed on Bid Sinc. The court's current system is approximately seven years old and, is inadequate. We often receive complaints from the public when trying to access the court for assistance. This is true in all case type areas. Recently, the entire system at our Orland Branch crashed. The public could not call in; nor could our Presiding Judge or staff receive or make calls. It has been temporarily fixed. A rough estimate for a complete phone system based upon other court RFPs varies from \$55,000 to \$80,000.*
- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore court clerk hours.**

- Please explain what kinds of court clerk duties will be maintained, increased or restored.
- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We will devote resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.**

- Please explain the areas of backlog that will be addressed.

Type your response here

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We will suspend/avoid employee furloughs.**

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore services in our self-help center.**

- Please explain the details of this proposed increase.

Type your response here

- Please explain how the increase in self-help services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore court reporting services.**

- Please explain how increased court reporting services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ We will maintain, increase or restore specialty court(s).

- Please describe the specialty court(s) to be maintained, increased or restored.

Type your response here

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

Using as much additional space as you need, answer the following questions:

- Explain any other ways Glenn intends to restore, maintain, or increase public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

Type your response here

- What additional information would you like to add about the use of your court's share of the \$60 million augmentation?

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

- What are your projected revenues and expenditures for NEXT fiscal year (2014-15)?

This projection is based upon 13 – 14 total revenue of approximately 2.8M. This is assuming no additional cuts, no fund balance and our expenditures continuing to exceed our revenue. Our projection is that we will be forced to reduce services, personnel, implement furlough days, and cut mandated and specialty programs.

If funding levels and the 1% fund balance restriction remains, it is likely that all courts will once again face mandated court closure days.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AS WE PREPARE THIS SURVEY. AS A REMINDER, PLEASE SUBMIT THIS COMPLETED FORM TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov ON OR BEFORE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 22. PLEASE CALL ANDI AT 916-323-3121 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

**Superior Court of California,
County of HUMBOLDT
FY 2013-14**

Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$174,587

There are a number of ways to maintain or increase public access to justice. Check all that are appropriate AND please provide as detailed an explanation for each as you can:

**PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TYPING DIRECTLY INTO THIS TEMPLATE.
TRANSMIT YOUR COMPLETED WORD DOCUMENT TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov BY/BEFORE
CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 22ND.**

___ **We will avoid (or limit) previously planned staffing reductions.**

- Please explain how many positions you will avoid reducing.

n/a

- Please describe the kinds of positions you will avoid reducing.

n/a

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice in applicable divisions of your court or courthouse(s).

n/a

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

n/a

___ **We will avoid (or limit) previously planned courtroom closures.**

- Please explain what types of hearings will be maintained.

n/a

- Please describe the impact on the public by keeping open a courtroom planned for closure.

n/a

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

n/a

___ **We will avoid previously planned courthouse closures.**

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you are able to avoid closing.

n/a

- Please explain the impact on the public by keeping open this/these courthouse(s).

n/a

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

n/a

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore public telephone hours.**

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

By increasing the hours staff work from 37.5 hrs per week to 40.0 hrs per week, we will be able to restore public telephone hours to their prior schedule (9:00am to 4:00pm). This will enable the public to obtain information regarding court business an additional two hours per day.

We plan to increase the workday for all 44.0 FTE of our Legal Process Clerks at a cost of \$88,640 in wages and \$25,904 in salary driven benefits. The total annualized cost (for both this and customer service clerk hours below) is projected at \$114,544.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

We anticipate the ability to maintain this restoration as long as funding is not reduced in the future.

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore court clerk hours.**

- Please explain what kinds of court clerk duties will be maintained, increased or restored.

Customer Service.

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

By increasing the hours staff work from 37.5 hrs per week to 40.0 hrs per week, we will be able to restore public counter hours to their prior schedule (9:00am to 4:00pm). This will enable the public to conduct court business an additional two hours per day.

We plan to increase the workday for all 44.0 FTE of our Legal Process Clerks at a cost of \$88,640 in wages and \$25,904 in salary driven benefits. The total annualized cost (for both this and public telephone hours above) is projected at \$114,544.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

We anticipate the ability to maintain this restoration as long as funding is not reduced in the future.

_____ We will devote resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.

- Please explain the areas of backlog that will be addressed.

By increasing the hours staff work from 37.5 hrs per week to 40.0 hrs per week, we will be able to restore courtroom operation hours to their prior schedule (8:30am to 4:30pm).

We plan to increase the workday for all 15.5 FTE of our Courtroom Clerks at a cost of \$40,381 in wages and \$11,800 in salary driven benefits. The total annualized cost is projected at \$52,181.

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog will maintain or increase public access to justice.

This will enable the courtrooms to operate a little longer each day and increase the number of cases that work through the courtroom. Litigants will have a slightly shorter delay in having their case heard.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

We anticipate the ability to maintain this restoration as long as funding is not reduced in the future.

_____ We will suspend/avoid employee furloughs.

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice.

No. Voluntary Furloughs will continue.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

The Court's financial position going into FY14-15 will determine how the Court approaches furloughs, either voluntary or mandatory.

_____ We will maintain, increase or restore services in our self-help center.

- Please explain the details of this proposed increase.

n/a

- Please explain how the increase in self-help services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

n/a

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

n/a

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore court reporting services.**

- Please explain how increased court reporting services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

n/a

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

n/a

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore specialty court(s).**

- Please describe the specialty court(s) to be maintained, increased or restored.

n/a

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

n/a

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

n/a

Using as much additional space as you need, answer the following questions:

- Explain any other ways Humboldt intends to restore, maintain, or increase public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

n/a

- What additional information would you like to add about the use of your court's share of the \$60 million augmentation?

Increasing the workday for all Legal Process Clerks and Courtroom Clerks is subject to 'meet & confer' requirements with our union partners. If the increase in work hours per day is unsuccessful, the Court will use the funding to unfreeze three of eight frozen Legal Process Clerk positions.

Both the initial plan of increasing the workday and the backup plan of unfreezing positions will utilize almost all the reinvestment funding allocated to the Court.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Since our plan requires cooperation with our union partners, once we make this change, reversing the action would also be subject to 'meet & confer' requirements. If funding is reduced after this fiscal year, we will likely lay off staff and need to again reduce operating hours for courtrooms, public telephones, and public counters.

- What are your projected revenues and expenditures for NEXT fiscal year (2014-15)?

FY14-15 Revenues: \$7,312,085. FY14-15 Expenses: \$8,371,339.

Approximate 1% Reserve = \$ 70,191

FY14-15 Structural Deficit = \$ -1,059,254

FY14-15 Potential Shortfall = \$ -989,063

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**Superior Court of California,
County of IMPERIAL
FY 2013-14
Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$282,675**

There are a number of ways to maintain or increase public access to justice. Check all that are appropriate AND please provide as detailed an explanation for each as you can:

**PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TYPING DIRECTLY INTO THIS
TEMPLATE. TRANSMIT YOUR COMPLETED WORD DOCUMENT TO
andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov BY/BEFORE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, AUG. 22ND.**

___ We will avoid (or limit) previously planned staffing reductions.

- Please explain how many positions you will avoid reducing.

We will avoid reducing 10 positions through a combination of the new funding and the closure of 3 locations.

- Please describe the kinds of positions you will avoid reducing.

Clerical positions that provide direct public services and document processing.

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice in applicable divisions of your court or courthouse(s).

This action will allow us to shorten the waiting time in the phone center and public service counters. This action will give us additional resources to complete case files which allows the public access to a more complete file.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

It is likely that we will continue with this action beyond the current fiscal year. The extent to which the listed actions above are temporary will be based upon the State's ability to continue current funding levels and to fund the increased cost of benefits and other expenses (funding to match inflation).

___ We will avoid (or limit) previously planned courtroom closures.

- Please explain what types of hearings will be maintained.

We will not re-open closed courtrooms. It was not efficient to maintain the three locations that were closed.

- Please describe the impact on the public by keeping open a courtroom planned for closure.

Not applicable,

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Not applicable

_____ We will avoid previously planned courthouse closures.

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you are able to avoid closing.

We do not have any additional closures planned.

- Please explain the impact on the public by keeping open this/these courthouse(s).

Not applicable

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Not applicable

_____ We will maintain, increase or restore public telephone hours.

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Because of past funding reductions, the Court reduced staff in the Call Center which resulted in long wait times. The additional funding has allowed us to increase staff in the call center, which has shortened the waiting time and has resulted in improved customer service.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

It is likely that we will continue with this action beyond the current fiscal year. The extent to which the listed actions above are temporary will be determined based upon the State's ability to continue current funding levels and to fund the increased cost of benefits and other expenses (funding to match inflation).

_____ We will maintain, increase or restore court clerk hours.

- Please explain what kinds of court clerk duties will be maintained, increased or restored.

Imperial reduced hours in one outlying location to better match the public service need. In this location, service hours were reduced from five days per week to three days per week. Imperial will maintain the three day schedule.

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Not applicable.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

It is likely that we will continue with this action beyond the current fiscal year. The extent to which the listed actions above are temporary will be determined based upon the State's ability to continue current funding levels and to fund the increased cost of benefits and other expenses (funding to match inflation).

_____ We will devote resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.

- Please explain the areas of backlog that will be addressed.

File completion for all case types. Reporting dispositions on a timely basis. Processing and reporting cases where the party did not comply on a timely basis.

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog will maintain or increase public access to justice.

The additional funding has allowed Imperial to restore 9 clerical positions. These positions serve the public in our call center and public counters. They also complete back-office processing in Infractions, Civil, Criminal and Accounting. Additional staffing allows us to ensure that the courtroom file will be more complete for courtroom proceedings, for public access and to ensure fairness. Accurately completing the file on a timely basis fulfills one of the primary requirements of the Court.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

It is likely that we will continue with this action beyond the current fiscal year. The extent to which the listed actions above are temporary will be determined based upon the State's ability to continue current funding levels and to fund the increased cost of benefits and other expenses (funding to match inflation).

_____ We will suspend employee furloughs.

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice.

The only furloughs that Imperial has implemented were the legislatively mandated furloughs.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Not Applicable

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore services in our self-help center.**

- Please explain the details of this proposed increase.

The additional funding will allow us to restore one of the two staff reductions in the self-help center.

- Please explain how the increase in self-help services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Because of the staff reduction, we had days when the Access Center was closed to for public service. This will allow the self-help center to provide services to both the family courtroom and the self help center.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

It is likely that we will continue with this action beyond the current fiscal year. The extent to which the listed actions above are temporary will be determined based upon the State's ability to continue current funding levels and to fund the increased cost of benefits and other expenses (funding to match inflation).

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore court reporting services.**

- Please explain how increased court reporting services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

We will not increase court reporting services to prior levels. The Court only reports mandatory proceedings

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

The replenishment of court reporting services cannot be considered until the replenishment of funding for staff is accomplished.

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore specialty court(s).**

- Please describe the specialty court(s) to be maintained, increased or restored.

Imperial does not have specialty courts

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Not applicable

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Not applicable

Using as much additional space as you need, answer the following questions:

- Explain any other ways Imperial intends to restore, maintain, or increase public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

Augmenting staffing is the most critical need.

- What additional information would you like to add about the use of your court's share of the \$60 million augmentation?

The Court and community are very grateful for the additional funding.

As grave as the reduction in trial court funding is, equally grave is the inability to retain fund balance at 6-30-14. Our court entered into a needed long term lease in 2009 as Imperial had the dollars in the fund balance to fund future lease payments. The sweeping of the fund balance, designated for this contractual commitment, will cause Imperial to use budget funding to make lease payments and will reduce staff for public service.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Actions to improve customer service are dependent upon continued funding to maintain staff levels. We would like to report that actions are temporary or permanent, but as there are so many unknowns related to trial court funding, we cannot report that our actions are permanent. We can report that we have identified the replenishment of staff as the top priority and we believe funding for staff is critical, to serve the public, and to maintain a fair and impartial judicial system.

- What are your projected revenues and expenditures for NEXT fiscal year (2014-15)?

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AS WE PREPARE THIS SURVEY. AS A REMINDER, PLEASE SUBMIT THIS COMPLETED FORM TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov ON OR BEFORE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 22. PLEASE CALL ANDI AT 916-323-3121 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

**Superior Court of California,
County of INYO
FY 2013-14
Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$50,201**

There are a number of ways to maintain or increase public access to justice. Check all that are appropriate AND please provide as detailed an explanation for each as you can:

**PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TYPING DIRECTLY INTO THIS TEMPLATE.
TRANSMIT YOUR COMPLETED WORD DOCUMENT TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov BY/BEFORE
CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 22ND.**

 We will avoid (or limit) previously planned staffing reductions.

- Please explain how many positions you will avoid reducing.

Type your response here

- Please describe the kinds of positions you will avoid reducing.

Type your response here

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice in applicable divisions of your court or courthouse(s).

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

 We will avoid (or limit) previously planned courtroom closures.

- Please explain what types of hearings will be maintained.

Type your response here

- Please describe the impact on the public by keeping open a courtroom planned for closure.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

 We will avoid previously planned courthouse closures.

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you are able to avoid closing.

Type your response here

- Please explain the impact on the public by keeping open this/these courthouse(s).

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

We will maintain, increase or restore public telephone hours.

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

We will maintain, increase or restore court clerk hours.

- Please explain what kinds of court clerk duties will be maintained, increased or restored.

Type your response here

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

X We will devote resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.

- Please explain the areas of backlog that will be addressed.

The Superior Court of California, County of Inyo receives citations and tickets from various community partners, including, but not limited to: California Highway Patrol (CHP); Inyo County Sheriff Department; City of Bishop Police Department; Department of Fish and Wildlife. With Inyo County being the second largest geographically expansive County in California, we receive numerous tickets, especially since the Highway 395 corridor runs North/South through our County.

With 5.75 unfilled positions at present- and with 4.75 being clerk/clerical- the backlog on ticket and citation entry has been tremendous. Previously, our .75 clerical position did nothing but enter citations and tickets all day long, freeing up clerks to process other documents and clerk court proceedings. With that position, it took approximately 2-4 days for tickets, once received by the Superior Court of California, County of Inyo, to be entered into our case management system, and courtesy/traffic notices to be sent out to the cited/ticketed party.

The Court clerks are down 28% in staffing, while workload and calendars remain constant- if not more busy. Therefore, tickets and citations have become backlogged, with parties having to wait up to about 14 business days for the citation/ticket to be entered, and a traffic/citation courtesy notice mailed to their address on file.

With the \$50,201 of additional reinvestment funding (or \$49,517 using a 15/85 Allocation under the revised 2013/2014 WAFM), we will be able to hire a very temporary five-month, 25-hour-a-week Temporary Office Assistant to assist the clerks in the citation and data entry so that courtesy notices can be sent out to court users in a more timely manner. This five-month, limited term position will be with the Court from mid-August 2013 through mid-January 2013, which is when we experience the highest volume of traffic tickets (ski season).

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Approximately 93% of last year's recipients of citations and traffic tickets are residents of other counties, states, and countries who are using Inyo's highway system for transportation, or our beautiful landscape for recreational purposes. After receiving a ticket or citation, many citation/traffic ticket recipients wish to take care of the problem immediately, either attending traffic school or sending in bail to get this off their mind and try to clear their record.

Court users become very frustrated when they call the Superior Court of California, County of Inyo and are constantly told that the ticket or citation is not yet entered into the system, and therefore they must call back or follow-up at a later date or time. They feel ignored by the Court, and feel that the Court doesn't view their problem with any respect

since it hasn't taken the time to enter the ticket. The public doesn't understand the backlog and the time that ticket/citation entry takes for staff. When the public doesn't get the answers that they want- or the information that they need- their public trust and confidence in the court is greatly diminished.

By having a devoted part-time citation/traffic ticket entry clerk, our backlog will lessen, and perhaps we will be able to answer questions more timely and assist court callers when they initially call, so that they can more promptly access the court system to take care of their bail, financial obligations, or traffic school commitments.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Without additional funding, this position can only be funded for five months, and will terminate mid-January 2014. It is, and always has been, considered temporary and only possible because of this additional funding. While the Superior Court of California, County of Inyo would love to maintain the position, we cannot given the significant reduction in allocation that we will experience in 2014-2015 given the Governor's budget and the New Funding Methodology.

We will suspend employee furloughs.

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

X We will maintain, increase or restore services in our self-help center.

- Please explain the details of this proposed increase.

The Inyo County Self-Help Center is a full-time, highly-utilized office in Bishop, CA; it is staffed by the Self-Help Director/Family Law Facilitator/Small Claims Advisor attorney and her full-time staff of one clerical/paralegal assistant. The entire office is run by these two individuals: one attorney and one clerical person. There are no other free legal services or non-profits in the County with similar resources for court users seeking legal assistance.

Despite the Self-Help and Family Law Facilitator grants received by the Superior Court of California, County of Inyo, the Superior Court of California, the minimum amount of money necessary to operate the Self-Help Center is \$25,612.66 annually over the grant

allocations. This underfunded \$25,612.66 has traditionally been covered from the Superior Court of California, County of Inyo's baseline funding and reserves. Now, with the budget reductions, we must look at all avenues of Court expenses and determine if we can actually maintain these excellent programs since everything has been reduced. In looking at where to cut, we had to look at possibly reducing the Self-Help Center to recover the \$25,612.66 that we have been covering out of baseline. This money could go to staffing and to cover the growing vacancy rate of staff.

With the \$50,201 reinvestment money (or \$49,517 using a 15/85 Allocation under the revised 2013/2014 WAFM), we will be able to keep this underfunded grant program for this year.

The Court will need continued reinvestment money from 2014-2015 to keep up this necessary and highly-used program in Inyo County. Our current allocation on the grant is inadequate.

The Court is concerned that future budget reductions, which would force us to cut the program's budget, may result in loss of a very talented and patient self-help/family law facilitator lawyer. In Inyo County, attorneys qualified for this program can be counted on one hand, and it is very possible that no attorney would want or be willing to continue to the program if there was a reduction.

- Please explain how the increase in self-help services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

The Self-Help Services will be maintained at the level that they are currently at (one attorney and one clerical staff person), and there will be no reduction or additions to the program. The reinvest money will keep things at status quo. This is important since the Inyo Legal Self Help Center is the only free legal service in Inyo County, and no similar organizations, non-profits, or attorney offer similar resources for court users.

In the last three months, the self-help center/family law facilitator has assisted an average of 170 litigants each month. This is remarkable in a County of 18,000 individuals. The Self-help center is highly utilized and respected, and without it, many of our rural citizens would probably go without any legal assistance, and therefore not access the Courts. The availability of the self-help center and their staff increases the public's access to court processes, court forms, and ultimately to seek the justice they seek. Their public trust and confidence in the court system as a whole is increased by having a free center that helps guide them and show them how to navigate the court forms and processes.

It is important to note that the self-help center/family law facilitator services are vital for the Court, as well. The lack of, or reduction to, self help center services adversely impacts Court Operations. Without this crucial program, we would see incomplete paperwork, confused litigants, and court users who don't know what to expect in Court. Incomplete pleadings, or those not prepared properly, negatively impact the Court as it takes more clerk and court time- clerks must often answer additional questions, and judges do not get the full picture of the issues when not assisted by the self-help office. Incomplete paperwork- or paperwork where essential items are missing- can tremendously impact and compromise the quality of justice that the Court provides.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

This is a temporary fix to an ongoing problem.

With the \$50,201 reinvestment money (or \$49,517 using a 15/85 Allocation under the revised 2013/2014 WAFM), we will be able to keep this underfunded grant program for this year (2013-2014). The Court is very worried about funding in 2014-2015 and beyond. The Court will need continued reinvestment money from 2014-2015 to keep up this necessary and highly-used program in Inyo County. Our current allocation on the grant is inadequate.

The Court is concerned that future budget reductions, which would force us to cut the program's budget, may result in loss of a very talented and patient self-help/family law facilitator lawyer. In Inyo County, attorneys qualified for this program can be counted on one hand, and it is very possible that no attorney would want or be willing to continue to the program if there was a reduction.

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore court reporting services.**

- Please explain how increased court reporting services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore specialty court(s).**

- Please describe the specialty court(s) to be maintained, increased or restored.

Type your response here

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

Using as much additional space as you need, answer the following questions:

- Explain any other ways Inyo intends to restore, maintain, or increase public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

Inyo's portion of the reinvestment money-- \$50,201 (or \$49,517 using a 15/85 Allocation under the revised 2013/2014 WAFM)—will only cover the underfunded portion of the Self-Help/Family Law Facilitator program (approximately \$25,612.66) with the remainder going to a temporary five-month office assistant position to assist with ticket and citation backlog. The ways that these two expenditures increase public access to justice have been described, above.

- What additional information would you like to add about the use of your court's share of the \$60 million augmentation?

The Superior Court of California, County of Inyo hopes that this reinvestment money will continue- if not increase- for the betterment of the public. Cutting services like self-help or going back to a ticket/citation backlog only reduces the public's trust and confidence in the justice system.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

As explained above, the temporary office assistant for citation entry AND covering the underfunded self-help center are temporary for this year only, until we see if this reinvestment money will be renewed next year.

- What are your projected revenues and expenditures for NEXT fiscal year (2014-15)?

This is based on our best guess without knowing the true allocation we will receive from the AOC and State.

Anticipated revenues for 2014-2015: \$1,923,854
Anticipated necessary minimal expenses \$2,535,815

We are looking at having to reduce operations, salaries, and staffing by approximately \$600,000, which will mean more departing employees and cuts to essential and successful programs, like possibly the self-help center, interpreter/language services, reporter availability, and Family Court Services (high conflict child custody cases, child custody evaluation experts).

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AS WE PREPARE THIS SURVEY. AS A REMINDER, PLEASE SUBMIT THIS COMPLETED FORM TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov ON OR BEFORE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 22. PLEASE CALL ANDI AT 916-323-3121 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

**Superior Court of California,
County of KERN
FY 2013-14
Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$1,597,067**

There are a number of ways to maintain or increase public access to justice. Check all that are appropriate AND please provide as detailed an explanation for each as you can:

**PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TYPING DIRECTLY INTO THIS TEMPLATE.
TRANSMIT YOUR COMPLETED WORD DOCUMENT TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov BY/BEFORE
CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 22ND.**

XX **We will avoid (or limit) previously planned staffing reductions.**

- Please explain how many positions you will avoid reducing.

It was anticipated that our court-wide vacancy rate would continue at the 2012-2013 year end level of 26%. However with the \$1.5 Million allocated to Kern, our court will be able to maintain a future vacancy rate of 23% or -115 positions in 2013-2014. This will mean that 15 fewer vacant positions will be necessary to balance the budget this fiscal year. However, the funds are insufficient to address the 46 positions permanently deleted over the past five years or to reduce the vacancy rates enough to address court closures, elimination of court reporters in civil and family law, or improve backlogs. Our goal would be to use the additional positions to increase self-help services, maintain staffing for remaining courtrooms, and modestly adjust court service hours.

- Please describe the kinds of positions you will avoid reducing.

The Kern Superior Court has prioritized utilization of its share of the \$60 Million for self-help and courtroom staff to minimize courtroom and court closures and improved access through court-wide service hour adjustments. As such, it is anticipated: two additional legal assistants will be restored to the Family Law Facilitator and the Civil Self-help services and the filling of 12 positions in operational departments.

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice in applicable divisions of your court or courthouse(s).

The addition of case processing staff will enable the court to address one aspect of access impacted by budget reductions. Phone and counter hours will be increased Monday through Thursday from current closure time of 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM. Estimates indicate that an additional 10 to 15 positions would be required to enable the Court to eliminate the current noon closures on Fridays.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Conservative estimates of increases in court employee benefit costs are between 2% and 3.5% for 2014-2015. As such, without sufficient resources to offset these increased costs, the benefits from the infusion of the \$60 Million access funding will quickly be eroded. Thus, the court will be required to reduce staffing through attrition—voluntary separation programs will not be feasible due to the elimination of local reserve funds—which will ultimately necessitate the implementation of telephone and counter hour reductions and an additional round of court/courtroom closures to compensate for staffing shortages. The access improvements in 2013-2014 will prove unsustainable by the end of the 2014-2015 fiscal year-end (Note: \$.925 Million shortfall in the following forecast).

XX We will avoid (or limit) previously planned courtroom closures.

- Please explain what types of hearings will be maintained.

Kern Superior Court in 2013 closed a “fast track” unlimited civil courtroom due to vacancies in the legal research department and case processing staff reductions (Vacancies in the Civil Processing Department for the Metro court facility are at 27.5%.) In 1992, three “fast track” courtrooms were assigned to address the case delays in the unlimited civil area. The allocation successfully reduced time-to-disposition from as long as five years to no greater than eighteen (18) months on average.

Although the courts tried to cope with the increased workload due to the reduction of courtrooms by one-third with rescheduling and automation of law and motion calendaring, backlogs immediately occurred as a result of the elimination of the third fast track court. Filing-to-disposition time frames were beginning to stretch such that estimated dispositions were extending to as much as 36-months.

The addition of a legal research attorney and the reduction of unlimited case processing staff vacancies will combine to help maintain backlogs at 24 months or less, if workload remains constant with current year trends.

- Please describe the impact on the public by keeping open a courtroom planned for closure.

Ensuring a third fast track courtroom remains open will keep case disposition times within 24-months. Individuals that have been injured in car accidents, business that have contractual and other similar disputes, and local constituents with med-mal cases can anticipate their cases being resolved in a reasonable time avoiding bankruptcy due to unpaid medical bills and other similar problems related to protracted litigation.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Conservative estimates of increases in court employee benefit costs are between 2% and 3.5% for 2014-2015. As such, without sufficient resources to offset these increased costs, the benefits from the infusion of the \$60 Million access funding will quickly be eroded. Thus, the court will be required to reduce staffing through attrition—voluntary separation programs will not be feasible due to the elimination of local reserve funds—which will ultimately necessitate the implementation of telephone and counter hour reductions and an additional round of court/courtroom closures to compensate for staffing shortages. The access improvements in 2013-2014 will prove unsustainable by the end of the 2014-2015 fiscal year-end (Note: \$.925 Million shortfall in the following forecast).

___ We will avoid previously planned courthouse closures.

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you are able to avoid closing.

No, Kern's share of the \$60 Million will not be enough to reverse the closure of one court facility in the Kern River Regional Court (closed in June) or the reduction of service days from five (5) to one (1) for the Taft Regional Court scheduled for September 2013.

- Please explain the impact on the public by keeping open this/these courthouse(s).

Not Applicable.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Conservative estimates of increases in court employee benefit costs are between 2% and 3.5% for 2014-2015. As such, without sufficient resources to offset these increased costs, the benefits from the infusion of the \$60 Million access funding will quickly be eroded. Thus, the court will be required to reduce staffing through attrition—voluntary separation programs will not be feasible due to the elimination of local reserve funds—which will ultimately necessitate the implementation of telephone and counter hour reductions and an additional round of court/courtroom closures to compensate for staffing shortages. The access improvements in 2013-2014 will prove unsustainable by the end of the 2014-2015 fiscal year-end (Note: \$.925 Million shortfall in the following forecast).

XX We will maintain, increase or restore public telephone hours.

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Telephone hours will be restored by 50% due to the reduction of vacancies in our operational departments.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Conservative estimates of increases in court employee benefit costs are between 2% and 3.5% for 2014-2015. As such, without sufficient resources to offset these increased costs, the benefits from the infusion of the \$60 Million access funding will quickly be eroded. Thus, the court will be required to reduce staffing through attrition—voluntary separation programs will not be feasible due to the elimination of local reserve funds—which will ultimately necessitate the implementation of telephone and counter hour reductions and an additional round of court/courtroom closures to compensate for staffing shortages. The access improvements in 2013-2014 will prove unsustainable by the end of the 2014-2015 fiscal year-end (Note: \$.925 Million shortfall in the following forecast).

XX We will maintain, increase or restore court clerk hours.

- Please explain what kinds of court clerk duties will be maintained, increased or restored.

Counter service hours will be restored by 50% by decreasing the vacancy rates in the Court operational and regional offices.

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Court service reductions necessitated by budget reductions have included increased vacancies, reduced hours, courtroom closures, court facility closures, and increased backlogs. The court, after restoring some of the cuts to self-help services, plans to use the remaining allocation to impact the largest amount of court users as possible. This will be achieved by reducing vacancy rates in the regional and metro operational units. These vacancy reductions will help restore service hours by 50%.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Conservative estimates of increases in court employee benefit costs are between 2% and 3.5% for 2014-2015. As such, without sufficient resources to offset these increased costs, the benefits from the infusion of the \$60 Million access funding will quickly be eroded. Thus, the court will be required to reduce staffing through attrition—voluntary separation programs will not be feasible due to the elimination of local reserve funds—which will ultimately necessitate the implementation of telephone and counter hour reductions and an additional round of court/courtroom closures to compensate for staffing shortages. The access improvements in 2013-2014 will prove unsustainable by the end of the 2014-2015 fiscal year-end (Note: \$.925 Million shortfall in the following forecast).

___ **We will devote resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.**

- Please explain the areas of backlog that will be addressed.

With the exception of the aforementioned unlimited civil department, it is anticipated the court will be able to maintain current backlogs. Reducing backlogs will not be feasible without a decrease in vacancy rates to 12 to 15%.

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Maintaining backlogs at current levels will still result in significant delays in family law and limited civil, particularly unlawful detainer, cases.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Conservative estimates of increases in court employee benefit costs are between 2% and 3.5% for 2014-2015. As such, without sufficient resources to offset these increased costs, the benefits from the infusion of the \$60 Million access funding will quickly be eroded. Thus, the court will be required to reduce staffing through attrition—voluntary separation programs will not be feasible due to the elimination of local reserve funds—which will ultimately necessitate the implementation of telephone and counter hour reductions and an additional round of court/courtroom closures to compensate for staffing shortages. The access improvements in 2013-2014 will prove unsustainable by the end of the 2014-2015 fiscal year-end (Note: \$.925 Million shortfall in the following forecast).

___ **We will suspend/avoid employee furloughs.**

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice.

Given the significant vacancies and reductions in workforce realized over the last five years of budget cuts, Kern's goal has been to avoid furloughs which would exacerbate service problems. As such, no furloughs were planned for the budget year 2013-2014.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Not applicable.

XX_ We will maintain, increase or restore services in our self-help center.

- Please explain the details of this proposed increase.

The restoration of services to the Family Law Facilitator and the Self-Help Center are a top priority for the Court. Approximately 15% of the \$1.5 million in "access funding" will be allocated to the self-help programs knowing their positive impact on the preparation of pro per litigants.

- Please explain how the increase in self-help services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

The great majority of family law litigants and a growing portion of limited civil litigants conduct their court business without benefit of counsel. As such, their knowledge of the court process and the quality of their court documents is contingent on access to self-help services provided mostly by the Superior Court. If these litigants can be provided levels of service commensurate with prior years, lines and courtroom waits will be reduced because the necessity for the litigant to return over-and-over again to remedy mistakes or oversights is reduced. They will more likely comply with statutory obligations, filing requirements, and other similar processing needs to ensure that productive court time is maximized and continuances minimized.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Self-help services will be maintained. Kern uses general operations funding to backfill/subsidize AB 1058 funding which has not kept pace with service demand. Cost increases for employee benefits and the lack of local court reserves could jeopardize service improvements and result in implementation of hour's reductions and self-help service constraints.

___ We will maintain, increase or restore court reporting services.

- Please explain how increased court reporting services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

No, the latest round of budget reductions resulted in the elimination of court provided reporters in unlimited civil, probate and family law. Kern's share of the \$60 Million is insufficient to return this level of service given other service priorities.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

The elimination of court reporter services in unlimited civil, probate and family law is indefinite. Given forecasts based on ongoing baseline funding cuts, coupled with normal operational and personnel cost increases in future years, fiscal resources will be dedicated to maintaining mandatory services.

_____ We will maintain, increase or restore specialty court(s).

- Please describe the specialty court(s) to be maintained, increased or restored.

With the exception of the Prop 36 court, all of our specialty courts are operated on a part-time basis. They include a veteran's court, a homeless court, and a juvenile drug court. Their part-time status will allow them to be maintained at current service levels based on current funding levels.

The Prop 36 court has been scaled back significantly due to budget reductions. Regular follow-up by the court to ensure compliance of litigants with drug, domestic violence and anger management training programs have been all been scaled back or eliminated. At this time, the Prop 36 court will remain at status quo assuming no additional funding reductions and the current anticipated allocation from the \$60 Million for other priorities.

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Not applicable.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Conservative estimates of increases in court employee benefit costs are between 2% and 3.5% for 2014-2015. As such, without sufficient resources to offset these increased costs, the benefits from the infusion of the \$60 Million access funding will quickly be eroded. Thus, the court will be required to reduce staffing through attrition—voluntary separation programs will not be feasible due to the elimination of local reserve funds—which will ultimately necessitate the implementation of telephone an, counter hour reductions and an additional round of court/courtroom closures to compensate for staffing shortages. The access improvements in 2013-2014 will prove unsustainable by the end of the 2014-2015 fiscal year-end (Note: \$.925 Million shortfall in the following forecast).

Using as much additional space as you need, answer the following questions:

- Explain any other ways Kern intends to restore, maintain, or increase public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

Not applicable.

- What additional information would you like to add about the use of your court's share of the \$60 million augmentation?

The improved access to court services realized due to Kern's share of the \$60 Million will be short term in nature, if funding for personnel and benefits cost increases are not forthcoming in the next (2014-2015) and future fiscal years.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Conservative estimates of increases in court employee benefit costs are between 2% and 3.5% for 2014-2015. As such, without sufficient resources to offset these increased costs, the benefits from the infusion of the \$60 Million access funding will quickly be eroded. Thus, the court will be required to reduce staffing through attrition—voluntary separation programs will not be feasible due to the elimination of local reserve funds—which will ultimately necessitate the implementation of telephone an, counter hour reductions and an additional round of court/courtroom closures to compensate for staffing shortages. The access improvements in 2013-2014 will prove unsustainable by the end of the 2014-2015 fiscal year-end (Note: \$.925 Million shortfall in the following forecast).

- What are your projected revenues and expenditures for NEXT fiscal year (2014-15)?

Kern Superior Court	2014-2015
Baseline	\$ 30,203,398
Baseline Adjustments	\$ 3,685,149
Other Revenues	\$ 16,962,093
Holdback	\$ (812,000)
Total Revenues	\$ 50,038,640
Salaries	\$ 22,614,792
Health Costs	\$ 5,396,252
Pension	\$ 10,128,175
Other Personnel Costs	\$ 2,594,650
Subtotal Salary and Benefits	\$ 40,733,869
Operating Expenses	\$ 8,811,073
Information Tech Expenses	\$ 954,945
Jury Costs	\$ 463,964
Subtotal Operational Expenses	\$ 10,229,982
Total Expenses	\$ 50,963,851
Net Revenue - Expenses	\$ (925,211)

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**Superior Court of California,
County of KINGS
FY 2013-14**

Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$215,869

There are a number of ways to maintain or increase public access to justice. Check all that are appropriate AND please provide as detailed an explanation for each as you can:

**PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TYPING DIRECTLY INTO THIS TEMPLATE.
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CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 22ND.**

YES - We will avoid (or limit) previously planned staffing reductions.

- Please explain how many positions you will avoid reducing.

With the restoration of our share of the \$60M we avoided further reductions in staffing by an additional 2 FTE.

- Please describe the kinds of positions you will avoid reducing.

2-3 FTE from management/supervisory positions were retained.

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice in applicable divisions of your court or courthouse(s).

The Court will continue to maintain oversight and management of operations at its current diminished level without any further degradation.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Any action taken in FY 2013-14 is temporary. Actions in FY 2014-15 will be determined by future funding restoration and whether the 1% limitation on future fund balances is eased.

NA - We will avoid (or limit) previously planned courtroom closures.

- Please explain what types of hearings will be maintained.

There were no planned courtroom closures in FY 2013-14.

- Please describe the impact on the public by keeping open a courtroom planned for closure.

We had planned for the possible closure of the Avenal Courthouse if we did not receive any funding. If we were to close this facility, we would not be able to provide immediate services to over 7000 individuals in that area. They have received over \$600,000.00 in revenues from criminal/misdemeanor and traffic violations. The Courthouse is available to those individuals

who speed on I5 and are cited by the California Highway Patrol, the Avenal Police and the Kings County Sheriff.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.
- *Type your response here—N/A*

YES - We will avoid previously planned courthouse closures.

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you are able to avoid closing.

The Court will continue to maintain operations in the Avenal Courthouse at its current service level for this fiscal year and continue to monitor the financial impact of operating this facility. Without additional funding, the Court may still be forced to close this facility and consolidate operations in Hanford in FY 2014-15.

- Please explain the impact on the public by keeping open this/these courthouse(s).

The Avenal Courthouse is on the west side of Interstate 5 and serves an isolated community with limited public transportation options. Any closure of the Avenal Courthouse will force the citizens of that community as well as law enforcement personnel to drive 45 miles for appearances in Hanford.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Any action taken in FY 2013-14 is temporary. Actions in FY 2014-15 will be determined by future funding restoration and whether the 1% limitation on future fund balances is eased.

YES - We will maintain, increase or restore public telephone hours.

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

The funding received precluded further reductions in this service level component; thereby, the Court has maintained its current operational hours for telephonic assistance.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Any action taken in FY 2013-14 is temporary. Actions in FY 2014-15 will be determined by future funding restoration and whether the limitation on future fund balances is restricted to 1%.

YES - We will maintain, increase or restore court clerk hours.

- Please explain what kinds of court clerk duties will be maintained, increased or restored.

The funding received precluded further reductions in this service level component; thereby, the Court has maintained its current operational hours for front counter functions and back-end case processing.

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

N/A as front counter/courthouse lobby hours were not restored to full-day status.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Any action taken in FY 2013-14 is temporary. Actions in FY 2014-15 will be determined by future funding restoration and whether the 1% limitation on future fund balances is eased.

N/A - We will devote resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.

- Please explain the areas of backlog that will be addressed.

The Court was able to reduce mandatory furloughs from 27 days to 21 days. With the reduction in mandatory furlough days, personnel in the civil, criminal and traffic divisions are more readily available to staff public windows and to work on decreasing the mounting backlog in case processing.

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Any reduction in our case processing backlog results in timelier dispositions of many case filing categories, particularly family law matters, civil case types and traffic citations.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Any action taken in FY 2013-14 is temporary. Actions in FY 2014-15 will be determined by future funding restoration and whether the 1% limitation on future fund balances is eased.

NO - We will suspend/avoid employee furloughs.

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice.

The Court was able to reduce mandatory furloughs from 27 days to 21 days. With the reduction in mandatory furlough days, case processing personnel in civil, criminal and traffic are more readily available to staff public windows and work on the aforementioned caseload backlog.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Any action taken in FY 2013-14 is temporary. Actions in FY 2014-15 will be determined by future funding restoration and whether the 1% limitation on future fund balances is eased.

N/A - We will maintain, increase or restore services in our self-help center.

- Please explain the details of this proposed increase.

Type your response here -- N/A

- Please explain how the increase in self-help services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here-- N/A

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here—N/A

N/A - We will maintain, increase or restore court-reporting services.

- Please explain how increased court reporting services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Court reporting services are contracted.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here—N/A

N/A - We will maintain, increase or restore specialty court(s).

- Please describe the specialty court(s) to be maintained, increased or restored.

Type your response here—N/A

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here—N/A

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here—N/A

Using as much additional space as you need, answer the following questions:

- Explain any other ways KINGS intends to restore, maintain, or increase public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

N/A, as the Court has made full use of its proportionate share of the \$60, as identified herein.

- What additional information would you like to add about the use of your court's share of the \$60 million augmentation?

This Court's share of the \$60M was a welcomed development and permitted us to retain valuable employees while maintaining our current (although degraded) service levels. However, without restoration of historical base funding to the Trial Court Trust Fund (or the elimination of the ongoing \$261M reduction, thereto, Kings will be faced with draconian staffing and "public access to justice" decisions in the coming fiscal year [FY 2014-15].

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Every reported action taken in FY 2013-14 is temporary. Actions in FY 2014-15 will be determined by future funding restoration and whether the 1% limitation on future fund balances is eased.

- What are your projected revenues and expenditures for NEXT fiscal year (2014-15)?

With the additional allocation of approximately \$19,000 in funding for FY 2014-15, it is estimated that Kings revenue for that FY will be approximately \$8.35M while projected expenses are estimated at about \$9.24M, with a resultant structural deficit of (\$880,000). The Court is prepared to mitigate this shortfall with the increased imposition of 24 furlough days (yielding a Salary & Benefits savings estimated at \$463,000) and anticipates the layoff and/or retirement of a minimum of two (2) additional management-level employees (with an estimated first year savings of \$143,500). Despite these severe measures, Kings Superior Court still anticipates a deficit of (\$267,500).

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**Superior Court of California,
County of LAKE
FY 2013-14
Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$89,607**

There are a number of ways to maintain or increase public access to justice. Check all that are appropriate AND please provide as detailed an explanation for each as you can:

**PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TYPING DIRECTLY INTO THIS TEMPLATE.
TRANSMIT YOUR COMPLETED WORD DOCUMENT TO andi.lichenbaum@jud.ca.gov BY/BEFORE
CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 22ND.**

___ We will avoid (or limit) previously planned staffing reductions.

- Please explain how many positions you will avoid reducing.

Type your response here

- Please describe the kinds of positions you will avoid reducing.

Type your response here

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice in applicable divisions of your court or courthouse(s).

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ We will avoid (or limit) previously planned courtroom closures.

- Please explain what types of hearings will be maintained.

Type your response here

- Please describe the impact on the public by keeping open a courtroom planned for closure.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ We will avoid previously planned courthouse closures.

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you are able to avoid closing.

Type your response here

- Please explain the impact on the public by keeping open this/these courthouse(s).

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

 We will maintain, increase or restore public telephone hours.

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

 X **We will maintain, increase or restore court clerk hours.**

- Please explain what kinds of court clerk duties will be maintained, increased or restored.

Lake Superior Court's portion of the \$60 million in new funding will allow the court in Fiscal Year 13/14 to eliminate 16 court closure days. It is important to note that Lake's portion of the new funding after the matching "reallocation" of historic funding is \$57,417. This amount represents approximately half of the cost to eliminate the 16 closure days. The court will use a portion of reserves (fund balance) to cover the remaining cost.

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Eliminating the 16 closure days will allow the public to contact the court by phone, talk to a clerk in person at the public counter and/or have their case heard before a judge 16 more days than they were able to do so in Fiscal Year 12/13.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Despite having reduced staffing levels over 30% and reduced overall expenditures by over \$1.4 million over the last four years, Lake Superior Court is facing a structural deficit of approximately \$375,000 in Fiscal Year 14/15. Therefore, without a significant amount of new money in Fiscal Year 14/15, the court will be forced to take additional cost saving measures, which will likely include reinstating these court closure days, additional layoffs, and possibly closure of a courthouse. All of these actions will absolutely result in a reduction in the public's access to justice.

_____ We will devote resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.

- Please explain the areas of backlog that will be addressed.

Type your response here

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

X We will suspend employee furloughs.

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice.

See responses above. The court closure days were furlough days for staff.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

_____ We will maintain, increase or restore services in our self-help center.

- Please explain the details of this proposed increase.

Type your response here

- Please explain how the increase in self-help services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore court reporting services.**

- Please explain how increased court reporting services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore specialty court(s).**

- Please describe the specialty court(s) to be maintained, increased or restored.

Type your response here

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

Using as much additional space as you need, answer the following questions:

- Explain any other ways Lake intends to restore, maintain, or increase public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

Type your response here

- What additional information would you like to add about the use of your court's share of the \$60 million augmentation?

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

As mentioned above, eliminating the court closure/furlough days is likely temporary, given the projected deficit Lake Court faces in Fiscal Year 14/15.

- What are your projected revenues and expenditures for NEXT fiscal year (2014-15)?

Total projected revenues for Fiscal Year 14/15 are \$3,583,918 and projected expenses are \$3,958,881, leaving the court with a projected deficit of \$374,963.

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Superior Court of California,

County of LASSEN

FY 2013-14

Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$68,479

There are a number of ways to maintain or increase public access to justice. Check all that are appropriate AND please provide as detailed an explanation for each as you can:

PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TYPING DIRECTLY INTO THIS TEMPLATE.
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CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 22ND.

___ We will avoid (or limit) previously planned staffing reductions.

- Please explain how many positions you will avoid reducing.

n/a

- Please describe the kinds of positions you will avoid reducing.

n/a

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice in applicable divisions of your court or courthouse(s).

n/a

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

n/a

___ We will avoid (or limit) previously planned courtroom closures.

- Please explain what types of hearings will be maintained.

n/a

- Please describe the impact on the public by keeping open a courtroom planned for closure.

n/a

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

n/a

___ **We will avoid previously planned courthouse closures.**

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you are able to avoid closing.

n/a

- Please explain the impact on the public by keeping open this/these courthouse(s).

n/a

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

n/a

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore public telephone hours.**

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.
- *This action will allow our court to avoid further reductions of telephone and filing window services for the fiscal year of 2013-14.*

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

- *This action is limited to approximately one fiscal year as the court is unable to fund beyond that with only 1% reserve. That figure for our court is approximately \$35,000 which is not enough to cover one payroll cycle.*

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore court clerk hours.**

- Please explain what kinds of court clerk duties will be maintained, increased or restored.

n/a

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

n/a

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

n/a

___ **We will devote resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.**

- Please explain the areas of backlog that will be addressed.

n/a

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog will maintain or increase public access to justice.

n/a

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

n/a

____ **We will suspend/avoid employee furloughs.**

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice.

n/a

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

n/a

____ **We will maintain, increase or restore services in our self-help center.**

- Please explain the details of this proposed increase.

n/a

- Please explain how the increase in self-help services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

n/a

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

n/a

____ **We will maintain, increase or restore court reporting services.**

- Please explain how increased court reporting services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

n/a

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

n/a

___ We will maintain, increase or restore specialty court(s).

- Please describe the specialty court(s) to be maintained, increased or restored.

n/a

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

n/a

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

n/a

Using as much additional space as you need, answer the following questions:

- Explain any other ways Lassen Superior Court intends to restore, maintain, or increase public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

n/a

- What additional information would you like to add about the use of your court's share of the \$60 million augmentation?

n/a

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

n/a

- What are your projected revenues and expenditures for NEXT fiscal year (2014-15)?

Revenue is project at \$2.6M

Expenditures are projected at \$3.1M

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**Superior Court of California,
County of LOS ANGELES
FY 2013-14
Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$17,468,299**

There are a number of ways to maintain or increase public access to justice. Check all that are appropriate AND please provide as detailed an explanation for each as you can:

**PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TYPING DIRECTLY INTO THIS TEMPLATE.
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___ We will avoid (or limit) previously planned staffing reductions.

- Please explain how many positions you will avoid reducing.

Type your response here

- Please describe the kinds of positions you will avoid reducing.

Type your response here

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice in applicable divisions of your court or courthouse(s).

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ We will avoid (or limit) previously planned courtroom closures.

- Please explain what types of hearings will be maintained.

Type your response here

- Please describe the impact on the public by keeping open a courtroom planned for closure.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ We will avoid previously planned courthouse closures.

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you are able to avoid closing.

Type your response here

- Please explain the impact on the public by keeping open this/these courthouse(s).

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

_____ We will maintain, increase or restore public telephone hours.

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

_____ We will maintain, increase or restore court clerk hours.

- Please explain what kinds of court clerk duties will be maintained, increased or restored.

Type your response here

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

_____ We will devote resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.

- Please explain the areas of backlog that will be addressed.

Type your response here

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

X We will suspend or avoid implementing employee furloughs.

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice.

Subsequent to LASC (Court) providing its Budget Snapshot of actions taken to achieve over \$103.2 million of sustainable cost reductions, the Court took additional steps to achieve sustainable cost reductions now totaling over \$159.5 million. Unfortunately, these efforts were not sufficient to fully offset the impact of state funding reductions and unfunded local cost increases.

The Court anticipates receiving \$17.5 of the \$60.0 million augmentation provided in the Budget Act of 2013. The Court is pleased to report these funds will provide “the solution” for the remaining unresolved structural deficit in its operating budget.

The receipt of new funds has enabled the Court to stave off furloughs that would have been necessary once local reserves were reduced to minimal levels. The Court used these funds to avoid between 12 to 17 furlough days that would have been necessary to balance its operating budget without further reductions to operations. Avoiding these furloughs has enabled the Court to remain open and help stabilize efforts to provide access to justice.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

The combination of (1) the implementation of sustainable cost reductions, (2) funds received in the Budget Action of 2013 and (3) use of uncommitted Trial Court Trust Funds to backfill unfunded prior year employee benefit cost increases (e.g. FY 2012-13) will enable the court to continue to operate without further reductions. However, in future fiscal years, LASC may need to consider using furloughs to offset operating shortfalls should the new and/or TCTF backfill funding be discontinued.

Therefore, it is absolutely essential that trial court receive funding for mandatory cost changes (i.e. benefits) to avoid the need for further cost reductions.

___ We will maintain, increase or restore services in our self-help center.

- Please explain the details of this proposed increase.

Type your response here

- Please explain how the increase in self-help services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

_____ We will maintain, increase or restore court reporting services.

- Please explain how increased court reporting services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

_____ We will maintain, increase or restore specialty court(s).

- Please describe the specialty court(s) to be maintained, increased or restored.

Type your response here

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

Using as much additional space as you need, answer the following questions:

- Explain any other ways Los Angeles intends to restore, maintain, or increase public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

Unfortunately, the \$17.5 million from the \$60m augmentation only provides a solution for the remaining unresolved structural deficit in LASC's operating budget. There are not sufficient funds remaining to restore or have a significant impact on service reductions already implemented.

- What additional information would you like to add about the use of your court's share of the \$60 million augmentation?

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.
- What are your projected revenues and expenditures for NEXT fiscal year (2014-15)?

Based on the following assumptions:

1. *No further reductions in State funding nor changes in SB 1732 or 1407 support for court operations*
2. *Continued funding of \$60 million augmentation (On-going)*
3. *Judicial Council approval of Phase II WAFM Allocation (i.e. 15/85)*
4. *No "new" funds for Trial Courts' FY 2013-14 and 2014-15 benefit cost changes*
5. *Discontinue TCTF backfill of unfunded FY 2012-13 benefit cost changes*
6. *July 1 implementation of the 1% reserve requirement with excess reserve funding used to reduce TCTF allocation.*
7. *Return of a minimum of \$7.1 million to LASC from the 2% Emergency Reserve Fund.*

LASC projects revenue and expenditures levels in FY 2014-15 as follows:

\$664.7M - Projected Expenditures

\$641.9M - Anticipated Revenues

(\$ 22.8M) - Operating Deficit

This operating deficit is primarily due to unfunded employee benefits for Fiscal Year 2012-13 through 2014-15.

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**Superior Court of California,
County of MADERA
FY 2013-14
Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$239,028**

There are a number of ways to maintain or increase public access to justice. Check all that are appropriate AND please provide as detailed an explanation for each as you can:

**PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TYPING DIRECTLY INTO THIS TEMPLATE.
TRANSMIT YOUR COMPLETED WORD DOCUMENT TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov BY/BEFORE
CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 22ND.**

___ **We will avoid (or limit) previously planned staffing reductions.**

- Please explain how many positions you will avoid reducing.

Type your response here

- Please describe the kinds of positions you will avoid reducing.

Type your response here

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice in applicable divisions of your court or courthouse(s).

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We will avoid (or limit) previously planned courtroom closures.**

- Please explain what types of hearings will be maintained.

Type your response here

- Please describe the impact on the public by keeping open a courtroom planned for closure.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

X **We will avoid previously planned courthouse closures.**

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you are able to avoid closing.

We will not be closing our Sierra Courthouse which is located 50 miles out of the City of Madera in the town of Bass Lake.

- Please explain the impact on the public by keeping open this/these courthouse(s).

Those individuals who reside in Eastern Madera County will not have to travel 50 miles one way to access justice. This will allow those who would otherwise not seek justice, due to the travel and lack of public transportation to Madera, the ability to have their cases heard close to home.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

If no further reductions are imposed on this court, we will continue to keep the Sierra Court open for the public.

 We will maintain, increase or restore public telephone hours.

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

 We will maintain, increase or restore court clerk hours.

- Please explain what kinds of court clerk duties will be maintained, increased or restored.

Type your response here

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We will devote resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.**

- Please explain the areas of backlog that will be addressed.

Type your response here

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We will suspend/avoid employee furloughs.**

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore services in our self-help center.**

- Please explain the details of this proposed increase.

Type your response here

- Please explain how the increase in self-help services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore court reporting services.**

- Please explain how increased court reporting services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ We will maintain, increase or restore specialty court(s).

- Please describe the specialty court(s) to be maintained, increased or restored.

Type your response here

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

Using as much additional space as you need, answer the following questions:

- Explain any other ways Madera intends to restore, maintain, or increase public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

With the amount Madera will receive from the \$60M we are unable to address additional ways to improve public access.

- What additional information would you like to add about the use of your court's share of the \$60 million augmentation?

Madera's allocation of the \$60M was reduced due to the new allocation methodology. Unfortunately, our allocation only allows us to maintain our off-site location and does not allow us to address all other areas in which public access is restricted due to accumulative on-going reductions the judicial branch has realized. With the courts reserves we have been able to delay cutting many services to the public; however, with the inability to continue to build and use reserves we may be looking at additional cuts to public access beginning next fiscal year.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

If no further reductions are imposed on this court, we will continue to keep the Sierra Court open for the public beyond this fiscal year.

- What are your projected revenues and expenditures for NEXT fiscal year (2014-15)?

Total projected revenues from all sources are \$8,486,924

Total projected expenses from all areas are \$9,500,627

We have a projected shortfall of \$1,013,703 if no further funding increases are realized in FY 2014-15. This shortfall gap will need to be closed with further cuts to court services.

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**Superior Court of California,
County of MARIN
FY 2013-14
Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$340,244**

There are a number of ways to maintain or increase public access to justice. Check all that are appropriate AND please provide as detailed an explanation for each as you can:

**PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TYPING DIRECTLY INTO THIS TEMPLATE.
TRANSMIT YOUR COMPLETED WORD DOCUMENT TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov BY/BEFORE
CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 22ND.**

We will avoid (or limit) previously planned staffing reductions.

- Please explain how many positions you will avoid reducing.

None. The Court has already reduced staffing by nearly 30% and has not recruited any new positions since 2009. No recruitments are planned for 2013/14 at this time and several additional staff retirements are expected in this fiscal year.

- Please describe the kinds of positions you will avoid reducing.

Type your response here

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice in applicable divisions of your court or courthouse(s).

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

We will avoid (or limit) previously planned courtroom closures.

- Please explain what types of hearings will be maintained.

The Court restructured its criminal division in FY 2012/13 to reduce the number of criminal departments from 7 to 5, due to the retirement of two court commissioners whose positions have been eliminated. The Court has no plans to close any additional courtrooms and will not be able to restore judicial positions to previous levels.

- Please describe the impact on the public by keeping open a courtroom planned for closure.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

_____ We will avoid previously planned courthouse closures.

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you are able to avoid closing.

The Court has no plans to close any courthouses.

- Please explain the impact on the public by keeping open this/these courthouse(s).

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

_____ We will maintain, increase or restore public telephone hours.

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

The Court reduced phone hours by 30 minutes each day in each of its two clerk's offices in 2011/12. The Court has no plans to restore the 30 minute reductions at this time.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

_____ We will maintain, increase or restore court clerk hours.

- Please explain what kinds of court clerk duties will be maintained, increased or restored.

The Court reduced the hours in each of its two clerk's offices by 30 minutes each day in 2011/12 to allow time for processing of filings after hours. The Court provides a drop box in Court Administration to ensure that the public is able to file documents and transact business during regular business hours, since the clerk's offices close 30 minutes early. The Court has no plans to restore the clerk's offices' hours at this time.

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We will devote resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.**

- Please explain the areas of backlog that will be addressed.

The Court has no or minimal backlogs, due to significant reengineering of caseload processes in the clerk's offices over the past several years.

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We will suspend/avoid employee furloughs.**

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice.

The Court has not implemented and does not plan to implement furloughs at this time.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore services in our self-help center.**

- Please explain the details of this proposed increase.

The Court has added a staff position to the self help center to better assist the public with procedural questions and the preparation of documents. This additional staff person brings the staffing level to 4.5 FTEs and begins to restore service levels to pre 2008-09, when the self help center had 7 full time staff.

- Please explain how the increase in self-help services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

This increase in staffing will ensure that litigants with critical, often 'safety-net', filings can be done efficiently. Many of the litigants that use the self help center have domestic violence and other restraining orders, unlawful detainer actions, and child custody, child support and visitation matters that have an adverse impact on the safety and security of

families and children. The Court has added a former courtroom clerk to the self help center staff, as the perspective and understanding of court proceedings that this staff person brings to self represented litigants is critical to ensuring that they are well prepared to appear in pro per in their court appearances.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

If funding is not sustained or if further cuts are made, the self help center will be unable to maintain this additional staff person beyond 2013/14. The Court has been sensitive to the needs of those litigants who are living at the margins of society and is committed to doing all that it can to provide timely and effective service to this underserved population. Unless current new funding is sustained and additional funding is made available , the Court will be unable to fulfill its goal of equal access for this population.

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore court reporting services.**

- Please explain how increased court reporting services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

The Court does not plan to restore court reporting in non-mandated areas at this time.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore specialty court(s).**

- Please describe the specialty court(s) to be maintained, increased or restored.

The Court has maintained all specialty courts and will continue to do so as long as the Court and county criminal justice partners determine that have available funds or until we are no longer able to provide our core services in the criminal departments. Specialty courts require additional coordination, specialized resources and a great deal more time to administer than traditional court proceedings, so Marin criminal justice partners will continue to monitor closely whether these innovative courts can be sustained.

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

Using as much additional space as you need, answer the following questions:

- Explain any other ways Marin County Superior Court intends to restore, maintain, or increase public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

The Court has dedicated resources to improving its interactive web presence for the benefit of the public. The Court is modifying its Interactive Voice/Web Response (IVR/IWR) system in jury services to make it easier for jurors to get basic information, postpone service, request medical excusals, file disqualifications, etc. The Court is also improving functionality in the on-line registers of actions in non-confidential civil case types to enable the public to review case activities remotely. If possible, given the Court's limited technology staff resources, the Court plans to add web-pay in criminal cases, as it did last year in traffic cases. This will save the public time and effort in complying with court orders and will reduce the number of personal and telephone interactions currently performed by court staff to take criminal installment payments.

- What additional information would you like to add about the use of your court's share of the \$60 million augmentation?

While the Court received \$340,244 as its pro-rata share of the \$60 million in new state funding, this amount was reduced by \$220,078, due to the impact of the new funding allocation methodology adopted by the Judicial Council. That \$220,078 reduction in Marin was reallocated to other trial courts that are in even more dire circumstances than Marin. Accordingly, the Court actually only received \$120,166 in new funding which it is dedicating entirely to improving public access to justice.

Moreover, also as a result of the new funding model, the Court is receiving a reduction in its base funding of another \$520,264, which is being reallocated to courts that are more severely under resourced than Marin. For these reasons, the Court continues to be challenged to address the dire reductions in service levels resulting from five consecutive years of budget reduction and is unable to fully leverage the impact of the inflow of new money to the court system, as very little of it is slated to come to Marin. Despite Marin's challenges, the Court is encouraged that funding restoration to the trial courts for the purpose of addressing public access deficiencies is a priority for the Legislature and the judicial branch.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

The Court has attempted to take a strategic approach to operationalizing the new funding. Since the Court only received \$120,166, the amount of the new funding limits the Court's ability to restore many public access services. While some of it will be used for a staff position, which cannot be maintained if current funding is not maintained and ongoing funding is not restored, some of the funding is being used to improve technology and self-service for the public, which

requires an up-front investment to develop the technological innovations but can then be maintained for many years with minimal additional funding.

Moreover, and equally critical to the sustainability of the courts, this is the final year that courts will be able to retain reserves, which have historically been used for capital investments to improve access to justice. Once reserves are gone, or depleted to 1%, the Court's ability to finance systemic improvements that benefit the public will be effectively eliminated. Elimination of court reserves will cripple the trial courts' abilities to be flexible, innovative and responsive to the public they serve.

For all of the reasons stated above, improvements to public access will be sustained to the extent there is funding to cover the cost of staff positions and technology improvements in the current fiscal year, but without a continued investment on the behalf of the Legislature, these gains will be short lived and the goals of equal access for all will remain unattainable.

- What are your projected revenues and expenditures for NEXT fiscal year (2014-15)?

Total projected revenues (state and local) for FY 14/15 are \$15,300,000. Since all revenue will have to be expended by year end, Marin expects expenditures to match revenue for FY 14/15.

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**Superior Court of California,
County of MARIPOSA
FY 2013-14**

Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$32,895

There are a number of ways to maintain or increase public access to justice. Check all that are appropriate AND please provide as detailed an explanation for each as you can:

**PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TYPING DIRECTLY INTO THIS TEMPLATE.
TRANSMIT YOUR COMPLETED WORD DOCUMENT TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov BY/BEFORE
CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 22ND.**

___ **We will avoid (or limit) previously planned staffing reductions.**

- Please explain how many positions you will avoid reducing.

Type your response here

- Please describe the kinds of positions you will avoid reducing.

Type your response here

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice in applicable divisions of your court or courthouse(s).

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We will avoid (or limit) previously planned courtroom closures.**

- Please explain what types of hearings will be maintained.

Type your response here

- Please describe the impact on the public by keeping open a courtroom planned for closure.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We will avoid previously planned courthouse closures.**

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you are able to avoid closing.

Type your response here

- Please explain the impact on the public by keeping open this/these courthouse(s).

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore public telephone hours.**

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore court clerk hours.**

- Please explain what kinds of court clerk duties will be maintained, increased or restored.

Type your response here

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We will devote resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.**

- Please explain the areas of backlog that will be addressed.

Type your response here

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We will suspend/avoid employee furloughs.**

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore services in our self-help center.**

- Please explain the details of this proposed increase.

Type your response here

- Please explain how the increase in self-help services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore court reporting services.**

- Please explain how increased court reporting services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ We will maintain, increase or restore specialty court(s).

- Please describe the specialty court(s) to be maintained, increased or restored.

Type your response here

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

Using as much additional space as you need, answer the following questions:

- Explain any other ways Mariposa intends to restore, maintain, or increase public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

The \$32,895 allocation is a beginning step to move forward in addressing the court's staffing reductions and workload needs.

One court clerk position vacated late FY 2009-2010, was frozen as of FY 2010-2011. During FY 2012-2013, the court reassigned the traffic court clerk and one criminal court clerk to a newly created collections unit. Further, one civil court clerk retired in lieu of layoff. These staffing reductions require the court to process its workload with fewer staff. In addition, the court experiences coverage issues when jury trials, court trials, multi-day hearings, planned and unplanned time off are factored in. Currently, all case types are covered by an operations unit consisting of five court clerk staff.

The fiscal crisis and resulting budget reductions have created many, many challenges, as well as opened a door to change. Of foremost consideration is continuity of service to the public. The court has studied its processes and implemented streamlining measures to assist with its struggle to maintain a prompt and efficient level of service to the customer. The court utilizes reduced counter and telephone hours, but has not reduced or compressed its courtroom calendar.

This augment will enable the court to hire one court clerk to commence second quarter FY 2013-2014. The additional staff member will allow the court to focus on court clerk coverage and workflow turnaround, thereby decreasing wait times to the public.

- What additional information would you like to add about the use of your court's share of the \$60 million augmentation?

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

The court will monitor and review to determine its options beyond this fiscal year. Its desire would be to extend beyond, but too many unknowns exist at this time.

- What are your projected revenues and expenditures for NEXT fiscal year (2014-15)?

Revenue: 1,362,064

Expenditures: 1,590,286

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**Superior Court of California,
County of MENDOCINO
FY 2013-14
Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$166,754**

There are a number of ways to maintain or increase public access to justice. Check all that are appropriate AND please provide as detailed an explanation for each as you can:

**PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TYPING DIRECTLY INTO THIS TEMPLATE.
TRANSMIT YOUR COMPLETED WORD DOCUMENT TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov BY/BEFORE
CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 22ND.**

 We will avoid (or limit) previously planned staffing reductions.

- Please explain how many positions you will avoid reducing.

*Mendocino has no further planned staffing reductions for FY 2013-2014.
The Court has either eliminated or laid off 23 positions (approximately 30%).
Mendocino's percentage of staff reduction was ninth among all courts.*

- Please describe the kinds of positions you will avoid reducing.

N/A

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice in applicable divisions of your court or courthouse(s).

N/A

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

N/A

 We will avoid (or limit) previously planned courtroom closures.

- Please explain what types of hearings will be maintained.

Mendocino has no planned courtroom closures for FY 2013-2014.

- Please describe the impact on the public by keeping open a courtroom planned for closure.

N/A

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

N/A

___ **We will avoid previously planned courthouse closures.**

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you are able to avoid closing.

Mendocino has no planned courthouse closures for FY 2013-2014.

- Please explain the impact on the public by keeping open this/these courthouse(s).

N/A

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

N/A

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore public telephone hours.**

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Public telephone hours will remain from 8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. The Court's telephone tree is available 24/7.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

The Court will continue to review its financial situation with hopes of increasing telephone hours in future fiscal years.

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore court clerk hours.**

- Please explain what kinds of court clerk duties will be maintained, increased or restored.

The Court Clerk Office hours will increase from 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. to 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. effective approximately November 1, 2013.

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Court Clerk Office hours will be increased from 8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. to 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. effective approximately November 1, 2013. This will allow the public an additional hour to conduct their court business.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

At this time, the increased hours are limited to FY 2013-2014. However, the Court will continue to review its financial situation and ability to continue these services beyond FY 2013-2014.

___ We will devote resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.

- Please explain the areas of backlog that will be addressed.

Mendocino will be filling 1 of its 23 courtwide vacancies. This position is located in the Traffic Division. The Court will use this resource for the processing of traffic dispositions.

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Decreasing the processing time of traffic dispositions will allow for the timelier reporting to the Department of Motor Vehicles.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

The action above is likely to extend beyond this fiscal year if there are no further reductions to the Judicial Branch.

___ We will suspend/avoid employee furloughs.

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice.

The Court will be unable to suspend/avoid previously negotiated employee furloughs scheduled for this fiscal year (November 25, 26 and 27 and December 23 and 24.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

At this time, the employee furloughs are limited to FY 2013-2014. However, the Court will continue to review its financial situation for future fiscal years.

___ We will maintain, increase or restore services in our self-help center.

- Please explain the details of this proposed increase.

The Court will increase its hours from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. four days per week to 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. four days per week.

- Please explain how the increase in self-help services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

This will allow the public an additional hour to conduct court business and coincides with the increased hours to the Court Clerk's Office.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

The action above is likely to extend beyond this fiscal year if there are no further reductions to the Judicial Branch.

___ We will maintain, increase or restore court reporting services.

- Please explain how increased court reporting services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

The Court will maintain its current level of court reporting services.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

The action above is likely to extend beyond this fiscal year if there are no further reductions to the Judicial Branch.

___ We will maintain, increase or restore specialty court(s).

- Please describe the specialty court(s) to be maintained, increased or restored.

The Court will maintain Family Dependency Drug Court and Adult Drug Court.

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

N/A

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Both programs are supported mainly with grant funds and matching funds from the Court. So long as the grants continue, the Court anticipates these programs will extend beyond this fiscal year.

Using as much additional space as you need, answer the following questions:

- Explain any other ways Mendocino intends to restore, maintain, or increase public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

N/A

- What additional information would you like to add about the use of your court's share of the \$60 million augmentation?

N/A

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

N/A

- What are your projected revenues and expenditures for NEXT fiscal year (2014-15)?

FY 2012-2013 Ending Fund Balance \$ 686,690.00

FY 2013-2014 Projected Revenue \$5,913,727.00

FY2013-2014 Projected Expenditures \$6,205,906.00

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**Superior Court of California,
County of MERCED
FY 2013-14
Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$470,828**

There are a number of ways to maintain or increase public access to justice. Check all that are appropriate AND please provide as detailed an explanation for each as you can:

**PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TYPING DIRECTLY INTO THIS
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AUGUST 22ND.**

 We will avoid (or limit) previously planned staffing reductions.

- Please explain how many positions you will avoid reducing.

Our court currently has a 21% vacancy rate court wide, which equates to a total of 28 vacant positions. This funding will prevent us from having to make further staffing reductions. In FY 12/13 the court offered a Voluntary Separation Incentive Program (VSIP) in lieu of having to lay off positions. A total of nine employees took advantage of this program.

- Please describe the kinds of positions you will avoid reducing.

The court will avoid reducing two clerical positions and possibly one or two court reporter positions.

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice in applicable divisions of your court or courthouse(s).

This funding will allow us to maintain our current hours of operation. Due to the number of vacant positions, our court was contemplating reducing our hours of operation further on Fridays to close at noon court wide and possibly reinstating furloughs. We currently close all Clerical Offices at 3 p.m. Our Traffic, Family Law, Civil and branch court facility consistently have long lines of public between the hours of 1 and 3 p.m. This reduction in hours would have affected the public not only in Merced, but in our branch facility in Los Banos which is located 40 minutes away. Citizens in the west side area have already been impacted as we no longer hear matters in Gustine and Dos Palos.

Although the court has drop boxes located outside of all court facilities to assist the public, many citizens prefer the face to face contact to ensure their transactions are completed on the spot.

In addition, the court was contemplating reducing our Self Help/Family Law Facilitator hours to the public. In FY 12/13 the Self Help/Family Law Facilitator hours of operation were reduced from 46 hours (utilizing the services of two part time attorneys) to 30 hours per week. The court will now be able to increase these hours based on our portion of the additional funding.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Due to the uncertainty of future funding and the 1% fund balance (FB) reserve policy that becomes effective July 2014, the court will find it necessary to review possible reductions in staffing and services to the public in FY 14/15.

We will avoid (or limit) previously planned courtroom closures.

- Please explain what types of hearings will be maintained.

Our court has not planned any courtroom closures, an impossibility based on our caseload. We currently have one judicial vacancy due to a recent retirement and are awaiting a judicial appointment. In addition, we are authorized 14 judicial positions and currently have 12 with one vacancy. The two additional authorized judgeships have not been acted on due to the state budget.

- Please describe the impact on the public by keeping open a courtroom planned for closure.

N/A

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

N/A

We will avoid previously planned courthouse closures.

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you are able to avoid closing.

N/A

- Please explain the impact on the public by keeping open this/these courthouse(s).

N/A

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

N/A

___ We will maintain, increase or restore public telephone hours.

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

By not closing our Clerical offices to the public at noon on Fridays, as we were contemplating, this will allow us to assist the public (both English and Spanish speaking) with any questions and provide the essential information.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Due to the uncertainty of future funding, the court will need to review these services in FY 14/15.

___ We will maintain, increase or restore court clerk hours.

- Please explain what kinds of court clerk duties will be maintained, increased or restored.

Our Clerical offices will remain open to the public 7-7 ½ hours per day. Some of our divisions open to the public at 7:30 a.m. We were contemplating reducing our public hours one day a week to four hours; however, we will be able to maintain these public hours five days per week. Court staff will be able to complete all clerical duties from filing and processing all court paperwork to assisting the public in person and via telephone. Dedicated court staff will be able to assist the public with their questions and paperwork in the Self Help/Family Law Facilitator office.

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Maintaining our current office hours along with expanding public hours for our Self Help and Family Law Facilitator office, the court will be able to provide public access to justice and prohibit furloughs and layoffs.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

The ability to maintain our hours of operation without reducing them further is a temporary measure. Funding is not only essential this fiscal year but also in FY 14/15 in order to continue to assist the public.

___ We will devote resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.

- Please explain the areas of backlog that will be addressed.

Currently, we have backlogs in our Family Law, Civil, Traffic, Juvenile Dependency/Delinquency and Criminal Divisions: criminal complaints, juvenile petitions, civil judgments, traffic citations and search warrants by three to four weeks. These backlogs are not only a result of staffing shortages but also our Sustain case management system which is outdated and very labor intensive. We will be able to concentrate our efforts in reducing the backlogs so that the public receives their documents and cases are processed in a more timely fashion.

The court has started the process of implementing a new case management system which is expected to take 15 months to complete all case types. However, due to the 1% FB which takes effect July 2014, the court fears that this will hamper completion of this much needed project. Courts will not be allowed to carry the remaining funds on these projects to the following fiscal year. This will cripple the court from its modernization efforts that are meant to not only help the court become current, but affect public access to justice. If the court is unable to complete the project of implementing a new case management system the public will not be able to access their case information electronically or e-file documents.

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog will maintain or increase public access to justice.

The timely processing of these documents, including expedited data entry and the ability to access these documents online, will assist not only our justice partners and private attorneys but also public access to justice.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Due to staffing shortages and the courts need to convert to a faster and efficient case management system, without sufficient funding and the 1% FB constraint, the court will have to review and potentially regress from the progress made which will increase our backlogs in case processing and access to justice.

___ We will suspend employee furloughs.

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice.

Our employees were required to furlough the last three fiscal years. In addition, management positions were laid off in FY 11/12. In FY 12/13, the court offered a VSIP to avoid further layoffs and furloughs. Based on the additional funding our court would receive, we will not have to review the possibility of additional furloughs. However, if further budget cuts materialize, we would have to review not only furloughs but other budget cuts as well.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Due to the uncertainty of future funding, a decrease in revenues and the anticipated 1% FB that takes effect July 2014, the court will need to review furloughs, layoffs, VSIP and other cuts in FY 14/15.

___ We will maintain, increase or restore services in our self-help center.

- Please explain the details of this proposed increase.

The court will be able to designate two full time clerks that will be dedicated to the Self Help/Family Law Facilitator office. The court will also be able to increase its hours to assist the public an additional 20 hours per month.

- Please explain how the increase in self-help services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Increased hours and designated staff will provide needed services for the public.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Due to the uncertainty of future funding and the 1% FB that becomes effective July 2014, the court will find it necessary to review possible reductions in staffing and services to the public in FY 14/15.

___ We will maintain, increase or restore court reporting services.

- Please explain how increased court reporting services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

We will continue to maintain our current level of court reporting services.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

At this time, action listed above is limited to FY 13/14.

___ We will maintain, increase or restore specialty court(s).

- Please describe the specialty court(s) to be maintained, increased or restored.

We will continue to maintain our specialty courts in FY 13/14.

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

N/A

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

The above is limited to FY 13/14.

Using as much additional space as you need, answer the following questions:

- Explain any other ways Merced intends to restore, maintain, or increase public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

We will strive to implement website updates, on-line self help forms and improve our telecommunications for better communication and access to justice.

- What additional information would you like to add about the use of your court's share of the \$60 million augmentation?

This much needed funding will help the court maintain and improve the public's access to justice.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Due to the uncertainty of future funding and the 1% FB that becomes effective July 2014, the court will find it necessary to review possible reductions in staffing and services to the public in FY 14/15.

- What are your projected revenues and expenditures for NEXT fiscal year (2014-15)?

Rough Estimate of Revenues: \$14,300,000

Rough Projected Expenditures: \$14,625,000

Budget deficit: (\$325,000)

Since the allocation reduction to the Trial Courts in FY 09/10, the court has delayed several automation projects and services, froze essential positions and endured (management staff) layoffs and has used reserves to cover the court's necessary expenses.

As previously mentioned, even with the 28 vacant positions, and the employees contributing 6% to their retirement, the restructuring of the health premium amounts paid by the court to cover health care costs, (approximately \$1.7M per year) and continued reductions in operating expenses, the court is still projecting a deficit of \$325,000. In addition, with the new 1% FB policy effective July 2014, the courts progress in completing its case management system will be delayed. This will affect the justice partners and the public's access. The court will review possible reductions to staffing and additional services to the public.

With benefit cost increases not funded out of the General Fund but out of the Trial Court Trust Fund, this will result in additional unfunded expenses to the court with no reserves to cover these expenses.

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**Superior Court of California,
County of MODOC
FY 2013-14
Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$16,977**

There are a number of ways to maintain or increase public access to justice. Check all that are appropriate AND please provide as detailed an explanation for each as you can:

**PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TYPING DIRECTLY INTO THIS TEMPLATE.
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CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 22ND.**

___ We will avoid (or limit) previously planned staffing reductions.

- Please explain how many positions you will avoid reducing.

We are not planning on further staffing reductions, we are as reduced as much as we can possibly handle.

- Please describe the kinds of positions you will avoid reducing.

N/A

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice in applicable divisions of your court or courthouse(s).

We will be able to maintain current levels of public access in all divisions.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

This may be a temporary delay extending through 2015. However, should we need to consider reducing staffing levels in the future; our allocation is such that only a very short delay could be bought.

___ We will avoid (or limit) previously planned courtroom closures.

- Please explain what types of hearings will be maintained.

We use only one courtroom and will continue to hear all matters.

- Please describe the impact on the public by keeping open a courtroom planned for closure.

Modoc County will continue to be available for the public.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

We must be able to extend beyond this fiscal year.

We will avoid previously planned courthouse closures.

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you are able to avoid closing.

We have only one courthouse location.

- Please explain the impact on the public by keeping open this/these courthouse(s).

The public will continue to have full administration of justice in Modoc County.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

This action will extend beyond the current fiscal year.

X We will maintain, increase or restore public telephone hours.

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Increasing public telephone hours helps predominately in the traffic department. We offer the service of allowing people to pay for their citations and fines over the telephone and by restoring public telephone hours, a greater percentage of persons will have access to us for this service.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

It is our intention that the restoration in public telephone hours extends beyond this fiscal year.

X We will maintain, increase or restore court clerk hours.

- Please explain what kinds of court clerk duties will be maintained, increased or restored.

In restoring public access hours, all divisions will be accessible for the public. Those divisions are: civil, collections, traffic, criminal, accounting, and court reporting. All divisions will provide those services related to each division.

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Greater accessibility = greater public access

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

It is our intention that the restoration of court clerk hours extends beyond this fiscal year.

___ We will devote resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.

- Please explain the areas of backlog that will be addressed.

Any area that begins experiencing backlogs.

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog will maintain or increase public access to justice.

As yet, we are not experiencing significant backlogs.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Absent staffing reductions, we expect to maintain current levels beyond the current fiscal year.

X We will suspend/avoid employee furloughs.

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice.

Being fully staffed on a regular basis allows us to be much more attentive to our court customers. All aspects of court operations will be processed more quickly, including those functions that are handled by administration, such as JBSIS reports and financial surveys.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

This is a temporary action limited to this fiscal year.

___ We will maintain, increase or restore services in our self-help center.

- Please explain the details of this proposed increase.

Our self-help center will not be affected by this allocation.

- Please explain how the increase in self-help services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

All self-help services will be maintained at the current level. Our self-help facilitator is located at another premise and the self-help computer continues to be located in the lobby of the courthouse.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Likely to extend beyond the current fiscal year.

X We will maintain, increase or restore court reporting services.

- Please explain how increased court reporting services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

We have only one court reporter on staff. She makes arrangements with another court reporter for her absences and vacations. In addition, she schedules the services of court reporters whenever the court calendar requires two court reporters. By having additional reporter services on those occasions when needed increases public access by eliminating or at least reduces delays in scheduled hearings.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Hiring additional court reporters is very costly to us at not less than \$450 per day. If we were to have just two long cause trials totaling 4 weeks in duration, our entire allocation would be used. We must retain at least \$3,000 per year to cover additional court reporters and this action will extend beyond this fiscal year.

We will maintain, increase or restore specialty court(s).

- Please describe the specialty court(s) to be maintained, increased or restored.

N/A

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

N/A

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

N/A

Using as much additional space as you need, answer the following questions:

- Explain any other ways Modoc Superior Court intends to restore, maintain, or increase public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

Our website is out of date and insufficient. We propose to use a portion of our allocation to obtain the services of a webmaster to correct deficiencies and to begin work on a website overhaul.

- What additional information would you like to add about the use of your court's share of the \$60 million augmentation?

At this time, we do not use Certified Interpreters unless requested by a party. Due to our rural location and depressed economy, anytime we hire a Certified Interpreter the costs are exorbitant, mileage alone is in the hundreds of dollars. One two-week trial could exhaust a large portion of this allocation.

Updating and maintaining the website is intended to be an ongoing action and our allocation will fund this action. Our website is very outdated and badly in need of an overhaul. Our current staffing levels do not allow us to ask employees to take on the added duties of working on the website and the person we previously used is no longer available to us.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Although our allocation is only \$16,977, the funds, together with salary savings recently accumulated, allow us to lift furloughs this year and provide a much needed morale boost for our staff. This is a temporary action limited to this year and due to anticipated future budget cuts, furloughs will again be mandated.

- What are your projected revenues and expenditures for NEXT fiscal year (2014-15)?

In continuing the trend of reducing allocations, we anticipate revenues of \$992,000 and expenditures of at least \$1,201,000, with no reserves. We are exploring all options and examining all expenditures to bring these numbers into balance. Every penny is needed to continue to operate.

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**Superior Court of California,
County of MONO
FY 2013-14
Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$45,169**

There are a number of ways to maintain or increase public access to justice. Check all that are appropriate AND please provide as detailed an explanation for each as you can:

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CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 22ND.**

___ **We will avoid (or limit) previously planned staffing reductions.**

- Please explain how many positions you will avoid reducing.

*Our court prior to the augmentation share planned to keep for staff positions vacant.
With the augmentation funding we were able to fill one vacant entry level deputy clerk position*

- Please describe the kinds of positions you will avoid reducing.

One entry level deputy clerk position

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice in applicable divisions of your court or courthouse(s).

Waiting time for court customers to be served at the counter and on the phone has been reduced.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Based on the assumption that we will receive at least the same baseline level of funding next fiscal year, we expect to maintain the recently filled deputy clerk position into the next fiscal year.

___ **We will avoid (or limit) previously planned courtroom closures.**

- Please explain what types of hearings will be maintained.

No courtroom closures were planned by our court

- Please describe the impact on the public by keeping open a courtroom planned for closure.

Not applicable

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Not applicable

___ **We will avoid previously planned courthouse closures.**

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you are able to avoid closing.

No courthouse closures were planned by our court

- Please explain the impact on the public by keeping open this/these courthouse(s).

Not applicable

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Not applicable

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore public telephone hours.**

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Our court was able to maintain our current level of public telephone hours and reduce the waiting time

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

We expect to maintain our public telephone hours into the next fiscal year if our current fiscal year funding allocation does not change next fiscal year.

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore court clerk hours.**

- Please explain what kinds of court clerk duties will be maintained, increased or restored.

We were not able to restore court clerk hours that were reduced at our branch court location. We currently only have our branch court clerk's office open one day a week.

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Not applicable

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Not applicable

___ **We will devote resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.**

- Please explain the areas of backlog that will be addressed.

The addition of one deputy court clerk staff position in a small court does provide ability to reduce backlog in case processing once the new staff person has been sufficiently trained.

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Our largest backlog is in traffic court matters, with the addition of one staff position we are able to process citations in a more timely manner and provide courtesy notices to the public at least one month prior to their traffic court appearance.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

As long as our budget allocation next fiscal year remains the same as the current fiscal year we will be able to continue to decrease our backlog.

___ **We will suspend/avoid employee furloughs.**

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice.

We were able to avoid planned employee furloughs. If furloughs have been implemented, our plan was to close the court and furlough staff one Friday a month. This would be done nine to public access to the court for 12 days in the fiscal year.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

If our budget allocation next fiscal year remains the same as the current fiscal year, we should be able to avoid employee furloughs.

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore services in our self-help center.**

- Please explain the details of this proposed increase.

There was no reduction in services and our self-help center

- Please explain how the increase in self-help services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Not applicable

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Not applicable

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore court reporting services.**

- Please explain how increased court reporting services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Our court reporting services have not been affected.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Not applicable

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore specialty court(s).**

- Please describe the specialty court(s) to be maintained, increased or restored.

The court does not have any specialty courts, other than juvenile court. We are small two judge court; without the case volume or resources to implement specialty courts.

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Not applicable.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Not applicable

Using as much additional space as you need, answer the following questions:

- Explain any other ways Mono intends to restore, maintain, or increase public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

No additional ways are being implemented in our court.

- What additional information would you like to add about the use of your court's share of the \$60 million augmentation?

Our court appreciates whatever additional funding is provided to us. This current augmentation is like having a life preserver thrown at our court. It keeps us from sinking any further into the fiscal abyss, but it does not get us out of the stormy waters of budget crisis that we are weathering on a year-to-year basis. Obviously, our court and surely every other court in California needs financial stability in order to provide our court customers the service are courts should be providing.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Not applicable

- What are your projected revenues and expenditures for NEXT fiscal year (2014-15)?

We expect to have a flat budget for next fiscal year, where revenues and expenditures should be nearly equal to current fiscal year 2013-2014. We projects revenues of approximately \$1.9 million and reimbursements of \$250,000; for a total of revenue and reimbursements of approximately \$2.2 million. We expect our expenditures to equal our revenue and reimbursement total for a zero balance for our gross balance. This projected expenditure level is based upon maintaining the operational status quo, not filling currently vacant court positions and not increasing court clerk office hours.

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**Superior Court of California,
County of MONTEREY
FY 2013-14
Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$602,622**

There are a number of ways to maintain or increase public access to justice. Check all that are appropriate AND please provide as detailed an explanation for each as you can:

**PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TYPING DIRECTLY INTO THIS
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AUGUST 22ND.**

X - We will avoid (or limit) previously planned staffing reductions.

- Please explain how many positions you will avoid reducing.
 - *The Court will avoid an additional workforce reduction of approximately 7-11 positions.*
- Please describe the kinds of positions you will avoid reducing.
 - *Depending on the reduction measure(s), layoffs or voluntary separations, the eliminated positions were expected to be primarily entry level positions, personnel responsible for performing work at the counters, phones and processing documents.*
- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice in applicable divisions of your court or courthouse(s).
 - *This augmentation will likely result in fewer layoffs or voluntary separations than originally anticipated. Without this augmentation, the Court would very likely have been forced to further reduce clerk's office and phone hours and reduce self-help center services by December 2013.*
 - *This funding augmentation, \$602,622, assists with closing the Court's budget deficit and will be used exclusively for that purpose. After absorbing the \$602,622, the Court still faces an estimated \$300,000 deficit at June 2014 that will require additional reduction measures, either by holding vacated positions as unfilled, layoffs or voluntary separations.*
 - *The Court cannot rule out further public access and service reductions due to two primary factors: 1) the remaining \$300,000 deficit that must be resolved by June 2014 to balance the budget and 2) the Court's current reduced workforce is not able to maintain work backlogs within reasonable ranges which is impairing the quality of the Court's customer service.*
 - *The funding augmentation, \$602,622, is not adequate for the Court to start restoring court services and public access. Furthermore, the \$602,622 is likely not adequate to maintain the current reduced levels of court services and public access. The Court is*

currently operating with a very lean workforce, reduced by 59 positions as compared to Fiscal Year 2008-2009. In some instances, the Court has implemented processing efficiencies and technology to fill the gaps created by this workforce reduction occurring throughout the past five years. However, the magnitude of downsizing by 59 positions cannot be completely mitigated by efficiencies and technology. The current processing gaps throughout court operations are significant and must be addressed.

- This reduced workforce is not aligned with the current levels of court-provided services in the long-term. For example, processing backlogs, especially in the civil area, are continuing and frequently extend to 5-6 weeks in arrears for critical civil judgments. The Court uses employee overtime to keep the backlogs within reasonable timeframes; overtime is not a long-term solution and is definitely not sustainable for the Court's budget. Additionally, the Court is not able to provide back-up support to sustain long-term employee absences which exacerbates the backlog situation.
- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.
 - The Court does not know at this time if further personnel reductions will be needed.

___ **We will avoid (or limit) previously planned courtroom closures.**

- Please explain what types of hearings will be maintained.

Type your response here

- Please describe the impact on the public by keeping open a courtroom planned for closure.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We will avoid previously planned courthouse closures.**

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you are able to avoid closing.

Type your response here

- Please explain the impact on the public by keeping open this/these courthouse(s).

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

_____ **We will maintain, increase or restore public telephone hours.**

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

_____ **We will maintain, increase or restore court clerk hours.**

- Please explain what kinds of court clerk duties will be maintained, increased or restored.

Type your response here

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

_____ **We will devote resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.**

- Please explain the areas of backlog that will be addressed.

Type your response here

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We will suspend/avoid employee furloughs.**

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore services in our self-help center.**

- Please explain the details of this proposed increase.

Type your response here

- Please explain how the increase in self-help services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore court reporting services.**

- Please explain how increased court reporting services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

We will maintain, increase or restore specialty court(s).

- Please describe the specialty court(s) to be maintained, increased or restored.

Type your response here

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

Using as much additional space as you need, answer the following questions:

- Explain any other ways that Monterey intends to restore, maintain, or increase public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.
 - *Monterey continues to evaluate, and implement when feasible, technology solutions to enhance public access to court services. We are currently exploring the feasibility of a web-based case management system which could provide litigants with e-filing options and also would provide efficiencies to court operations throughout the life of a case. A web-based case management system is not intended to displace existing trial court employees, but will enable the Court to maximize delivery of court services to the public with a downsized workforce due to budget reductions over five years. The Court is also evaluating other technological enhancements that will allow expanded access to court services through the web.*
- What additional information would you like to add about the use of your court's share of the \$60 million augmentation?
 - *As noted earlier in this survey, the Court's share of the \$60 million augmentation, \$602,622, assists with closing the structural gap; however, this augmentation is not adequate to restore court services. Additionally, this augmentation may not be adequate to hold off additional service reductions as the Court continues to align its smaller workforce with a reduced level of services and public access that is sustainable for the Court.*
- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

- *The Court is not able to determine the duration of the actions discussed herein, whether temporary or longer term.*
- **What are your projected revenues and expenditures for NEXT fiscal year (2014-15)?**
 - *The Court's projected revenue for 2014-2015 is \$20,717,416. The Court's projected expenditures for 2014-2015 are \$21,035,615. The Court is actively working on strategic reductions to eliminate the \$318,199 projected deficit for 2014-2015.*

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**Superior Court of California,
County of NAPA
FY 2013-14
Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$209,052**

There are a number of ways to maintain or increase public access to justice. Check all that are appropriate AND please provide as detailed an explanation for each as you can:

**PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TYPING DIRECTLY INTO THIS TEMPLATE.
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___ **We will avoid (or limit) previously planned staffing reductions.**

- Please explain how many positions you will avoid reducing.

Type your response here

- Please describe the kinds of positions you will avoid reducing.

Type your response here

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice in applicable divisions of your court or courthouse(s).

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We will avoid (or limit) previously planned courtroom closures.**

- Please explain what types of hearings will be maintained.

Type your response here

- Please describe the impact on the public by keeping open a courtroom planned for closure.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We will avoid previously planned courthouse closures.**

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you are able to avoid closing.

Type your response here

- Please explain the impact on the public by keeping open this/these courthouse(s).

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore public telephone hours.**

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore court clerk hours.**

- Please explain what kinds of court clerk duties will be maintained, increased or restored.

Type your response here

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We will devote resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.**

- Please explain the areas of backlog that will be addressed.

Prior to California's economic downturn and resulting budget reductions, the Napa Superior Court employed 1 FTE appeals clerk to process all limited and unlimited jurisdiction appeal

cases. That position became vacant through attrition, and the funding dedicated to it redeployed to other mandated areas of mandated court operations. Since that time, the appeal case processing duties have been absorbed by two existing supervisors and a deputy court executive officer. Because these three positions have numerous other supervisory and managerial duties that compete with their responsibilities for processing appeal matters, the processing time for appeal cases have become difficult to manage. Although mandatory deadlines have been met thus far, the increasing number of appeal cases has put the court in peril of being unable to meet them in the future. As a result, \$86,000 of the court's \$162,945 allocation will be devoted to filling the appeals clerk position in Napa County.

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Case parties who require an appeal of case outcomes will be assured of having their appeal reviewed and decided upon by a higher level court in a timely manner. In addition, this position will be cross trained with other clerical positions that process general civil and family law matters thereby decreasing backlogs in those areas, as well.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

The funding used for this purpose is ongoing and fully adequate to fund the appeals clerk. Therefore, absent other revenue reductions or unforeseeable budgetary shortfalls, we do not believe this is a temporary action. The court's intent is to continue to maintain this position for the foreseeable future.

_____ We will suspend/avoid employee furloughs.

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice.

This past fiscal year, the Napa Superior Court reduced its employee work week from a full 40 hours to 37.5 hours. This facilitated the closing of court facilities every Friday at 2:30 pm instead of the customary 5:00 pm. In spite of this effort, the court still experienced a \$500,000 structural budget deficit. The remaining balance of Napa's share of the \$60 million allocation will be utilized to partially fill that deficit in order to avoid further employee work hour reductions. Such additional reductions would further erode public access to crucial justice services.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

This funding along with other efforts of streamlining court operations already underway should allow the court to avoid additional furloughs. Assuming no further budget reductions or unforeseeable revenue shortfalls or increased mandated expenditures, the court does not believe

this is a temporary measure and will attempt to avoid additional employee workforce reductions in future fiscal years.

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore services in our self-help center.**

- Please explain the details of this proposed increase.

Type your response here

- Please explain how the increase in self-help services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore court reporting services.**

- Please explain how increased court reporting services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore specialty court(s).**

- Please describe the specialty court(s) to be maintained, increased or restored.

Type your response here

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

Using as much additional space as you need, answer the following questions:

- Explain any other ways Napa intends to restore, maintain, or increase public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

Type your response here

- What additional information would you like to add about the use of your court's share of the \$60 million augmentation?

Although the initial allocation of the \$60 million for Napa Superior Court is \$209,052, the net change for our budget due to the reallocation of funding from the newly implemented Work Load Funding Model is only approximately \$163,000. As a result of this and other funding reductions over the last several years, the Napa Superior Court, along with the other state trial courts, remains significantly inadequately funded to provide critically needed justice services to the citizens of California.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

- What are your projected revenues and expenditures for NEXT fiscal year (2014-15)?

Revenue - \$9.0 Million

Expenditures - \$9.0 Million

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**Superior Court of California,
County of NEVADA
FY 2013-14**

Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$145,313

There are a number of ways to maintain or increase public access to justice. Check all that are appropriate AND please provide as detailed an explanation for each as you can:

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CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 22ND.**

___ **We will avoid (or limit) previously planned staffing reductions.**

- Please explain how many positions you will avoid reducing.

Type your response here

- Please describe the kinds of positions you will avoid reducing.

Type your response here

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice in applicable divisions of your court or courthouse(s).

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We will avoid (or limit) previously planned courtroom closures.**

- Please explain what types of hearings will be maintained.

Type your response here

- Please describe the impact on the public by keeping open a courtroom planned for closure.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

We will avoid previously planned courthouse closures.

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you are able to avoid closing.

Type your response here

- Please explain the impact on the public by keeping open this/these courthouse(s).

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

 We will maintain, increase or restore public telephone hours.

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

 X **We will maintain, increase or restore court clerk hours.**

- Please explain what kinds of court clerk duties will be maintained, increased or restored.

Public counter and phone hours on Fridays will be increased from 6 to 8.

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

The public will be able to submit filings, make payments, inquire about cases and receive general clerical assistance during the time we were previously closed due to furloughs.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Our share of the \$60M is about \$70,000 less than the savings we realized from furloughs. We are planning to make this action permanent, however, we do not know at this time if that will be feasible.

 We will devote resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.

- Please explain the areas of backlog that will be addressed.

Type your response here

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

X We will suspend/avoid employee furloughs.

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice.

We have entirely suspended furloughs during FY 13-14. This will allow us to have our courthouses open M-F, 8:00AM – 5:00 PM and our public counters open from 8:00AM – 4:00 PM. This constitutes an increase of two hours per week.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Our share of the \$60M is about \$70,000 less than the savings we realized from furloughs. We are planning to make this action permanent, however, we do not know at this time if that will be feasible. Our current commitment is to suspend furloughs through FY 13-14.

We will maintain, increase or restore services in our self-help center.

- Please explain the details of this proposed increase.

Type your response here

- Please explain how the increase in self-help services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

We will maintain, increase or restore court reporting services.

- Please explain how increased court reporting services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

_____ We will maintain, increase or restore specialty court(s).

- Please describe the specialty court(s) to be maintained, increased or restored.

Type your response here

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

Using as much additional space as you need, answer the following questions:

- Explain any other ways Nevada Superior Court intends to restore, maintain, or increase public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

Our cost for suspending furloughs significantly exceeds our share of the \$60 million augmentation. Therefore, we are unable to implement any additional means of restoring or increasing access to justice.

- What additional information would you like to add about the use of your court's share of the \$60 million augmentation?

The mandate that restricts our court to a 1% fund balance beginning July 1, 2014 has severely diminished our ability to manage our cash flow and our planned capital expenditures. The processes that have been proposed and implemented, which are intended to mitigate the impact of this edict, are resource consuming and ineffective – they do not in any way solve the underlying problem. Restoring baseline funding, as this augmentation begins to do, is necessary to restore adequate access to justice for all; it does not begin to solve all of the problems created by this change in the structure of trial court funding.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Not applicable as we aren't implementing any additional actions beyond the suspension of furloughs.

- What are your projected revenues and expenditures for NEXT fiscal year (2014-15)?

Type your response here

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**Superior Court of California,
County of ORANGE
FY 2013-14**

Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$4,355,099

There are a number of ways to maintain or increase public access to justice. Check all that are appropriate AND please provide as detailed an explanation for each as you can:

**PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TYPING DIRECTLY INTO THIS TEMPLATE.
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CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 22ND.**

Using as much additional space as you need, answer the following questions:

- Explain any other ways Orange County Superior Court intends to restore, maintain, or increase public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

Case Management System procurement: Orange County Superior Court's Family & Juvenile case management system (CMS) is well beyond useful life, expensive to maintain and is labor intensive for the operations staff. Our court will use a majority of the funding augmentation to purchase a replacement CMS. When deployed, the system will substantially reduce our cost in both technology and operations areas. In addition, the new CMS is necessary for our court to implement the statutory requirements of AB 2073. Our current CMS cannot support e-filing in family law cases.

Records Destruction / Lease Cost Avoidance: Orange County Superior Court currently rents a records storage facility for the approximate cost of \$800K per year. Additional overtime will be authorized to expedite our records destruction program with the goal of reducing the storage requirements sufficiently to enable the court to terminate the lease of the storage facility. The \$800k in savings will enable our court to avoid laying off 10 positions that would otherwise be eliminated in FY 2014-15.

- What additional information would you like to add about the use of your court's share of the \$60 million augmentation?
- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Both of the two uses stated above for the funding augmentation will result in recurring benefit to our courts ability to maintain access to justice.

- What are your projected revenues and expenditures for NEXT fiscal year (2014-15)?

Orange County Superior court is projecting FY 2014-15 revenues of \$173.4M, expenditures of \$214.7M, for an operating deficit of \$41.3M.

Yes We will avoid (or limit) previously planned staffing reductions.

- Please explain how many positions you will avoid reducing.

The court intends to avoid the reduction of self-help services. The new funding will permit us to retain existing staffing and service levels. The court currently receives approximately \$800K in funding to provide self-help services. The court provides four full time self-help locations and a part time location and contributes and additional \$1.1M of trial court funding. We presently employ 18 employees in self-help. Using the augmentation funding to pay for the court's contribution to self-help will support the Branch's goal of maintaining access to justice.

- Please describe the kinds of positions you will avoid reducing.
- *The positions to be saved include an attorney, paralegal and clerical support positions.*
- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice in applicable divisions of your court or courthouse(s).

These actions will support assisting the public e-filing cases, providing workshops, document review and procedural assistance.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

These actions are temporary for FY 2013-14.

No We will avoid (or limit) previously planned courtroom closures.

- Please explain what types of hearings will be maintained.

Type your response here

- Please describe the impact on the public by keeping open a courtroom planned for closure.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

No We will avoid previously planned courthouse closures.

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you are able to avoid closing.

Type your response here

- Please explain the impact on the public by keeping open this/these courthouse(s).

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

No We will maintain, increase or restore public telephone hours.

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

No We will maintain, increase or restore court clerk hours.

- Please explain what kinds of court clerk duties will be maintained, increased or restored.

Type your response here

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

Yes We will devote resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.

- Please explain the areas of backlog that will be addressed.

We will authorize overtime for the purpose of reducing case processing backlogs such as writs & abstracts (civil, criminal and juvenile), conservatorship reviews, civil defaults, and courtroom minutes and orders for all case types.

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog will maintain or increase public access to justice.

By reducing backlog, we will support the primary objective of maintaining access to justice by ensuring the timely resolution to cases.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

This backlog reduction program is a temporary for FY 2013-14. There will not be sufficient resources in FY 2014-15 to continue the program.

N/A We will suspend/avoid employee furloughs.

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

Yes We will maintain, increase or restore services in our self-help center.

- Please explain the details of this proposed increase.

See response above.

- Please explain how the increase in self-help services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

• *See response above.*

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

See response above.

No We will maintain, increase or restore court reporting services.

- Please explain how increased court reporting services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

No We will maintain, increase or restore specialty court(s).

- Please describe the specialty court(s) to be maintained, increased or restored.

Type your response here

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

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**Superior Court of California,
County of PLACER
FY 2013-14
Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$536,650**

There are a number of ways to maintain or increase public access to justice. Check all that are appropriate AND please provide as detailed an explanation for each as you can:

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AUGUST 22ND.**

X We will avoid (or limit) previously planned staffing reductions.

- Please explain how many positions you will avoid reducing.

Since 2009, the court has reduced its filled positions from 183 to just over 100. The restored funding has been helpful and the court has filled three previously frozen positions and is not contemplating further layoffs in the current year.

- Please describe the kinds of positions you will avoid reducing.

Lead court clerk, courtroom clerk, court clerk, custodian.

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice in applicable divisions of your court or courthouse(s).

Please see answers regarding phone times, clerk counters, closed courtrooms, and reduction of backlogs.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Despite the restored funding, the court is facing a preliminary structural budget deficit for FY 14/15 of approximately \$1.5 million. The court's total revenues in FY 14/15 are currently estimated to be \$15.75 million, which assumes no restoration of additional funds or funding for increasing health, retirement, or other inflationary costs. To address this 10% budget deficit, which cannot be softened by the use of any prior year fund balance, the court will need to significantly reduce expenses. Due to the high proportion of personnel costs, which account for 75% of the court's expenditures, this will likely require further reductions in staffing levels.

X We will avoid (or limit) previously planned courtroom closures.

- Please explain what types of hearings will be maintained.

The court has filled a previously vacant courtroom clerk position. This will enable the court to make more frequent use of assigned judges to hear backlogged civil and family law cases. The Placer Superior Court currently has 14 judicial officers which compares to an assessed judicial need for 22.9 judicial officers.¹ The court used assigned judges sparingly in FY 12/13 due to a lack of available staff resources to support the in-courtroom functions. This has resulted in a backlog of civil trials, and to a lesser extent family law contested hearings. The additional position will allow the court to more frequently, though still not as frequently as necessary, make use of assigned judges to prevent this backlog from worsening significantly.

Further, the court operated eight limited service days in FY 12/13. On these days, only one courtroom was in use and only one court facility remained open to receive emergency filings.

- Please describe the impact on the public by keeping open a courtroom planned for closure.

Civil trials, which receive lower priority than criminal matters, will have a greater likelihood of being heard. This will allow businesses, individuals, and other entities to resolve disputes in a timelier manner.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Despite the restored funding, the court is facing a preliminary structural budget deficit for FY 14/15 of approximately \$1.5 million. The court's total revenues in FY 14/15 are currently estimated to be \$15.75 million, which assumes no restoration of additional funds or funding for increasing health, retirement, or other inflationary costs. To address this 10% budget deficit, which cannot be softened by the use of any prior year fund balance, the court will need to significantly reduce expenses. Due to the high proportion of personnel costs, which account for 75% of the court's expenditures, this will likely require further reductions in staffing levels. A reduction in staffing will impact the ability to operate all existing courtrooms.

We will avoid previously planned courthouse closures.

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you are able to avoid closing.

¹ Judicial Workload Assessment: Updated Caseweights, Administrative Office of the Courts, November 11, 2011, page A-33. <http://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/jc-121211-item3.pdf>

Type your response here

- Please explain the impact on the public by keeping open this/these courthouse(s).

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

X We will maintain, increase or restore public telephone hours.

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

From October 2012 through June 2013, the court operated reduced telephone hours on Fridays, closing at 1 pm. In addition, the court operated eight limited service days during FY 12/13. On these dates, only limited, emergency phone services were available. The restored funding has assisted the court in returning to normal hours on Fridays and to avoid any limited service days for FY 13/14.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Despite the restored funding, the court is facing a preliminary structural budget deficit for FY 14/15 of approximately \$1.5 million. The court's total revenues in FY 14/15 are currently estimated to be \$15.75 million, which assumes no restoration of additional funds or funding for increasing health, retirement, or other inflationary costs. To address this 10% budget deficit, which cannot be softened by the use of any prior year fund balance, the court will need to significantly reduce expenses. This may include the need to reduce service levels, including the number of hours telephone services are offered each day. Given the extent of the budget deficit for FY 14/15 it is not infeasible that telephone hours will be reduced each day of the week beginning in July 2014 or that limited service days will be necessary to achieve a balanced budget.

X We will maintain, increase or restore court clerk hours.

- Please explain what kinds of court clerk duties will be maintained, increased or restored.

From October 2012 through June 2013, the court operated reduced clerk's office hours on Fridays, closing at 1 pm. Further, the court operated eight limited service days where only emergency filings were accepted and only one courtroom was in use. The restored

funding has assisted the court in returning to normal hours on Fridays and also avoid any limited service days for FY 13/14.

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

A return to normal hours increases physical access to the justice system and provides for more opportunities to file papers, schedule hearings, pay fines or fees, or research case information.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Despite the restored funding, the court is facing a preliminary structural budget deficit for FY 14/15 of approximately \$1.5 million. The court's total revenues in FY 14/15 are currently estimated to be \$15.75 million, which assumes no restoration of additional funds or funding for increasing health, retirement, or other inflationary costs. To address this 10% budget deficit, which cannot be softened by the use of any prior year fund balance, the court will need to significantly reduce expenses. This may include the need to reduce service levels, including reducing clerk's office hours. Given the extent of the budget deficit for FY 14/15 it is not infeasible that clerk's office hours will be reduced each day of the week beginning in July 2014 and it may not be possible for the court to avoid further limited service days.

X We will devote resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.

- Please explain the areas of backlog that will be addressed.

The additional staffing noted above will support the court's overall efforts to reduce backlogs in civil, family law, and criminal case processing. Particular areas that will receive focus are criminal research requests, more timely review of criminal failure to complete programs documentation, civil defaults and judgments, and the processing of family law orders after hearing and judgments.

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Delays in criminal research requests can slow down hiring as employers wait for information on prospective employees from the court. Processing delays on failure to complete program notices can result in defendants not receiving quick sanctions for their failure to follow court orders, which can reduce the effectiveness of these sentences and programs. And finally, delays in receipt of formal orders or processed judgments present uncertainty to businesses, individuals, and families.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Despite the restored funding, the court is facing a preliminary structural budget deficit for FY 14/15 of approximately \$1.5 million. The court's total revenues in FY 14/15 are currently estimated to be \$15.75 million, which assumes no restoration of additional funds or funding for increasing health, retirement, or other inflationary costs. To address this 10% budget deficit, which cannot be softened by the use of any prior year fund balance, the court will need to significantly reduce expenses. Due to the high proportion of personnel costs, which account for 75% of the court's expenditures, this will likely require further reductions in staffing levels. Any reductions in staffing levels will have a likely impact on the court's ability to process case and timely respond to public requests.

X We will suspend/avoid employee furloughs.

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice.

The court does not currently have any employees on furlough.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Despite the restored funding, the court is facing a preliminary structural budget deficit for FY 14/15 of approximately \$1.5 million. The court's total revenues in FY 14/15 are currently estimated to be \$15.75 million, which assumes no restoration of additional funds or funding for increasing health, retirement, or other inflationary costs. To address this 10% budget deficit, which cannot be softened by the use of any prior year fund balance, the court will need to significantly reduce expenses. Due to the high proportion of personnel costs, which account for 75% of the court's expenditures, this will likely require reductions in employee-related expenses. It is possible, though not yet determined, that this could include employee furloughs.

X We will maintain, increase or restore services in our self-help center.

- Please explain the details of this proposed increase.

The court has restored a 0.5 paralegal FTE in the self-help center. This was done, in part, due to the additional funding via the budget act.

- Please explain how the increase in self-help services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Additional self-help staffing allows the court to 1) assist more members of the public each day and 2) improve the timely preparation of orders after hearing for pro per litigants in family law. Both actions improve the public's access and understanding of the justice system and helps in preventing confusion related to the court process and, in order after hearing preparation, the court's orders.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Despite the restored funding, the court is facing a preliminary structural budget deficit for FY 14/15 of approximately \$1.5 million. The court's total revenues in FY 14/15 are currently estimated to be \$15.75 million, which assumes no restoration of additional funds or funding for increasing health, retirement, or other inflationary costs. To address this 10% budget deficit, which cannot be softened by the use of any prior year fund balance, the court will need to significantly reduce expenses. Due to the high proportion of personnel costs, which account for 75% of the court's expenditures, this will likely require reductions in employee-related expenses. It is possible, though not yet determined, that this could include reductions in self help staffing levels. This in turn would necessitate reductions in self-help center hours and services.

_____ We will maintain, increase or restore court reporting services.

- Please explain how increased court reporting services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

_____ We will maintain, increase or restore specialty court(s).

- Please describe the specialty court(s) to be maintained, increased or restored.

Type your response here

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

Using as much additional space as you need, answer the following questions:

- Explain any other ways Placer intends to restore, maintain, or increase public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

Type your response here

- What additional information would you like to add about the use of your court's share of the \$60 million augmentation?

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

In addition to the notes previously, unless additional funding is provided for FY 14/15, the severe nature of the court's structural deficit (shown below) will require a reduction in staffing and service levels at the Placer Superior Court. This will exacerbate an already critical situation for the citizens and visitors to Placer County. This is best understood in the context of the actions already taken by this court in the past several years. As a result of drastic budget cuts to the Placer County Superior Court, the court has been forced to take a number of painful measures which impacted our citizens, including the following:

- *Discontinuing valuable programs like Youth Peer Court, Family Law and Domestic Violence Case Management Programs, and programs supporting families in high-conflict child custody cases and reducing operating hours for our Family Law Facilitator & Self-Help Center;*
- *Limiting access of the public to the court by reducing clerk's office hours by two hours on Fridays, closing at 1:00 pm last fiscal year;*
- *Instituting limited service days – where only emergency matters are handled and all but one clerk's office and courtroom are closed – 8 days last fiscal year;*
- *Closing two trial courtrooms in July 2009 and severely reducing use of an additional courtroom this fiscal year;*

- Reducing non-judicial positions by 45%, including more than 50 staff subject to layoff; and
- Laying off the Court's lone Traffic Referee and one of the court's four legal research attorney positions.

While the initial reinvestment in the Judicial Branch is a start in the right direction, it is so far insufficient to close the ongoing budget deficit facing this court. Without further funding additional steps, including reducing staffing levels, furloughs, reduced hours, closed courtrooms, and potentially closed or reduced use of facilities, will all need to be considered.

- What are your projected revenues and expenditures for NEXT fiscal year (2014-15)?

Superior Court of Placer County	FY 2014-15 PRELIMINARY PROJECTED BUDGET
Total Revenue	15,725,141
<i>Total Personal Services</i>	13,140,442
<u><i>Total Operating Expense & Equip</i></u>	<u>4,143,415</u>
Total Expenditures	17,283,857
FY Surplus/(Deficit)	(1,558,716)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP

AS WE PREPARE THIS SURVEY. AS A REMINDER, PLEASE SUBMIT THIS COMPLETED FORM TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov ON OR BEFORE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 22. PLEASE CALL ANDI AT 916-323-3121 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

**Superior Court of California,
County of PLUMAS
FY 2013-14**

Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$33,256

There are a number of ways to maintain or increase public access to justice. Check all that are appropriate AND please provide as detailed an explanation for each as you can:

**PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TYPING DIRECTLY INTO THIS TEMPLATE.
TRANSMIT YOUR COMPLETED WORD DOCUMENT TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov BY/BEFORE
CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 22ND.**

 We will avoid (or limit) previously planned staffing reductions.

- Please explain how many positions you will avoid reducing.

N/A The Plumas Court is currently running at a 33% vacancy rate in the clerical position.

- Please describe the kinds of positions you will avoid reducing.

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice in applicable divisions of your court or courthouse(s).

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Lack of staff reductions is temporary and limited to fiscal year 2013-14 as we currently have sufficient budget and fund balance to support our current reduced staffing level.

 We will avoid (or limit) previously planned courtroom closures.

- Please explain what types of hearings will be maintained.

N/A

- Please describe the impact on the public by keeping open a courtroom planned for closure.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

___ **We will avoid previously planned courthouse closures.**

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you are able to avoid closing.

The Plumas Court will not close the Chester courthouse or the Plumas/Sierra Regional Courthouse this fiscal year.

- Please explain the impact on the public by keeping open this/these courthouse(s).

The public will still be able to access each courthouse for all traffic and small claims cases. The Plumas Court will be able to continue to process all Sierra Superior Court traffic cases up to referral to collections. The Regional Courthouse will also be available to the grand juries of both Plumas and Sierra County for meetings.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

The decision to not close two courthouses is temporary and limited to fiscal year 2013-14 as the Plumas Court currently has sufficient budget and fund balance to support these facilities. At the current time the Plumas Court pays for all costs associated with the Plumas/Sierra Regional Courthouse.

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore public telephone hours.**

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

N/A – The Plumas Court telephone lines will continue to be answered Monday – Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Friday 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore court clerk hours.**

- Please explain what kinds of court clerk duties will be maintained, increased or restored.

N/A – The Plumas Court clerk hours will remain as 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday – Thursday and 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Fridays.

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

___ **We will devote resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.**

- Please explain the areas of backlog that will be addressed.

N/A – The Plumas Court currently has a 24 hour turn-around time for filings that we are currently able to meet due to reduced counter and telephone hours. We are somewhat optimistic backlogs will continue to be limited this fiscal year to only a 24 hour turn around.

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog will maintain or increase public access to justice.
- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

This backlog is temporary and limited to fiscal year 2013-14. If there are staffing reductions necessary due to furlough or lay off the backlogs would increase in future years.

___ **We will suspend/avoid employee furloughs.**

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice.

N/A We had not planned on furloughs for fiscal year 2013-14.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Avoiding employee furloughs is a temporary action and limited to fiscal year 2-13-14 as the Plumas Court currently has fund balance that will not be allowed after this fiscal year.

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore services in our self-help center.**

- Please explain the details of this proposed increase.

The small augmentation for fiscal year 2013-14 will enable the Plumas Court not to have to cut the operations contribution to the only self-help service for self-represented litigants in Plumas County.

- Please explain how the increase in self-help services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

At the current time there are no pro bono legal services provided by local counsel and no self-help organizations in Plumas County for self-represented litigants. The Court pays a contractor to provide self-help services in family law, guardianship and adoption cases. At the present time this contractor is available 32 hours per week. The Court will be able to continue to fund this contractor to provide 32 hours service in fiscal year 2013-14.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

This operational funding is temporary and limited to fiscal year 2013-14. The Court will likely have to reduce funding to this contractor based on further budget reductions and lack of an adequate fund balance.

___ We will maintain, increase or restore court reporting services.

- Please explain how increased court reporting services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

N/A – The retirement of an official court reporter in July 2013 enables the Plumas Court to meet its budget goals without laying off or furloughing other staff. If there had not been a retirement, the Court would have had to reduce its official court reporters by furlough and/or layoff. We are providing official court reporter services for all juvenile and criminal cases as required by statute and are supplying an official court reporter, when possible, for family support and domestic violence restraining order cases.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

The Court will continue to provide court reporters in all mandated case types. However, in upcoming fiscal years, the Court may not be able to provide court reporting services in any but mandated case types.

___ We will maintain, increase or restore specialty court(s).

- Please describe the specialty court(s) to be maintained, increased or restored.

N/A – The Court currently has only an Adult Drug Court specialty court. The Court has no plans to make any changes to that court.

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

This Court will likely continue the Adult Drug Court due to the small number of defendants involved and the willingness of Plumas County and other providers to support the program. The Plumas Court has no staff exclusively dedicated to this court.

Using as much additional space as you need, answer the following questions:

- Explain any other ways Plumas intends to restore, maintain, or increase public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

N/A

- What additional information would you like to add about the use of your court's share of the \$60 million augmentation?

The Plumas Court is using the entire share of the augmentation (\$33,256) to support the only self-help provider in Plumas County. The Court realizes the importance of public access to justice and has chosen self-help services as the most urgent need for its court customers.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

All actions listed above are temporary in nature and limited to fiscal year 2013-14. Filings in Plumas County are flat or decreasing in all case types. The new funding methodology and current funding deficits to all trials courts make it more likely than not that further reductions will be made to the Plumas Court budget until there is restoration of total funding for the judicial branch.

- What are your projected revenues and expenditures for NEXT fiscal year (2014-15)?

It appears from preliminary projections that our allocation will essentially remain the same in fiscal year 2014-15 (approximately \$1.4 million). There is no way to predict revenues the Court may receive as they are contingent upon case filings. Plumas case filings have been in steady decline in many case types. The County of Plumas, which is the Court's enhanced collections agent, has had to reduce staff hours, thereby reducing their ability to focus on collection efforts. With the current 1% fund balance in place for fiscal year 2014-15 and unknown increases in health and other benefit costs, the Court has no way to predict its expenditures. The Court will live within its means – which may mean reductions in many areas, including staff layoffs and furloughs.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AS WE PREPARE THIS SURVEY. AS A REMINDER, PLEASE SUBMIT THIS COMPLETED FORM TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov ON OR BEFORE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 22. PLEASE CALL ANDI AT 916-323-3121 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

**Superior Court of California,
County of RIVERSIDE
FY 2013-14**

Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$3,028,558

There are a number of ways to maintain or increase public access to justice. Check all that are appropriate AND please provide as detailed an explanation for each as you can:

**PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TYPING DIRECTLY INTO THIS TEMPLATE.
TRANSMIT YOUR COMPLETED WORD DOCUMENT TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov BY/BEFORE
CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 22ND.**

 We will avoid (or limit) previously planned staffing reductions.

- Please explain how many positions you will avoid reducing.

As a result of the new funding, the court will be able to temporarily avoid staff reductions in the following categories:

- Court Reporters – 14
- Court Reporters (Blythe Court) – 1 part time
- Probate Investigators – 3
- Courtroom Clerks (for overload assigned judge courtrooms) - 6
- Courtroom Clerk (Blythe Court) – 1
- Clerical Positions (Blythe Court)- 3 clerks; 1 senior clerk
- Clerical Positions (Traffic Divisions) – 6

- Please describe the kinds of positions you will avoid reducing.

See above

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice in applicable divisions of your court or courthouse(s).

By temporarily avoiding staff reductions in the above mentioned areas, the court will be able to maintain a minimum level of service and public access to justice. This includes the following: continuing to provide court reporters in civil, family law, and probate cases; maintaining public services and calendars in the Blythe Court on a limited scale (e.g., three days/week); continuing to perform probate investigations pursuant to the Omnibus Act; continuing to provide staff for overload assigned judge courtrooms; and continuing to provide limited in-person traffic assistance to the public.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Without continued and increase funding, these actions will be temporary and limited to fiscal year 2013-14. Without additional and ongoing funding, the court will be forced to continue staff reductions, most notably the positions listed above and others necessary to comply with budget reductions.

— We will avoid (or limit) previously planned courtroom closures.

- Please explain what types of hearings will be maintained.

As a result of the new funding, the court will be able to maintain hearing traffic, small claims, unlawful detainer and limited civil matters in the mid county region (Southern Riverside). Although those hearings will be required to move from the Temecula Court to another facility which is outside the center of the city and less convenient for citizens to travel to (Southwest Justice Center), residents will not have to travel 50 miles to downtown Riverside as previously planned.

In addition, the Blythe Court (one courtroom) will be able to remain open three days/week instead of completely closing, as previously planned. This is, however, a significant reduction in services for the citizens of this remote city.

Two felony pre-trial calendar courtrooms at the Southwest Justice Center will be consolidated in order to accommodate the traffic, small claims, and limited civil hearings moving from the Temecula Court. However, the court will at least be able to maintain one of these calendar departments in that facility.

- Please describe the impact on the public by keeping open a courtroom planned for closure.

The public will benefit by these less drastic reductions by continuing to have access (although on a more limited scale) to services for all case types in all regions of the county.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Without continued and increased funding, these actions will be temporary and limited to fiscal year 2013-14. Without additional and ongoing funding, more courtrooms will be consolidated and/or closed.

— We will avoid previously planned courthouse closures.

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you are able to avoid closing.

As a result of the new funding, the court will not have to close the Temecula Court, which currently handles traffic, small claims, unlawful detainer and limited civil matters in the mid county region (Southern Riverside). Although those hearings will now be required to move from the Temecula Court to another facility which is outside the center of the city and less convenient

for citizens to travel to (Southwest Justice Center), residents will not have to travel 50 miles to downtown Riverside as previously planned. Probate matters emanating from the mid county region, which are currently heard in the downtown courthouse, will be moved to the Temecula Court.

In addition, the Blythe Court (one courtroom) will be able to remain open three days/week instead of completely closing, as previously planned.

- Please explain the impact on the public by keeping open this/these courthouse(s).

By keeping these courthouses open, the public will continue to have access to services in all regions of the county. However, since some services need to be shifted and/or modified (e.g., moving traffic, small claims and limited civil from one courthouse to another and reducing the days of service in the Blythe Court), public access will be less convenient than it previously was and therefore access will be somewhat hampered.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Without continued and increase funding, these actions will be temporary and limited to fiscal year 2013-14. Without additional and ongoing funding, more courthouses will be considered for closure.

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore public telephone hours.**

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Due to budget reductions, the court recently discontinued providing telephone service to the public for traffic matters. Instead, the public must handle their traffic matters on-line from any location, by interactive voice response (automated telephone), using kiosks, and/or making appointments with traffic clerks. As such, the additional funding will not enable us to increase or restore public telephone hours. The funding does however prevent us from reducing telephone services for the other (non-traffic) areas of law.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Without continued and increase funding, these actions will be temporary and limited to fiscal year 2013-14. Without additional and ongoing funding, telephone services in other areas of law will be reduced and/or eliminated.

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore court clerk hours.**

- Please explain what kinds of court clerk duties will be maintained, increased or restored.

The court was not able to increase or restore court clerk hours; however, the current hours of service have been maintained. The court clerk hours were reduced to 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. several years ago due to budget reductions at the time. In-person traffic services have been reduced significantly, as mentioned in previous sections of this survey.

As a result of the new funding, the court will be able to continue hearing traffic, small claims, unlawful detainer and limited civil matters in the mid county region (Southern Riverside). These hearings, however, will be moved from the Temecula Court to the Southwest Justice Center, which is outside the center of the city and less convenient for citizens to travel to.

In addition, the Blythe Court (one courtroom) will be able to remain open three days/week instead of completely closing, as previously planned.

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

The funding provided to the court will allow it to generally maintain court clerk hours and will provide the public access to justice, although on a more limited scale.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Without continued and increase funding, these actions will be temporary and limited to fiscal year 2013-14. Without additional and ongoing funding, court clerk hours and services will be significantly reduced and/or eliminated.

— We will devote resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.

- Please explain the areas of backlog that will be addressed.

Due to the increased funding, the court was able to avoid the layoff of one clerk position to staff back-office processing in the Blythe Court.

The additional funding will also allow the court to continue to staff courtrooms with assigned judges in trial courtrooms. This will help with the backlog in criminal cases.

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Because only limited resources can be devoted to reducing backlogs in case processing, an increase in backlog in the near future is quite possible.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Without continued and increase funding, these actions will be temporary and limited to fiscal year 2013-14. Without additional and ongoing funding, further staff reductions will be

necessary. Such actions will increase the backlog in hearings, document processing, and public service in all areas of the court.

___ **We will suspend/avoid employee furloughs.**

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice.

By avoiding employee furloughs the court will be able to continue to keep courthouses, courtrooms, and clerk's offices open to the public, although on a fairly limited basis. However, due to budget reductions, telephone and in-person services for traffic matters have been discontinued.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Without continued and increase funding, these actions will be temporary and limited to fiscal year 2013-14. Without additional and ongoing funding, employee furloughs will be implemented and court services correspondingly reduced and/or eliminated.

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore services in our self-help center.**

- Please explain the details of this proposed increase.

The increase in funding will not have an effect on self-help services since the majority of funding for these services is derived from grants.

- Please explain how the increase in self-help services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

See above.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Further decreases in funding and/or state grants will result in the following: (1) the wait for self-help services will increase; (2) litigants will be turned away from the self-help centers; (3) lines in the clerk's office will be longer; (4) self-help workshops will be reduced and/or eliminated; (5) there will be an increase in court documents being improperly prepared or filed; and (6) there will be an increase in court hearings and trials.

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore court reporting services.**

- Please explain how increased court reporting services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Prior to the new funding, the court had planned to discontinue providing court reporters for all civil cases. Staffing reductions, orders, and procedures were in place. As a result of the new

funding, staff reductions were reduced and a new system of pooling reporters was implemented. All courtrooms will now have a court reporter; however, court reporters will be pooled at the conclusion of a trial or hearing in order to fill in for other reporters who are out on leave (e.g., vacation, illness, medical leave, etc.). Staff reductions did occur in this employee classification, so the court does anticipate coverage issues which will likely result in hearing delays.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Without continued and increase funding, these actions will be temporary and limited to fiscal year 2013-14. Without additional and ongoing funding, the court will be forced to eliminate court reporting services for all non-mandated areas of law, which will result in additional court reporter layoffs. The public will be required to pay for a reporter in a civil case if they wish to have that service.

___ We will maintain, increase or restore specialty court(s).

- Please describe the specialty court(s) to be maintained, increased or restored.

No specialty courts have been eliminated. However, due to staffing reductions as a result of the budget cuts, the court has had to scale back the staff time dedicated to these courts.

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

See above.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Without additional and ongoing funding, specialty courts will begin to dismantle unless further grant funding can be obtained or services are taken over by other agencies, such as the Department of Public Social Services, Department of Mental Health, etc. If these specialty courts are dismantled, the public in need of these services (e.g., mentally ill, veterans, families) will not have access to them.

Using as much additional space as you need, answer the following questions:

- Explain any other ways the Riverside Superior Court intends to restore, maintain, or increase public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

The court will utilize its portion of the \$60 million as described above to maintain, as much as possible, core court services. This includes minimum staffing to keep facilities open, self-help services intact, courtrooms operating without significant delays, backlogs addressed as quickly as possible, and to prevent further reductions in hours and/or public access.

- What additional information would you like to add about the use of your court's share of the \$60 million augmentation?

The court's share of the \$60 million, which is approximately \$3 million, will be beneficial in that it will be used to maintain a minimal level of service to the public. This level of service, however, is drastically below that which would be optimal for the public in this county. Without the necessary number of judges, staff, or funding, the court will continue to operate in a "bare minimal" capacity. This is especially true since during the past five years, the Riverside Superior Court's cumulative budget reductions have totaled some \$20 million. While the \$3 million will help, and the court greatly appreciates the assistance, it will not allow the court to maintain the level of services and retain the number of employees that was provided five years ago.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Without continued and increase funding, the actions described in this entire survey will be temporary and limited to fiscal year 2013-14. Without additional and ongoing funding, the court will be forced to close courthouses/courtrooms, consolidate calendars, reduce telephone and public service, reduce hours of operation, and reduce staffing by more than has already been done. Access to justice will in turn be severely affected. Compounding these issues is the fact that courts will be restricted to maintaining only 1percent in fund balances beginning July, 2014. This limitation will hamper the court's ability to offset unfunded mandates, maintain critical public services, and retain staff. In addition, restricting fund balances will cause severe cash flow problems for the court throughout the year.

- What are your projected revenues and expenditures for NEXT fiscal year (2014-15)?

Revenue: \$126,105,867

Expenditures: \$132,408,919

Balance: (\$6,303,052)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AS WE PREPARE THIS SURVEY. AS A REMINDER, PLEASE SUBMIT THIS COMPLETED FORM TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov ON OR BEFORE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 22. PLEASE CALL ANDI AT 916-323-3121 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

**Superior Court of California,
County of SACRAMENTO
FY 2013-14**

Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$2,625,130

There are a number of ways to maintain or increase public access to justice. Check all that are appropriate AND please provide as detailed an explanation for each as you can:

**PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TYPING DIRECTLY INTO THIS TEMPLATE.
TRANSMIT YOUR COMPLETED WORD DOCUMENT TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov BY/BEFORE
CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 22ND.**

___ We will avoid (or limit) previously planned staffing reductions.

- Please explain how many positions you will avoid reducing.

The Sacramento Superior Court is able to avoid staffing reductions in FY 2013-14, not due to the \$60 million in restoration but due to the use of monies in our fund balance. Since 2008 we have reduced our personnel by over 200 full time employees. We have done so by attrition, voluntary separation incentive programs and layoffs (June, 2012). We have also relied on the annual use of monies in our fund balance to mitigate the impact of overall funding reductions and avoid deeper staffing reductions. We are able to do so again this year without implementing layoffs.

- Please describe the kinds of positions you will avoid reducing.

n/a

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice in applicable divisions of your court or courthouse(s).

n/a

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

The ability to avoid staffing reductions is limited to the current fiscal year only. In light of the ongoing reduction to the trial courts of \$261 million, of which the Sacramento Superior Court's portion is \$11 million, our 2% statewide reserve contribution of \$1.5 million and the required depletion of our fund balance, the Sacramento Superior Court heads into FY 2014-15 with an approximate \$9 million deficit and will commence with staffing reductions in order to balance our budget on July 1, 2014.

___ We will avoid (or limit) previously planned courtroom closures.

- Please explain what types of hearings will be maintained.

To date the Sacramento Superior Court has not had to close courtrooms.

- Please describe the impact on the public by keeping open a courtroom planned for closure.

n/a

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

The ability to avoid closing courtrooms is limited to FY 2013-14 only. Given our structural deficit in FY 2014-15 and the reductions necessary to meet that deficit, the Sacramento Superior Court anticipates the need to close courtrooms in FY 2014-15.

___ **We will avoid previously planned courthouse closures.**

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you are able to avoid closing.

The Sacramento Superior Court has not had to close courthouses.

- Please explain the impact on the public by keeping open this/these courthouse(s).

n/a

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

The Sacramento Superior Court does not anticipate having to close courthouses.

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore public telephone hours.**

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

The Sacramento Superior Court is able to maintain public telephone hours in fiscal year 2013-14 not because of the \$60 million restoration, but due to the use of monies in our fund balance.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Given the size of our structural deficit and required depletion of monies in our fund balance, the Sacramento Superior Court anticipates the need to reduce public telephone hours in order to balance our budget in fiscal year 2014-15.

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore court clerk hours.**

- Please explain what kinds of court clerk duties will be maintained, increased or restored.

In recent years, the Sacramento Superior Court has reduced public front counter and phone services hours available to the public. With the rehiring of laid off employees to address backlogs as referenced below, we will be able to partially resume hours of operation in these areas.

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.
- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Given the size of our structural deficit and the required depletion of monies in our fund balance, the Sacramento Superior Court anticipates the need to reduce court clerk hours in order to balance our budget in fiscal year 2014-15.

___ We will devote resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.

- Please explain the areas of backlog that will be addressed.

The Sacramento Superior Court has made it a priority to increase case processing times. We will be devoting a portion of our share of the \$60 million restoration to reducing case processing backlogs. Previously laid off employees have been rehired to address the backlogs. Backlogs to be addressed include the following:

- *Family Law/Probate: reduction in e-correspondence delay, reduction in wait time for litigants, increase filing of documents into court files, processing judgments*
- *Civil Law: Processing clerk judgments, proofs of service, writs of execution, requests for dismissals, default court judgments, return writs, claim forms, misc. documents*
- *Juvenile: Processing minute orders, updating case information system, mailing detention packets, redaction of confidential mailing info from file, processing orders for destruction of exhibits and destroy or return exhibits.*
- *Criminal Law: Data entry/calendaring probation violations, certified copies of priors, document refilling, purged warrants, DOJ subsequent action reporting, search warrant data entry, DMV corrections*

Further, we have contracted with a local vendor to assist in backlogged probate investigator reviews

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog will maintain or increase public access to justice.

By reducing our backlogs through the rehire of previously laid off, trained employees, the Sacramento Superior Court will be able to provide increased access to cases, case information, files, forms. Paperwork will be processed more timely thus moving cases along to conclusion. Services to the public have been partially restored by focusing regular employees on front counter/phone duties to serve the public.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

All actions above are temporary for fiscal year 2013-14 due to our structural deficit and the required depletion of monies in our fund balance. We anticipate that previously laid off employees who have been rehired to address the backlogs will be laid off again along with many other current employees.

___ We will suspend/avoid employee furloughs.

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice.

The employees of the Sacramento Superior Court are not currently experiencing furloughs.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Given our structural deficit in FY 2014-15, employee furloughs would provide some cost savings. However any furloughs would have to be mutually agreed upon by our employees per current labor agreements.

___ We will maintain, increase or restore services in our self-help center.

- Please explain the details of this proposed increase.

The Sacramento Superior Court has made it a priority to serving family law litigants. We will be devoting a portion of our share of the \$60 million restoration to rehiring previously laid off employees and the recruitment of additional legal staff in order to reopen to near capacity the self-help center in our Family Law Courthouse. These staff will provide direct services to the community through individual assistance, case file review and assistance with next steps, and through instructional workshops. In addition, we will restore funding to a non-profit organization that provided parents with multilingual referrals to services in the community that are critical to assisting families and children, e.g. housing, job placement, medical assistance, mental health services, etc.

- Please explain how the increase in self-help services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Due to significant budget cuts to the Judicial Branch, hiring for vacant positions was suspended in May 2008. Additional staff was laid off in June of 2012 resulting in an overall 50% vacancy rate in the Self Help Center. We had to eliminate most in-person assistance, discontinue all but two instructional workshops, and close the court's computer room where litigants could prepare and print legal forms, run support calculations and do legal research. Except for a few in-person services, all self-help assistance has been provided exclusively through an email program developed by the court. With the increase in funding we will begin offering individual assistance, case file review, and six different workshops that will assist self-represented litigants with their Family Law cases.

Family Law litigants in Sacramento County have seen self-help services erode during recent years of budget cuts to the trial courts. With 75% of family law litigants in Sacramento County being self-represented, a thriving self-help center is vital in order to provide some measure of assistance in the legal process to these litigants. Increased resources to our self-help services will increase public access to justice.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

All actions above are temporary for fiscal year 2013-14 due to our structural deficit and required depletion of monies in our fund balance. We anticipate that previously laid off employees who have been rehired to address the backlogs, resume public counter and telephone service, and staff our self-help center will be laid off again along with many other current employees.

We will maintain, increase or restore court reporting services.

- Please explain how increased court reporting services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

To date the Sacramento Superior Court has not had to decrease court reporting services.

Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year

The ability to maintain court reporting services in non-mandated court reporter hearings is temporary for fiscal year 2013-14. Given our structural deficit and required depletion of monies in our fund balance, the Sacramento Superior Court anticipates the need to reduce court reporting services in fiscal year 2014-15.

___ We will maintain, increase or restore specialty court(s).

- Please describe the specialty court(s) to be maintained, increased or restored.

To date the Sacramento Superior Court has not had to reduce or close any specialty courts.

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

n/a

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

The ability to maintain specialty courts is temporary for fiscal year 2013-14. Given our structural deficit and required depletion of monies in our fund balance, the Sacramento Superior Court anticipates the need to reduce specialty courts in fiscal year 2014-15.

Using as much additional space as you need, answer the following questions:

- Explain any other ways SACRAMENTO SUPERIOR COURT intends to restore, maintain, or increase public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

The Sacramento Superior Court has used a portion of the restoration funds to increase funding to the CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) contract for fiscal year 2013-14 in order to cover the 25% increased caseload due to statute changes expanding the coverage of adult-aged youths.

The Sacramento Superior Court will use a portion of the funds to contract with a private probate investigator in order to reduce our backlog of Probate review investigations. Probate Code 1851 requires periodic review investigations of all cases where a conservator has been appointed. The investigation requires the court to assess and evaluate the living and housing arrangements, care plans, and other information concerning the personal health and safety of conservatees. This funding will reduce the court's backlog.

What additional information would you like to add about the use of your court's share of the \$60 million

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

While the Sacramento Superior Court is grateful for the \$60 million in new funding to the trial courts, without significant restoration next year AND a change in the impending fund balance policy, the Sacramento Superior Court will need to institute mass layoffs for fiscal year 2014-15 in order to balance our budget. The result will be the reversal of the work we are able to do this year in increasing and maintaining access to justice for the citizens of our community. This result will not only impact our court, but trial courts throughout California.

- What are your projected revenues and expenditures for NEXT fiscal year (2014-15)?

<i>Projected Revenues</i>	<i>\$83,253,180</i>
<i>Projected Expenditures</i>	<i><u>\$92,244,198</u></i>
	<i>(\$9,000,000)</i>

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**Superior Court of California,
County of SAN BENITO
FY 2013-14**

Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$85,264

There are a number of ways to maintain or increase public access to justice. Check all that are appropriate AND please provide as detailed an explanation for each as you can:

**PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TYPING DIRECTLY INTO THIS TEMPLATE.
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CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 22ND.**

n/a **We will avoid (or limit) previously planned staffing reductions.**

- Please explain how many positions you will avoid reducing.

Type your response here

- Please describe the kinds of positions you will avoid reducing.

Type your response here

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice in applicable divisions of your court or courthouse(s).

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

n/a **We will avoid (or limit) previously planned courtroom closures.** *San Benito is a 2-judge Court*

that has just 1 courthouse and 2.75 courtrooms to serve the entire community. With so few courtrooms, closure has never been an option.

- Please explain what types of hearings will be maintained.

Type your response here

- Please describe the impact on the public by keeping open a courtroom planned for closure.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

n/a **We will avoid previously planned courthouse closures.** *San Benito is a 2-judge Court that has just 1 courthouse and 2.75 courtrooms to serve the entire community. With a single court facility, closure has never been an option.*

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you are able to avoid closing.

Type your response here

- Please explain the impact on the public by keeping open this/these courthouse(s).

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

X **We will maintain, increase or restore public telephone hours.** *Please note that I considered telephone hours under the same category as "court clerk hours."*

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

X **We will maintain, increase or restore court clerk hours.** *Please note that I equated "court clerk Hours" with hours that the Court is open to serve the public.*

- Please explain what kinds of court clerk duties will be maintained, increased or restored.

San Benito's longstanding hours of public service have been from 8:00am to 4:00pm. Prior to confirmation of the \$60 million reinvestment, one budget scenario for fiscal year 2013-2014 included a reduction of those hours of public service. As of this survey, San Benito has been able to maintain the hours of 8:00am and 4:00pm and plans to keep them intact at least until June 30, 2014.

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

San Benito is a 2-judge Court that offers three public counters: 1) Civil, 2) Criminal – Traffic, and 3) Family Court Services. The ability to maintain the hours of public service from 8:00am to 4:00pm allows the community to continue to access judicial services at its normal level of convenience. It's important to note that the community's uninterrupted access has resulted in increased use of the self-help center which is a collaborative effort between San Benito and Santa Cruz (see subsequent question).

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Notwithstanding the value of the \$60 million reinvestment in the judicial branch, the depth of the preceding and ongoing reductions to the system have forced San Benito to refrain from adding new programs or expanding existing programs beyond basic requirements. Thus, San Benito applied a portion of its allocation from the \$60 million to maintain our longstanding hours of public service. However, due to the "bare bones" financial condition brought on by the aforementioned reductions, it's uncertain if San Benito can continue its current level of public service hours beyond the fiscal year 2013-2014. The following issues are fueling uncertainty for fiscal year 2014-2015 and beyond:

The State of California's revenue available for fiscal year 2014-2015 and beyond.

The State of California's allocation to the judicial branch in fiscal year 2014-2015 and beyond. A 1% cap on reserves that takes effect as of June 30, 2014

Please note that the 1% cap on reserves prevents savings in other areas of San Benito's budget from being applied to sustain the current level of public service hours.

n/a **We will devote resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.**

- Please explain the areas of backlog that will be addressed.

Type your response here

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

n/a **We will suspend employeec furloughs.** *Although I have marked n/a, there is a remote chance that the current furloughs in place (one day a month for fiscal year 2013-2014) may be reduced.*

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

X **We will maintain, increase or restore services in our self-help center.**

- Please explain the details of this proposed increase.

San Benito's self-help center is a collaborative effort with Santa Cruz. In order to provide as much access as possible, San Benito has historically augmented its base allocation with approximately \$45,000 out of its own General Fund. For fiscal year 2013-2014, San Benito was able to maintain the augmentation of approximately \$45,000.

- Please explain how the increase in self-help services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

San Benito's ability to direct its share of the \$60 million towards maintaining current funding levels has, in part, resulted in statistics that show an increase in the public's use of the self-help center from fiscal year 2010-2011 onward. Insofar as self-help centers provide assistance to community members that might otherwise forego judicial services, the statistical increase is evidence that the local community's access has and continues to expand.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Notwithstanding the value of the \$60 million reinvestment in the judicial branch, the depth of the preceding and ongoing reductions to the system have forced San Benito to refrain from adding new programs or expanding existing programs beyond basic requirements. Thus, San Benito applied a portion of its allocation from the \$60 million to maintain our self-help center. However, due to the "bare bones" financial condition brought on by the aforementioned reductions, it's uncertain if the self-help center can continue at its current level of public service beyond the fiscal year 2013-2014. The following issues are fueling uncertainty for fiscal year 2014-2015 and beyond:

The State of California's revenue available for fiscal year 2014-2015 and beyond.

The State of California's allocation to the judicial branch in fiscal year 2014-2015 and beyond.

A 1% cap on reserves that takes effect as of June 30, 2014

Please note that the 1% cap on reserves prevents savings in other areas of San Benito's budget from being applied to augment other judicial services such as the self-help center. Consequently, without additional reinvestments in the judicial branch, San Benito may have to consider reducing and/or eliminating its augmentation of approximately \$45,000 for the self-help center in order to preserve, for example, hours of service at public counters.

n/a **We will maintain, increase or restore court reporting services.** *On a parallel note, it may be useful to observe that, if adopted, AB 566 may require San Benito to spend significantly more on court reporter services than necessary, even to the point of paying for services that are never delivered. The point of this observation is that if additional reinvestments in the judicial branch aren't forthcoming and AB 566 is adopted, San Benito may have to consider adjusting its budget for self-help services in order to accommodate the expected increase in expenditures for court reporter services.*

- Please explain how increased court reporting services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

X **We may maintain, increase or restore specialty court(s).**

- Please describe the specialty court(s) to be maintained, increased or restored.

In collaboration with the Probation Department and the County Library, the Presiding Judge administered "Literacy Court" which targeted individuals on probation who met the following criteria: 1) have children between the ages of two and seven and 2) have been convicted of a felony and/or domestic violence. The program administered under Literacy Court was divided into two phases: phase one wherein the probationer was ordered to visit the County Library weekly to read to their children and phase two wherein the probationer was ordered to visit the County Library weekly but without their children.

The coordination between the Court, the Librarian and the Probation Department required funding that, although nominal, has been depleted. Due to the benefits observed, the Court has received recommendations to restore Literacy Court. As an offshoot of Literacy Court, the Presiding Judge has, pending funding, outlined a program for "Parental Responsibility Court" wherein the parents of juveniles before the Court will be subject to consequences for failing to follow directions of the Court (e.g. the Court orders a curfew for a juvenile).

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

The clients of Literacy Court received expanded ancillary social services that otherwise would have been unavailable. Also and admittedly in theory, the reduced recidivism allows the Court to allocate its limited resources to other judicial services (e.g. self-help center).

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Notwithstanding the value of the \$60 million reinvestment in the judicial branch, the depth of the preceding and ongoing reductions to the system have forced San Benito to refrain from adding new programs or expanding existing programs beyond basic requirements. Thus, San Benito may be able to apply a portion of its allocation from the \$60 million to restore Literacy Court. However, due to the "bare bones" financial condition brought on by the aforementioned reductions, it's uncertain if Literacy Court can be restored this fiscal year 2013-2014. The following issues are fueling uncertainty for fiscal year 2014-2015 and beyond:

*The State of California's revenue available for fiscal year 2014-2015 and beyond.
The State of California's allocation to the judicial branch in fiscal year 2014-2015 and beyond.
A 1% cap on reserves that takes effect as of June 30, 2014*

Please note that the 1% cap on reserves prevents savings in other areas of San Benito's budget from being applied to restore specialty courts such as Literacy Court. Consequently, without additional reinvestments in the judicial branch, San Benito may not be able to restore Literacy Court much less implement Parental Responsibility Court.

Using as much additional space as you need, answer the following questions:

- Explain any other ways San Benito intends to restore, maintain, or increase public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

Type your response here

- What additional information would you like to add about the use of your court's share of the \$60 million augmentation?

Respectfully, the value of the \$60 million is limited to the current fiscal year when coupled with the ongoing reductions to the judicial branch and the ill-advised 1% cap on reserves that is effective June 30, 2014. (See next question)

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

It's important to stress the obstacle presented by the 1% cap on reserves effective June 30, 2014. Respectfully, the 1% cap on reserves is a significant factor as to why the impact and value of the \$60 million reinvestment is limited to the current fiscal year 2103-2014 and by extension, why San Benito cannot guarantee that the current level of access to judicial services will be sustained in fiscal year 2014-2015 and beyond. When coupled with the aforementioned ongoing reductions to the judicial branch, the inability to save a reasonable amount reduces the annual budgeting process to a cold prioritization of core operations. In other words, without additional funding, the 1% cap on reserves will severely limit the Court's financial ability to fund non-mandated services such as Literacy Court.

- What are your **projected** revenues and expenditures for NEXT fiscal year (2014-15)?

<i>FY2014-2015 Annual Expenses:</i>	<i>\$ 3,270,148</i>
<i>FY2014-2015 Annual Revenue:</i>	<i>\$ 3,117,113</i>
<i>FY2014-2015 Projected Deficit:</i>	<i>(\$ 153,035)</i>

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AS WE PREPARE THIS SURVEY. AS A REMINDER, PLEASE SUBMIT THIS COMPLETED FORM TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov ON OR BEFORE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 22. PLEASE CALL ANDI AT 916-323-3121 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

**Superior Court of California,
County of SAN BERNARDINO
FY 2013-14**

Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$3,476,637

There are a number of ways to maintain or increase public access to justice. Check all that are appropriate AND please provide as detailed an explanation for each as you can:

**PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TYPING DIRECTLY INTO THIS TEMPLATE.
TRANSMIT YOUR COMPLETED WORD DOCUMENT TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov BY/BEFORE
CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 22ND.**

 We will avoid (or limit) previously planned staffing reductions.

- Please explain how many positions you will avoid reducing.

This new funding narrows, but does not eliminate, the projected funding shortfall of approximately \$4.5 million per year. All actions needed to fully balance court revenues and expenditures have not yet been identified. However, it is expected that the additional funding makes the closure of Joshua Tree District Courthouse less likely. Keeping the Joshua Tree District Courthouse open would avoid reduction of up to sixteen (16) positions.

- Please describe the kinds of positions you will avoid reducing.

Legal Processing Assistant II, Judicial Assistant I, Judicial Assistant II, Child Custody Recommending Counselor, and Official Court Reporter

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice in applicable divisions of your court or courthouse(s).

It is planned that this additional funding will maintain public access to justice in the Joshua Tree District Courthouse, which serves more than seventy-five thousand residents in a remote southeastern section of the county. If closed, residents would have to commute up to one and a half hours, each way, to appear in court.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

It is planned that this additional funding will allow the court to avoid closing the Joshua Tree District Courthouse on or after July 1, 2014, though the court still projects an ongoing shortfall of approximately \$4.5 million dollars per year, and all actions to close the remaining shortfall have not yet been identified or implemented.

 We will avoid (or limit) previously planned courtroom closures.

- Please explain what types of hearings will be maintained.

Without the additional funding, it is likely that the court would have to close an additional six (6) courtrooms, countywide, in addition to closing Joshua Tree District Courthouse and other measures. This action would have reduced four criminal, one delinquency, and one civil courtrooms, countywide.

- Please describe the impact on the public by keeping open a courtroom planned for closure.

By avoiding closure of these courtrooms, the public avoids longer lines, delayed court dates, longer wait times, and longer commutes to reach a different courthouse in some cases.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Assuming the court is otherwise able to address the projected \$4.5 million per year deficit, the court will be able to maintain these six (6) courtrooms in operation.

___ We will avoid previously planned courthouse closures.

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you are able to avoid closing.

Joshua Tree Courthouse operations will likely remain open in FY 14-15.

- Please explain the impact on the public by keeping open this/these courthouse(s).

Joshua Tree Courthouse serves a population of more than seventy-five thousand people. With no public transportation available, these residents would face long commutes to other courthouses and delays in hearing date if the courthouse were to close.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Assuming that the court is otherwise able to address the projected \$4.5 million per year deficit, the court will be able to keep Joshua Tree Courthouse open.

___ We will maintain, increase or restore public telephone hours.

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Not applicable.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Not applicable.

___ We will maintain, increase or restore court clerk hours.

- Please explain what kinds of court clerk duties will be maintained, increased or restored.

Not applicable.

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Not applicable. This additional funding does not impact court clerk hours.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Not applicable.

___ We will devote resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.

- Please explain the areas of backlog that will be addressed.

The Court's plan to suspend employee furloughs will allow the Court to reduce growing case backlogs.

In addition, the funding enables the Court to hire four (4) mediators and seven (7) self-help employees on a temporary basis, through June 30, 2014. This will assist in reducing the current backlog in mediation appointments. This action is temporary, however, unless additional ongoing funding is provided.

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog will maintain or increase public access to justice.

With the additional allocation of \$60 million in new monies, the Court plans to suspend furloughs of staff through June 30, 2014. This will provide additional staff support of eight (8) hours per employee, per month, allowing the clerk's office to maintain more open public windows, to provide more timely processing of filings, and allow for more time to handle case processing paperwork.

In addition, a planned temporary increase in mediator positions will assist in reduction of the backlog in family court mediations, which will result in more timely setting of family law hearings.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

The planned increase in mediation and self-help services will be implemented in the current fiscal year. This is possible because the court currently maintains reserves sufficient to offset the court's projected shortfall this year. In future fiscal years, the additional funding will be used to offset the court's projected deficit.

We will suspend employee furloughs.

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice.

With the additional funding in the current fiscal year, having staff available in the courthouse one additional day per month in FY 13-14 to assist the public will increase public access to justice in several ways, including reducing public waiting time in lines as more staff is available to provide assistance, and filing backlogs will decrease with more staff available for processing filings. For example, in the clerk's office, staffing currently is three hundred eighty-four (384) Legal Processing Assistants. Suspending employee furloughs will increase assistance to the public by approximately 29,184 court clerk hours or almost 14 FTE in the current fiscal year, only.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

The planned furlough suspension will be implemented in the current fiscal year only. This is possible as the court currently maintains reserves sufficient to offset the Court's projected shortfall this year. In future fiscal years though, the additional funding will be used to partially offset the Court's overall projected deficit.

We will maintain, increase or restore services in our self-help center.

- Please explain the details of this proposed increase.

In FY 13-14 we will temporarily increase self-help in-person services one day per week in the Barstow Courthouse and two days per week in the Fontana Courthouse for small claims and unlawful detainers. We plan to implement a Call Center/Telephone assistance program with potential integration of Skype Video. We also plan to implement a Domestic Violence e-delivery filing program so litigants can complete and file Domestic Violence forms online.

- Please explain how the increase in self-help services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

With increased Self-Help Services for small claims and Unlawful Detainers in Fontana and Barstow, the public will have enhanced access to Self-Help services in these locations and Domestic Violence forms will be able to be completed online. Computer

generated Domestic Violence forms will be easier to read and fill out. Online forms will reduce the number of trips to the courthouse.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Much of the forms development and programming costs are one time. Beyond that, without additional funding, the ability to continue these programs beyond the current fiscal year is limited. Consequently, the enhanced staffing and in-person services may not extend beyond 6/30/14.

_____ We will maintain, increase or restore court reporting services.

- Please explain how increased court reporting services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Not applicable. The Court does not anticipate any change in court reporter service as a result of this allocation. Previous rounds of budget reductions have resulted in a reduction, but not elimination of court provided reporters in non-mandated civil cases. The additional funding provided this year is not sufficient to return to the prior level of service.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Not applicable.

_____ We will maintain, increase or restore specialty court(s).

- Please describe the specialty court(s) to be maintained, increased or restored.

There are no changes in specialty courts planned in FY 13-14.

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Not applicable.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Not applicable.

Using as much additional space as you need, answer the following questions:

- Explain any other ways San Bernardino intends to restore, maintain, or increase public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

San Bernardino Superior Court intends to temporarily increase mediation services for Family Law cases with an increase of four (4) Child Custody Recommending Counselors. This will allow the Court to reduce an 8-16 week backlog of parents waiting for a mediation appointment or session. Without additional ongoing funding these additional positions will end by 6/30/14.

- What additional information would you like to add about the use of your court's share of the \$60 million augmentation?

In the current year, in addition to other Access-to-Justice initiatives being initiated, the court is using one-time funds to implement e-filing processes in civil, probate, and family law cases. This will further enhance the Court's ability to provide access to the Court for the residents of this vast county.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Most of the expenditures to build an e-filing infrastructure in the court will be incurred this fiscal year.

- What are your projected revenues and expenditures for NEXT fiscal year (2014-15)?

<i>Projected Revenue</i>	<i>\$ 97,186,670</i>
<i>Projected Expenditures</i>	<i>\$101,697,929</i>

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AS WE PREPARE THIS SURVEY. AS A REMINDER, PLEASE SUBMIT THIS COMPLETED FORM TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov ON OR BEFORE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 22. PLEASE CALL ANDI AT 916-323-3121 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

**Superior Court of California,
County of SAN DIEGO
FY 2013-14**

Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$4,322,164

There are a number of ways to maintain or increase public access to justice. Check all that are appropriate AND please provide as detailed an explanation for each as you can:

**PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TYPING DIRECTLY INTO THIS TEMPLATE.
TRANSMIT YOUR COMPLETED WORD DOCUMENT TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov BY/BEFORE
CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 22ND.**

XX We will avoid (or limit) previously planned staffing reductions.

- Please explain how many positions you will avoid reducing.

This restored funding did not avoid or limit any previously planned staffing reductions. San Diego Superior Court was forced to reduce the number of court employees by an additional, approximately 170 additional positions in FY 12-13 to meet anticipated budget reductions targets for FY 12-13 and 13-14. This restored funding will not enable our court to increase the number of employees to serve the public. This restored funding coupled with unfunded benefit increases and implementation of the Workload Allocation Funding Model (WAFM) only reduced the court's ongoing structural deficit from an estimated \$8 million to an estimated \$5 million. We remain in a structural deficit which we would manage by imposing unpaid work furloughs on court employees.

- Please describe the kinds of positions you will avoid reducing.
- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice in applicable divisions of your court or courthouse(s).

This restored funding and the stabilization in the size of our workforce (at a 27% vacancy rate from our staffing levels in FY 2007-08) will enable us to maintain our current public access/hours. In our opinion, this is not adequate access for the public, but given the level of work and the limited number of available employees due to insufficient funding, we believe can avoid any further reductions in FY 2013-14.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

XX We will avoid (or limit) previously planned courtroom closures.

- Please explain what types of hearings will be maintained.

This restored funding will enable the court to avoid closing 2 courtrooms that were previously planned for closure by June 20, 2013. This will enable us to avoid further backlogs and delays in the processing of traffic and/or family law matters.

- Please describe the impact on the public by keeping open a courtroom planned for closure.

This restored funding may enable us to stabilize the backlog in "time to trial" in traffic cases in our Central Branch at 7 months (from initial hearing), rather than our previous calendar settings of only 1-2 months. In addition, we may be able to stabilize the delays in family law child custody evaluations with a family court counselor at the current 2 month backlog.

This restored funding, and the commensurate reductions to our court associated with the implementation of the WAFM did not provide sufficient funds to restore positions and services in the civil and small claims areas. Therefore, we will not be able to reopen these services in our East and South County Branches nor will we be able to reduce growing backlogs and delays in the filing, processing, scheduling or hearing of cases. We will also be unable to restore probate court services or full dependency court services in our North County Branch.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

___ We will avoid previously planned courthouse closures.

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you are able to avoid closing.
- Please explain the impact on the public by keeping open this/these courthouse(s).
- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

XX We will maintain, increase or restore public telephone hours.

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

This restored funding and the stabilization in the size of our workforce (at a 27% vacancy rate from our staffing levels in FY 2007-08) will enable us to maintain our current public telephone hours of 8:30 – 11:30 each day. In our opinion, this is not adequate access for the public, but given the level of work and the limited number of available employees due to insufficient funding, we believe can avoid any further reductions in FY 2013-14.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

XX We will maintain, increase or restore court clerk hours.

- Please explain what kinds of court clerk duties will be maintained, increased or restored.
- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

With the restored funds, we can maintain the current public service hours in our clerk's business offices at M-Th 8:30 – 3:30 and Fri 8:30 – 12:00. This reduced level of public access, implemented in FY 2012-13 will remain unchanged until there is further funding restoration.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

___ We will devote resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.

- Please explain the areas of backlog that will be addressed.
- Please explain how decreasing the backlog will maintain or increase public access to justice.
- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

XX We will suspend/avoid employee furloughs.

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice.

The provision of one-time benefits money at the end of FY 2012-13 enabled this court to suspend 24 days of planned, unpaid work furloughs scheduled for FY 2013-14. The FY 2013-14 budget plan included savings based on 24 days of work furlough for all court employees.

Suspending work furloughs will enable this court to maintain public access levels without further change.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Without the ability to carry over more than 1% in reserve, with an ongoing structural deficit of approximately \$5 million, with additional increases in retirement and health care expenses, and without further restoration of baseline budgets in FY 2014-15, the court may be forced to implement work furloughs to address any deficit that develops.

XX We will maintain, increase or restore services in our self-help center.

- Please explain the details of this proposed increase.

We plan to maintain the current (reduced) level of self-help services in FY 2013-14.

- Please explain how the increase in self-help services will maintain or increase public access to justice.
- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

XX We will maintain, increase or restore court reporting services.

- Please explain how increased court reporting services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

We plan to maintain the current (reduced) level of court reporting services in FY 2013-14. We will continue to provide court reporters in criminal (felony), juvenile and specified family law cases. With the current level of court funding in San Diego, we cannot provide court-paid court reporters in civil, probate and specified family law cases.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

XX We will maintain, increase or restore specialty court(s).

- Please describe the specialty court(s) to be maintained, increased or restored.

We plan to maintain the current level of specialty courts in FY 2013-14.

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services will maintain or increase public access to justice.
- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Using as much additional space as you need, answer the following questions:

- Explain any other ways SAN DIEGO SUPERIOR COURT intends to restore, maintain, or increase public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

This restored funding, at best, will enable to the court to maintain the current level of reduced services implemented from FY 2008-09 through FY 2012-13 to meet previous and ongoing budget reductions. This restored funding did not avoid or limit any previously planned staffing reductions. This restored funding will not enable our court to increase the number of employees to serve the public. This restored funding and implementation of WAFM only reduced the court's ongoing structural deficit from an estimated \$8 million to an estimated \$5 million. The structural deficit cannot be maintained at this level after this fiscal year due to the inability to carry over more than 1% in reserve and likely will be managed by imposing unpaid work furloughs on court employees.

- What additional information would you like to add about the use of your court's share of the \$60 million augmentation?

As indicated in previous answers, we believe it is misleading to focus on our court's share of the \$60 million (\$4.32 million) without considering the other negative adjustments resulting from implementing the WAFM or the failure provide ongoing funds to pay for benefits and retirement cost increases.

Implementing WAFM in FY 2013-14 reduced San Diego's share of the \$60 million funding augmentation (\$4.32 million) by \$2.76 million. This leaves only \$1.56 million. Failure to provide ongoing state general funding for benefits and retirement cost increases in the judicial branch, as is done for the other two branches, has cost this court \$7.8 million (through FY 2013-14). Without additional funding restoration, we will be unable to truly restore or increase public access.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

- What are your projected revenues and expenditures for NEXT fiscal year (2014-15)?

Projected FY 14-15 Expenditures: \$174.9 million

Projected FY 14-15 Revenues: \$162.4 million

Projected FY 14-15 Deficit -\$ 12.5 million

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**Superior Court of California,
County of SAN FRANCISCO
FY 2013-14**

Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$1,605,726

There are a number of ways to maintain or increase public access to justice. Check all that are appropriate AND please provide as detailed an explanation for each as you can:

**PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TYPING DIRECTLY INTO THIS TEMPLATE.
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CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 22ND.**

___ We will avoid (or limit) previously planned staffing reductions.

- Please explain how many positions you will avoid reducing.

Type your response here

- Please describe the kinds of positions you will avoid reducing.

Type your response here

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice in applicable divisions of your court or courthouse(s).

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ We will avoid (or limit) previously planned courtroom closures.

- Please explain what types of hearings will be maintained.

Type your response here

- Please describe the impact on the public by keeping open a courtroom planned for closure.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We will avoid previously planned courthouse closures.**

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you are able to avoid closing.

Type your response here

- Please explain the impact on the public by keeping open this/these courthouse(s).

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore public telephone hours.**

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore court clerk hours.**

- Please explain what kinds of court clerk duties will be maintained, increased or restored.

Type your response here

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We will devote resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.**

- Please explain the areas of backlog that will be addressed.

Type your response here

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

We will suspend/avoid employee furloughs.

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

X We will maintain, increase or restore services in our self-help center.

- Please explain the details of this proposed increase.

The Court has hired an additional bi-lingual Spanish speaking attorney to increase self-help services. Specifically, the self-help center will see the following services restored:

- 1. Assistance for Conservatorships of Person;*
- 2. Assistance for Guardianships of Person;*
- 3. Assistance for Step-Parent/2nd Parent Adoptions;*
- 4. Grandparent Visitation Petitions;*
- 5. Small Claims Mediation Services for Self-Represented Litigants; and*
- 6. Outreach to Limited English Proficient Communities.*

- Please explain how the increase in self-help services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Conservatorship of the Person

The public will be able to receive legal assistance in applying for a Petition for Conservatorship of the Person to make decisions for a spouse or family member who is no longer able to make decisions for him/herself. For example, a spouse or family member who seeks to make medical decisions or to move a family member to a better medical facility for treatment will be able to do so as a result of the additional self-help staffing resources.

Guardianship of the Person

The public will be able to receive legal assistance to enable minor children to be placed with an adult family member or adult family friend in instances where both parents are

unable to provide care to those minor children. The circumstances may entail one or both parents who are in the armed forces and deployed out of the country for an extensive period of time; or where one or both parents are incarcerated; or where one or both parents are living in a residential treatment facility that does not allow children etc.

Step-Parent/2nd Parent Adoptions

Children in families of same-sex relationships or where a step-parent has provided care of the minor child(ren) will benefit from the increase in self-help services with the **addition of Step-Parent/2nd Parent Adoption assistance**. These cases types are extremely expensive in the private sector where there are no other resources available for families seeking free legal services for low or moderate income families. The addition of this service will increase the public's ability to fully legalize a parent-child relationship for minor children in families of same-sex relationships or where a step-parent has co-parented with a spouse and seeks to care for and raise his/her spouse's minor children as his/her own minor children.

Grandparent Visitation (Joinder in existing Family Law cases)

Self-help services will be provided to grandparents who wish to join an existing family law action to petition for visitation with their grandchildren. Often, it is in the best interest of the minor children to have a frequent and continuing relationship with a grandparent who has provided care for the child and who has had a legitimate stake in the best interest of the child(ren).

Self-Represented Litigant Mediation Program

Small claims mediation services will be offered to English and Spanish speaking self-represented litigants. Court customers benefit from having the option to voluntarily mediate with a 3rd party neutral to amicably resolve a legal matter as an alternative to litigating a matter in the courtroom. Often small claims matters involve parties who wish to maintain an existing relationship, i.e. business relationship, family member who owes a debt, friend who provided home repairs or other service etc. The advantage for many self-represented litigants is to reach a voluntary agreement and to have final resolution in a matter when the parties comply with the agreement rather than pursue post-judgment remedies. A successful mediation agreement avoids protracted court proceedings, thus saves court resources, and ultimately increases the court-user's trust and confidence in the legal process.

Outreach to Limited English Proficient (LEP) communities

According to the 2011 American Community Survey, over 115,000 San Franciscans over 14 years of age do not speak English well. Most of these individuals report primary languages in Spanish, Russian, Vietnamese, Cantonese/Mandarin, or Tagalog. To

support access to justice for all San Franciscans, the addition of a Spanish-speaking staff attorney will increase community outreach activities to limited English proficient (LEP) populations in the Spanish-speaking community.

An integration of services will be conducted through community partnerships, neighborhood workshops and clinics aimed to improve access to justice for low-income, geographically disadvantaged, monolingual communities across San Francisco.

The goal will be to develop, implement, and maintain educational outreach strategy for LEP communities. This staff attorney led outreach project will work toward four objectives: 1) raise awareness of the legal rights and resources available to the LEP public; 2) demystify the legal process and assist LEP litigants to pursue their claims, 3) improve the experience of LEP litigants at the court, ensuring they have the resources to navigate the court efficiently; and 4) create long-term opportunities for continued access to justice through developing support networks among community partners.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

The Court views these funds as ongoing funds, and therefore it is our intent to provide these services on an ongoing basis. However, it should be noted that the Court will see a decrease in funding for at least the next four consecutive fiscal years due to the new workload-based allocation and funding methodology. Therefore, if future court funding is reduced to the point where the Court must bring expenses in line with reduced budgets to close structural deficits, these and all other services will be considered for reduction.

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore court reporting services.**

- Please explain how increased court reporting services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore specialty court(s).**

- Please describe the specialty court(s) to be maintained, increased or restored.

Type your response here

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

Using as much additional space as you need, answer the following questions:

- Explain any other ways the San Francisco Superior Court intends to restore, maintain, or increase public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

Restore One Probate Examiner Position

The Court intends on hiring a probate examiner, which is a position that has remained vacant since the time of budget-driven staff reductions effectuated October of 2011. Probate examiners review all petitions on a Probate calendar. Examples of petitions include those for appointment of a trustee or an estate representative, approval of the sale of estate or conservatorship real property, and approval of accountings that detail a fiduciary's management of estate assets. These petitions are often very detailed and must be reviewed for compliance with Probate law. A significant number of petitions are for court approval of complex accountings involving issues of investments, fees, and the use of funds on behalf of an impaired individual. A Judicial Officer relies upon the detailed review and analysis of the examiner and would not be able to make informed rulings on all of the matters on calendar without the analysis provided by an examiner.

The number of petitions on a given calendar had to be reduced equivalent to the reduced number of examiners on staff with the San Francisco Superior Court. As a result, over the course of the close to two year period since the staff reduction, the wait time from the date of filing a petition to the date a matter can be heard on calendar has increased from 8 weeks to 13 weeks, and will continue to increase until another examiner is in place and trained to carry a full file load. The goal is to decrease the wait time, thereby increase access to justice.

With the examiner position re-filled, the court will be able to increase the number of petitions set on calendar which will in turn shorten the amount of time between filing and hearing. Another examiner will also reduce the amount of time attorneys and parties have to wait for the processing of approximately 100 ex parte applications per month received by the court.

Reduction of delays benefits the public by providing earlier resolution of matters such as selling real property to generate cash flow for the payment of care on behalf of an impaired person or a minor, more promptly addressing cases which allege elder abuse,

dependent financial abuse, allegations of theft from estates, trusts and dependent adults, by distributing funds earlier to beneficiaries who may be in dire financial situations, and the timely approval of the payment of fees to those who provide services to the frail and impaired who need the protection of the court.

Re-Open a Juvenile Dependency Courtroom on a Part-Time Basis

The Court will re-open a Juvenile Dependency Courtroom on a part-time basis. This Juvenile Dependency Department was permanently closed in October 2011 due to budget cuts. Its re-opening will increase public access to justice and assist the Court to be in compliance with Title IV-E of the Social Security Act, also known as the Federal Foster Care Program. The Dependency Courts are required to hear matters in a timely manner and required to make appropriate Title IV-E findings to ensure that the child's stay in the foster care system is funded in its entirety. If the Court fails to make timely or appropriate Title IV-E findings, the funding for the child's entire stay in the foster care system could be jeopardized and the child will not be eligible for federal funding for his or her entire stay in the foster care system. With this additional part-time Dependency Department the Court's timelines will improve allowing the families access to the courts in a timelier manner. The part-time restoration of this department will have a trickle down effect, benefitting the entire Unified Family Court and allowing more timely access to justice for the families and counsel to have their matters heard.

Specifically, the following services which will be increased due to the additional part-time Juvenile Dependency Department are as follows:

- 1. Dependency Settlement Conferences will be increased from 7 settlement conferences a week to 15 settlement conferences a week with increased time per conference and more bench oversight*
- 2. Trial availability for Dependency hearings will increase allowing for contested matters to be resolved quicker*
- 3. Dependency Status Review Hearings, Post Permanency Review Hearings, AB-12 Hearings, 366.26 Hearings which were all moved to every other week will now be heard weekly, helping the court maintain compliance with Federal guidelines as they relate to the timeliness of the hearings*
- 4. Access to the public as it relates to their matters being heard more rapidly, clients have had to wait longer for resolution on their cases, a wait which can cause added strife for families.*
- 5. Long cause Family Court trials which have been pushed back 4 -5 months due to Dependency trials having precedence to be heard first will now be back on track and able to be tried within 1-2 months*
- 6. Delayed resolutions in family law, unfortunately increases the tension between families and ultimately the children are the ones that are harmed. Having these*

trials back on track will allow resolution of these cases for the families. Hence increasing the access to the public for judicial services.

Courts are entrusted with many duties and responsibilities that affect individuals and organizations involved with the judicial system, including litigants, jurors, attorneys, witnesses, social service agencies, and members of the public. The repercussions from untimely court actions in any of these involvements can have serious consequences for the persons directly concerned.

- What additional information would you like to add about the use of your court's share of the \$60 million augmentation?

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

The Court views these funds as ongoing funds, and therefore it is our intent to provide these services on an ongoing basis. However, it should be noted that the Court will see a decrease in funding for at least the next four consecutive fiscal years due to the new workload-based allocation and funding methodology. Therefore, if future court funding is reduced to the point where the Court must bring expenses in line with reduced budgets to close structural deficits, these and all other services will be considered for reduction.

- What are your projected revenues and expenditures for NEXT fiscal year (2014-15)?

Largely due to the new workload-based allocation and funding methodology, the Court is forecasting a \$7.3 million deficit for Fiscal Year 2014-15. The specific budget forecasts are:

*Revenue: \$ 67,811,849
Expenditures: \$ 75,080,000
Net Deficit: \$ (7,268,151)*

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AS WE PREPARE THIS SURVEY. AS A REMINDER, PLEASE SUBMIT THIS COMPLETED FORM TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov ON OR BEFORE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 22. PLEASE CALL ANDI AT 916-323-3121 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

**Superior Court of California,
County of SAN JOAQUIN
FY 2013-14
Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$1,162,391**

There are a number of ways to maintain or increase public access to justice. Check all that are appropriate AND please provide as detailed an explanation for each as you can:

**PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TYPING DIRECTLY INTO THIS TEMPLATE.
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OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 22ND.**

 We will avoid (or limit) previously planned staffing reductions.

- Please explain how many positions you will avoid reducing.
We had not planned on further staff reductions this fiscal year. In the last five years, we have had to reduce our staff by approximately 34%.

- Please describe the kinds of positions you will avoid reducing.
N/A.

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice in applicable divisions of your court or courthouse(s).
N/A.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.
The amount of funding this court receives next fiscal year must be the determining factor used as to whether or not reductions in staff will need to be made.

 We will avoid (or limit) previously planned courtroom closures.

- Please explain what types of hearings will be maintained.
We had not planned on closing additional courtrooms this fiscal year. On October 1, 2011, we closed our branch court in Tracy which had two courtrooms, and one of the two courtrooms in our branch court in Lodi was also closed. On March 1, 2013, we closed the remaining courtroom in Lodi. In total we have closed two branch courts and four courtrooms.

- Please describe the impact on the public by keeping open a courtroom planned for closure.
N/A

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.
N/A

 We will avoid previously planned courthouse closures.

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you are able to avoid closing.
We had not planned on closing additional courthouses this fiscal year.

- Please explain the impact on the public by keeping open this/these courthouse(s).
N/A

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.
N/A

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore public telephone hours.**

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

We continue to have backlogs in civil, small claims, family law, criminal and traffic. Until we are able to restore and maintain a sufficient number of staff to address current workloads and backlogs, we will not be increasing or restoring public telephone hours this fiscal year.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

The amount of funding this court receives next fiscal year will be the determining factor for us in the decision as to whether or not we can increase or restore public telephone hours. For now, we plan to remain status quo.

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore court clerk hours.**

- Please explain what kinds of court clerk duties will be maintained, increased or restored.

We will not be restoring the court clerk hours that we are open to the public at this time. We will continue to close the clerk's offices at 3:00 p.m. We continue to have backlogs in civil, small claims, family law, criminal and traffic. Until we are able to restore and maintain a sufficient number of staff to address current workloads and backlogs, we will not be increasing or restoring the hours we are open to the public.

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.
N/A.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

The amount of funding this court receives next fiscal year, will be the determining factor for us in the decision as to whether or not we can increase or restore the hours we are open to the public. For now, we plan to remain status quo.

___ **We will devote resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.**

- Please explain the areas of backlog that will be addressed.

This funding along with other savings this court has achieved through courthouse closures, reductions in staff, furloughs and other cost saving measures, will allow us to reinstate/recall some of our previously laid off staff.

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog will maintain or increase public access to justice.
Decreasing the backlogs will provide litigants with the documents and actions they need to pursue their cases in civil, small claims and family law. Once the backlogs have been reduced, we will then be in a position to once again provide timely services to all of these litigants.

In criminal and traffic, decreasing the backlogs will allow for more timely reporting of dispositions to both the Department of Motor Vehicles and the Department of Justice. Timely reporting of dispositions will ensure that driver's records and criminal history records are as up-to-date as possible.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.
The amount of funding this court receives next fiscal year, will be the determining factor for us in the decision as to whether or not we will be able to maintain all of the staff planned for recall/reinstatement.

_____ We will suspend employee furloughs.

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice.
This fiscal year will be the first year since FY 2009-10 that this court will not impose mandatory furloughs on unrepresented staff and negotiate furloughs with the represented staff. The elimination of furloughs covers all staff of the court; from the entry level position of a legal process clerk to the court executive officer.

The elimination of furloughs means that all staff will be at work 12 more days each year. This means there will be approximately 24,000 hours of additional productivity from the existing staff.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.
The amount of funding this court receives next fiscal year, will be the determining factor for us in the decision as to whether or not we will need to once again impose and negotiate some level of furloughs.

_____ We will maintain, increase or restore services in our self-help center.

- Please explain the details of this proposed increase.
We have not reduced services in our self-help center. This program will proceed status quo.
- Please explain how the increase in self-help services will maintain or increase public access to justice.
N/A

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

The amount of funding this court receives next fiscal year, will be the determining factor for us in the decision as to whether or not we can continue to provide the same level of services in self-help. This court is simply not in the financial position of supporting this program using court operations funding.

_____ We will maintain, increase or restore court reporting services.

- Please explain how increased court reporting services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

We do not plan on increasing or restoring previously cut court reporter services.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

The reduction in court reporter services will extend beyond fiscal year 2013-14.

_____ We will maintain, increase or restore specialty court(s).

- Please describe the specialty court(s) to be maintained, increased or restored.

We have been able to maintain our specialty courts as they are all grant funded.

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

N/A

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

N/A

Using as much additional space as you need, answer the following questions:

- Explain any other ways San Joaquin intends to restore, maintain, or increase public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

The court intends to resume scheduling for hearing and processing all small claims cases. Our share of the \$60M along with all of the other cost saving measures we have implemented over the past five fiscal years have enabled us to restore some of the staff that have been laid off. We will be assigning staff to our small claims division and are in the process of developing a plan as to how best to reinstate our small claims processing.

- What additional information would you like to add about the use of your court's share of the \$60 million augmentation?

This court has long suffered under the historical pro-rata allocation of funding. The new Workload Allocation and Funding Methodology (WAFM) adopted by the Judicial Council earlier this year, along with the new \$60M of new funding has certainly improved our budget

picture. However, our share for fiscal year 2014-2015 under WAFM only increases slightly, projected at \$10,192. If WAFM had been implemented in larger percentages and in a shorter than five-year period, the financial improvement to this court would be much higher than the projected \$10,192. It is only with **new funding** provided by the legislature that will provide our court with the largest share of funding and improve our budget in future fiscal years.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Many of the actions previously mentioned in this survey are temporary and limited to this fiscal year 2013-2014. A modified implementation of WAFM (as mentioned in the paragraph above) and new funding provided by the legislature next fiscal year will certainly enable this court to continue its progress in restoring and increasing access to justice.

- What are your projected revenues and expenditures for NEXT fiscal year (2014-15)?

We will assume a status quo budget for fiscal year 2014-2015 with projected revenues of approximately \$28.9M and projected expenses of \$28.5M. Under current WAFM distribution of existing funds, our budget increase is projected to be only \$10,192. A modified implementation of WAFM and new funding provided by the legislature will significantly improve our budget picture for future fiscal years.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AS WE PREPARE THIS SURVEY. AS A REMINDER, PLEASE SUBMIT THIS COMPLETED FORM TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov ON OR BEFORE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 22. PLEASE CALL ANDI AT 916-323-3121 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

**Superior Court of California,
County of SAN LUIS OBISPO
FY 2013-14**

Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$432,381

There are a number of ways to maintain or increase public access to justice. Check all that are appropriate AND please provide as detailed an explanation for each as you can:

**PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TYPING DIRECTLY INTO THIS TEMPLATE.
TRANSMIT YOUR COMPLETED WORD DOCUMENT TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov BY/BEFORE
CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 22ND.**

___ We will avoid (or limit) previously planned staffing reductions.

- Please explain how many positions you will avoid reducing.

This fiscal year, we do not plan to reduce any regularly employed staff because we have enough of a fund balance to get through this year. Our share of the \$60 million augmentation, \$432,381, will fund approximately 6 temporary legal process staff positions lost through attrition due to the on-going funding crisis. These positions are being funded as temporary positions because our projections for fiscal year 2014/15 will leave us with a deficit of approximately \$1.6 million.

- Please describe the kinds of positions you will avoid reducing.

We will avoid reducing all positions this fiscal year because we still have an available fund balance that must be reduced to 1% by the end of the fiscal year.

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice in applicable divisions of your court or courthouse(s).

6 additional staff positions will enable our Court to get caught up on backlogs created by the last five years of budget cuts. Most of the backlogs are in civil and family law courts; however, criminal has had a backlog in public records requests and background checks due to the limited amount of staffing. The criminal justice realignment act has increased the workload in our criminal department which has also contributed to some of the backlogs.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Many of the cuts that are necessary to stay within our budget are being averted this year because we still have an available fund balance we have achieved through austerity measures and employee furloughs. This year we will reduce the number of furloughs because we will not be able to keep the savings to help us get through next fiscal year. Therefore, the improvements to access will be limited to this year unless the courts receive additional funding beyond our share of the \$60 million provided this fiscal year.

___ **We will avoid (or limit) previously planned courtroom closures.**

- Please explain what types of hearings will be maintained.

So far we have only closed one court location and have no plans to close any courtrooms this fiscal year due to the savings we have achieved through furloughs and employee attrition. Next year we will have to consider all options available to us to address the budget deficit we predict for fiscal year 2014/15.

- Please describe the impact on the public by keeping open a courtroom planned for closure.

Whenever you close a courtroom there is a huge impact on the public. The last courthouse closure in San Luis Obispo County affected all South County residents. The closure of the Grover Beach courthouse had an impact on court customers, attorneys, local businesses and police agencies. There was an outcry from legal service providers about the impact on poor residents seeking protective orders and other forms of relief provided by the courts. Local law enforcement agencies have to drive much further to testify in court resulting in more overtime for municipalities and less police officers on the streets protecting the public.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Our real fears and concerns are about next year's budget. With only a 1% reserve to work with, our projections indicate dire straits for 2014/15. This does not even take into account all of the unforeseen expenditures that are completely out of our control such as death penalty cases and complex litigation that may require a change of venue or other unforeseen increased litigation costs. Our courtrooms are small and inadequate to accommodate multi defendant cases and often require us to find other spaces in the county to conduct trials. In the past we have had to do major construction in the courtrooms to accommodate large trials.

___ **We will avoid previously planned courthouse closures.**

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you are able to avoid closing.

So far we have avoided closing the Paso Robles Courthouse Clerk's Office. Over the past 5 years this branch suffered a reduction in staff of over fifty percent. We have been shipping work from this branch to San Luis Obispo for some time and it has been increasingly difficult to sustain. The additional funding has enabled us to hire several temporary employees to work in the Paso Robles Courthouse and thereby avoid any courthouse closures.

- Please explain the impact on the public by keeping open this/these courthouse(s).

The impact to the public by keeping the Paso Robles Courthouse open is great. The North County population is separated from the rest of the county by a 30 mile highway grade that is difficult to drive by many residents because the grade is so steep, older cars that are not mechanically sound cannot make it. To avoid the grade, the detour adds another 20 minutes of travel time.

North County family law filings represent over fifty percent of all family law filings in San Luis Obispo County. Most of the filings are submitted by unrepresented litigants and most filings end in default requiring clerks to process the case and the subsequent judgments. Because most of the litigants in the North County are self-represented, we provide self-help and mediation services at this location. If the courthouse were to close, Litigants would be required to drive to San Luis Obispo to access the already overburdened self-help center. The San Luis Obispo self-help center operates out of a busy hallway because there is not space at the courthouse for the center since the closure of Grover Beach. The area which used to house the self-help center was converted to a family law courtroom in order to accommodate the judge who moved to San Luis Obispo from the Grover Beach Courthouse after its closure.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

It is our intention to keep the Paso Robles Courthouse open; however, if there is no additional new funding we will probably be forced to close the clerk's office. The \$1.6 million projected structural deficit for 2014/15 will require lay-offs of regular court employees. In order to achieve economies of scale, staff from Paso Robles will most likely be transferred to San Luis Obispo. That also means that there will be no one to process jurors, traffic customers and others that must be checked in prior to court. Police officers will no longer walk across the street for appearances. Instead, they will have to drive thirty miles to San Luis Obispo to testify in court.

We will maintain, increase or restore public telephone hours.

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

We will maintain public telephone hours of Monday –Thursday between 8:30 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. We will not restore Friday telephone hours until we can restore staffing levels to 2008 levels. Currently, we have lost 18% of our full time staff due to budget cuts.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

We have made every effort to provide access to the public in terms of clerk's office hours and telephone service; however, unless funding is restored or increased beyond the amount allocated

in 2013/14, we will have a structural deficit so great we will be forced to cut clerk's office hours and eliminate most of our telephone service.

___ We will maintain, increase or restore court clerk hours.

- Please explain what kinds of court clerk duties will be maintained, increased or restored.

To date, we have made every effort to maintain clerk's office hours. We have done so by implementing austerity measures and requiring employees to take one furlough day every two weeks. These measures have helped us build up some reserves which have served as bridge funding during the past five years of fiscal crisis. Our share of the \$60 million equates to one furlough day per month. We will be able to suspend furloughs this year which will restore court clerk hours. However, without reserves to close the budget gap, our court is facing drastic cuts in 2014/15 and will most likely implement furloughs again.

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

The restoration of court clerk hours will increase public access because Fridays will no longer be furlough days with a skeleton crew of staff. With full staffing on Friday, the lines should be shorter and more courtrooms will be in session.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

As we stated earlier, without fund balances to help us close the budget gap, we will be looking at the worst case scenario in terms of staffing since the fiscal crisis began in 2008. Unless funding is restored, court clerk hours will most likely be cut drastically in order to process the case that must go to court.

___ We will devote resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.

Backlogs exist in all areas of the court but we have done a good job at prioritizing. Most of the backlogs involve records management and public information requests. Most requests for information from the public used to be handled over the telephone, but we can no longer do that. We do not have enough people to answer questions and look up cases over the phone. Public information requests must be submitted in writing and we try to handle them as quickly as possible depending on the type of request. Criminal background checkers take up a large portion of our resources and we have limited the number of request they can make.

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog will maintain or increase public access to justice.

As mentioned above, we have prioritized our backlogs in terms of public access. In criminal, we process the things that have the most impact on the public. For instance, state prison packets are of high priority because they impact jail overcrowding and public safety. We also process documents that could lead to issuance of warrants if not processed timely. Data entry is important to access because it is quicker to answer questions at the clerk's office window by checking a computer rather than pulling a file and reading minutes. Our first priority in Civil is to process judgments, writs and abstracts. Litigants need to get their judgments entered so they remain enforceable. Family law and child support orders are very important to families.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Between the suspension of furloughs and the hiring of temporary employees, we should be able to eliminate most of the current backlogs except for records destruction and off-site filing. Fiscal year 2014/15 will present even greater challenges and will most likely cause backlogs far greater than we have been experiencing.

___ We will suspend employee furloughs.

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice.

As stated previously, the suspension of employee furloughs will provide more staffing for Fridays which will increase access to the public. Because our vacancy rate is over 18%, we have stopped answering phones on Friday to allow staff time to get caught up on work and prepare the following week's calendars.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

These actions are definitely temporary. Our structural deficit for 2014/15 is approximately \$1.6 million dollars. 26 furlough days per year brings in about \$880,000, so we most likely will be looking at a combination of furloughs and lay-offs. These actions will have a devastating impact on customer service and access to justice.

___ We will maintain, increase or restore services in our self-help center.

- Please explain the details of this proposed increase.

We will maintain self-help services as long as we have grant funding to pay for it. The only reason we have not eliminated self-help is because we receive grant funding. If we were to lose our grants, we would eliminate self-help services because we have to place our resources in areas where we are mandated to provide services. As important as self-help has become, it is not a mandated function.

- Please explain how the increase in self-help services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Self-help services are used primarily for self-represented litigants in family law matters. Most of these litigants cannot afford a lawyer and cannot navigate the court system without some sort of help. Before self-help centers, litigants would rely on document preparers who would help them file their case but would not help them get their case adjudicated. As a result, many former self-represented family law litigants would believe their divorces were final because they paid the fees and filed the papers. We hear all too often how a litigant believed they were divorced only to find that their case was not completed. Self-help centers make sure that litigants understand everything that is needed to be done in their case. Not only are the services free, but litigants are guided through each step of the process so they end up with a final judgment.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

We plan to maintain self-help services for as long as grant funding or other funding sources are available to support it.

___ We will maintain, increase or restore court reporting services.

- Please explain how increased court reporting services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

We will maintain the current level of court reporter services for fiscal year 2013-14. We are currently providing reporters in family law matters which are not mandated by law.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

These actions will most likely be temporary because we are using our fund balance to pay for the non-mandated court reporter positions. With a structural deficit of \$1.6 million and a 1% fund balance for fiscal year 2014/15, we plan to eliminate all non-mandated positions from our payroll. We continue to support the concept of having court employee reporters cover family law cases to enable family law litigants to get a verbatim record for appeal purposes, but the reality is that there is not enough money to pay for everything.

___ We will maintain, increase or restore specialty court(s).

- Please describe the specialty court(s) to be maintained, increased or restored.

We will increase the number of specialty courts during this fiscal year. In June we added a Veteran's Treatment Court and we are currently in the planning of a Community Intervention Court for serial inebriates and homeless defendants.

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Despite the fact that staffing is down by 18%, we have managed to change the way we do business in our specialty courts to make them less labor intensive. We have asked our justice partners to help us with much of the calendaring and clerical work that used to be done by legal process staff and courtroom clerks. We have moved all of our specialty courts to Friday and this seems to work quite well for all of the treatment providers and attorneys. The Friday schedule was first conceived because it was a furlough day when there was limited staff and judges were left without calendars. Now judges can spend more time with the specialty court clients and the county partners have picked up the clerical workload.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

We plan to continue specialty courts into 2014/15.

Using as much additional space as you need, answer the following questions:

- Explain any other ways San Luis Obispo intends to restore, maintain, or increase public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

Our share of the \$60 million is much appreciated but it is not enough money to make any major change to the austerity measures that have led to the decrease in access to justice. We have been forced to cut so many positions from our budget and implement employee furloughs that there are not enough people to serve the public. We cannot control the filings that come to us so we are forced to prioritize our workload. The public's access to justice has been compromised and there is no way to fix it without adequate funding. Juvenile and criminal matters demand most of our attention. Unfortunately, civil and family law matters have suffered because there aren't enough people to process the workload.

This year we have enough money in our fund balance to make it through next year.; however, this ill thought out idea of limiting fund balances to 1% has created a situation where we will be forced to lay off staff in 2014/15 because we cannot benefit from savings to help balance our budget.

- What are your projected revenues and expenditures for NEXT fiscal year (2014-15)?

July 26, 2013

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Total revenues for 2014/15 are projected to be \$15,487.00 and expenditures are projected to be \$16,696,385 leaving a structural deficit of \$1,641,897.00

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**Superior Court of California,
County of SAN MATEO
FY 2013-14**

Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$1,113,257

There are a number of ways to maintain or increase public access to justice. Check all that are appropriate AND please provide as detailed an explanation for each as you can:

**PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TYPING DIRECTLY INTO THIS TEMPLATE.
TRANSMIT YOUR COMPLETED WORD DOCUMENT TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov BY/BEFORE
CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 22ND.**

X We will avoid (or limit) previously planned staffing reductions.

- Please explain how many positions you will avoid reducing.

Given the San Mateo Superior Court's share of the \$261 million reduction programmed for FY13-14, the Court originally planned for a further staffing reduction of 23 positions to help permanently balance its budget. With the court's share of the \$60 million, allocated under the new WAFM allocation formula, the court will avoid reducing 13 positions, including one commissioner position.

Based on the significant cuts that remain, we will still be required to lay off seven more court staff and three commissioners. These 10 layoffs are added to the 120 positions we've reduced since 2008, necessitated by State budget cuts to the trial courts from 2008 – 2012. Overall, our workforce has been reduced by 34% compared with our workforce in 2008, prior to State cuts.

- Please describe the kinds of positions you will avoid reducing.

In addition to one Commissioner position, the court will avoid reducing courtroom clerk positions, deputy court clerks, clerk supervisors, as well as one administrative position.

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice in applicable divisions of your court or courthouse(s).

The funding restoration will allow the court to keep one courtroom open that was originally scheduled to close in July, 2013, prevent backlogs from increasing in Family Law, Civil, and ensure essential calendar coverage in Criminal.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

If no new funding is provided, additional reductions may be needed in FY14-15 to cover the additional reductions from the new workload funding model.

X **We will avoid (or limit) previously planned courtroom closures.**

- Please explain what types of hearings will be maintained.

Preservation of one courtroom will maintain coverage in Family Law, Domestic Violence, and lower level criminal hearings

- Please describe the impact on the public by keeping open a courtroom planned for closure.

The court can ensure that calendars normally staffed by a Court Commissioner will not be delayed. Additional Court Commissioner coverage also enables increased judicial officer coverage of trials, civil caseloads, as well as higher priority criminal hearings.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

If no new funding is provided, additional reductions may be needed in FY14-15 to cover the additional reductions from the new workload funding model.

 We will avoid previously planned courthouse closures.

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you are able to avoid closing.

The court is able to maintain minimal, essential preliminary hearings at our Northern Branch, and prevent closure of the branch.

- Please explain the impact on the public by keeping open this/these courthouse(s).

The court will maintain preliminary hearings and prevent further reductions to access to justice at our Northern Branch facility.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Maintaining preliminary hearings at the Northern Branch facility is based on our ability to maintain fiscal support for our reduced workforce and add sustainable restoration of funding in 2014.

If no new funding is provided, additional reductions may be needed in FY14-15 to cover the additional reductions from the new workload funding model.

 We will maintain, increase or restore public telephone hours.

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Amount of funding is insufficient to restore public telephone hours. However, the court will make every effort to not reduce telephone hours further, as long as current funding is maintained.

The Court is considering increasing/restoring public phone and counter hours, on a limited basis, if additional restorations to the trial courts are made in January of 2014.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

If no new funding is provided, additional reductions may be needed in FY14-15 to cover the additional reductions from the new workload funding model.

We will maintain, increase or restore court clerk hours.

- Please explain what kinds of court clerk duties will be maintained, increased or restored.

Amount of current funding is insufficient to restore public counter court clerk hours. However, the court will make every effort to not reduce counter court clerk hours further.

The court is considering increasing/restoring public counter court clerk hours, if additional restorations to the trial courts are made in January of 2014.

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

The court will make every effort to not decrease public access further, as long as current funding is maintained.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

If no new funding is provided, additional reductions may be needed in FY14-15 to cover the additional reductions from the new workload funding model.

X We will devote resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.

- Please explain the areas of backlog that will be addressed.

To the extent possible, the Court will limit any increases in backlogs in Civil, Family Law, Probate, and Traffic case processing. This will include reducing the size of the backlog for filing of documents.

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Efforts to decrease the backlog in these areas increase the public's ability to promptly access records, obtain judgments and orders, and reduce delays in the scheduling of hearings.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Our ability to prevent future increases in backlog is based on our ability to add sustainable restoration of additional funding in 2014.

If no new funding is provided, additional reductions may be needed in FY14-15 to cover the additional reductions from the new workload funding model.

___ We will suspend employee furloughs.

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice.

As we have downsized our services to match the size of our on-going budget cuts, the court has and will continue to avoid employee furloughs.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

As noted above, the court has chosen other methods, other than furloughs, to operationalize the on-going nature of the budget cuts.

___ We will maintain, increase or restore services in our self-help center.

- Please explain the details of this proposed increase.

The court will make every effort to not reduce self-help services further, as long as current funding is maintained.

- Please explain how the increase in self-help services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

The court will maintain its most essential self-help services and prevent services from being reduced further.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

If no new funding is provided, additional reductions may be needed in FY14-15 to cover the additional reductions from the new workload funding model.

___ We will maintain, increase or restore court reporting services.

- Please explain how increased court reporting services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

The court will make every effort to prevent court reporting services from being reduced further.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

If no new funding is provided, additional reductions may be needed in FY14-15 to cover the additional reductions from the new workload funding model.

___ We will maintain, increase or restore specialty court(s).

- Please describe the specialty court(s) to be maintained, increased or restored.

The court will make every effort to not reduce specialty court services further, as long as current funding is maintained.

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

The court will make every effort to not reduce specialty court services further, as long as current funding is maintained.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

If no new funding is provided, additional reductions may be needed in FY14-15 to cover the additional reductions from the new workload funding model.

Using as much additional space as you need, answer the following questions:

- Explain any other ways San Mateo intends to restore, maintain, or increase public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

The San Mateo Superior Court would like to emphasize that the \$60 million partial restoration will incrementally improve court services – but the overall damage caused by five years of state budget cuts continues to harm the public’s access to justice.

Further restoration of services in the future, including normal public service hours, normal calendaring and disposition of all case types, and normal expectations of levels of service to the public, is dependent on significant restoration of essential funding. It is estimated that the court is operating at a budget level equivalent to 65% of its workload, which has resulted in significant delay in other than the most essential cases.

While the court has effectively utilized business process re-engineering and consolidation efforts to maximize productivity, and has achieved significant technology efficiencies during this period of downsizing, the efficiencies gained are not sufficient on their own for the court to meet the performance levels required to service 100% of its workload. Essential, sustainable, funding is required.

- What additional information would you like to add about the use of your court’s share of the \$60 million augmentation?
- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.
- What are your projected revenues and expenditures for NEXT fiscal year (2014-15)?

Projected Revenues, all sources - \$37.2 million

Projected Expenses - \$37.7 million

Projected Shortfall - (\$500,000)

It should be emphasized that these projections for FY14-15 are preliminary and do not include all potential benefit cost increases.

Without further restorations, a \$37.7 million budget, with a \$500,000 structural deficit, is only sufficient to service 65% of the Court’s expected workload.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AS WE PREPARE THIS SURVEY. AS A REMINDER, PLEASE SUBMIT THIS COMPLETED FORM TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov ON OR BEFORE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 22. PLEASE CALL ANDI AT 916-323-3121 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

Superior Court of California,
County of SANTA BARBARA
FY 2013-14

Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$635,282

There are a number of ways to maintain or increase public access to justice. Check all that are appropriate AND please provide as detailed an explanation for each as you can:

PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TYPING DIRECTLY INTO THIS TEMPLATE. TRANSMIT YOUR COMPLETED WORD DOCUMENT TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov BY/BEFORE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 22ND.

___ **We will avoid (or limit) previously planned staffing reductions.**

- Please explain how many positions you will avoid reducing.

We continue to have a hiring freeze. As additional positions become vacant we will review the potential savings on a case by case basis and determine whether or not and how to best address the new vacancy.

- Please describe the kinds of positions you will avoid reducing.

Not applicable

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice in applicable divisions of your court or courthouse(s).

Not applicable.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

In Fiscal Year 14/15 we will have exhausted our available reserves and will need to make further operational reductions in excess of \$2 million. That will require cuts to a wide range of positions.

___ **We will avoid (or limit) previously planned courtroom closures.**

- Please explain what types of hearings will be maintained.

We had planned on closing a single courtroom courthouse in the Santa Ynez Valley. This Court handled small claims, unlawful detainers, traffic court trials as well as accepted domestic violence restraining orders and civil harassment restraining orders. Traffic Court Trials will be maintained one day per month.

- Please describe the impact on the public by keeping open a courtroom planned for closure.

By keeping this courtroom open one day per month we will provide access to the Santa Ynez Valley, Buellton and Solvang Communities to address traffic matters. Closing this courtroom would have resulted in closure of the court house as there is only one courtroom in this building.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

By Fiscal Year 14/15 we will have exhausted our available reserves and will need to make further operational reductions in excess of \$2 million. That will require cuts to a wide range of position necessitating consolidation of operations which will likely result in additional courtroom/courthouse reductions.

___ We will avoid previously planned courthouse closures.

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you are able to avoid closing.
- *We had planned on closing a single courtroom courthouse in the Santa Ynez Valley. This Court handled small claims, unlawful detainers, traffic court trials as well as accepted domestic violence restraining orders and civil harassment restraining orders. Traffic Court Trials will be maintained one day per month. If the Courtroom were closed we would also close the clerk's office which would shutter the courthouse.*

- Please explain the impact on the public by keeping open this/these courthouse(s).
- *By keeping this court house open one day per month we will provide access to the Santa Ynez Valley, Buellton and Solvang Communities to address traffic matters. Closing this courtroom would have resulted in closure of the court house as there is only one courtroom in this building.*

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

By Fiscal Year 14/15 we will have exhausted our available reserves and will need to make further operational reductions in excess of \$2 million. That will require cuts to a wide range of position necessitating consolidation of operations which will likely result in additional courtroom/courthouse reductions.

___ We will maintain, increase or restore public telephone hours.

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

We will have no change in public telephone hours as a result of this restoration of funding.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Not applicable.

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore court clerk hours.**

- Please explain what kinds of court clerk duties will be maintained, increased or restored.

There will be no increase in clerk office hours as a result of this restoration of funding.

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Not applicable.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

The Court's reserves will be exhausted by the end of Fiscal Year 13/14 and the court will be facing a funding shortfall of over \$2million. Further reductions in services will be necessary to bring spending in line with revenues which will require additional measures including the possible reduction in clerk's office hours.

___ **We will devote resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.**

- Please explain the areas of backlog that will be addressed.

There is insufficient funding to address this workload.

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Not applicable.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

The Court's available reserves will be exhausted at the beginning of Fiscal Year 14/15 which will require reorganization and cutting of support staff which will result in further backlogs and reduced access unless there is a restoration of funding.

___ **We will suspend/avoid employee furloughs.**

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice.

Not applicable. The Court has not chosen to furlough in the current fiscal year.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

The Court's available reserves will be exhausted by the end of Fiscal Year 13/14 necessitating reorganization, consolidation and cutting of support staff which will result in further backlogs, reduced access to filing windows for the public and likelihood of furloughs.

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore services in our self-help center.**

- Please explain the details of this proposed increase.

We will maintain service levels at the Lompoc Courthouse. We were planning on cutting out the services to this community. There is minimal public transportation to the nearest courthouse and this would have been a significant loss.

- Please explain how the increase in self-help services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Keeping the Lompoc Self Help Center open will provide assistance to persons seeking Small Claims Actions, Civil Harassment and Domestic Violence Restraining Orders and Unlawful Detainer Actions.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

The Court will exhaust its available reserves by the end of Fiscal Year 13/14. The Court will be compelled to consider eliminating the self help center services in Lompoc and reducing services in Santa Barbara and Santa Maria in Fiscal Year 14/15 if there is no additional restoration of court funding.

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore court reporting services.**

- Please explain how increased court reporting services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Court reporting services will not be altered as a result of this funding restoration.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

There are reductions in court reporting services necessary in the current fiscal year which are unaffected by this restoration of funding. The Court's reserves will be exhausted by the conclusion of Fiscal Year 13/14 which will compel the court to reduce court reporter services.

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore specialty court(s).**

- Please describe the specialty court(s) to be maintained, increased or restored.

Specialty courts are unaffected by the current restoration of funding in this fiscal year.

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Not applicable.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

The Court's available reserves will be exhausted at the beginning of Fiscal Year 14/15. Reduction of services will be necessary and would likely impact non-mandated unfunded specialty courts. Staffing levels will affect the court's ability to conduct calendars as frequently as currently structured. This may have an adverse affect on the clients within the specialty courts resulting in relapse or recidivism.

Using as much additional space as you need, answer the following questions:

- Explain any other ways Santa Barbara intends to restore, maintain, or increase public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

The restoration of funding does not aid in the Court's endeavors to implement e-filing. However, the court is attempting to introduce increased electronic access to the court through the enhancement of its case management system within current funding levels. E-filing will extend hours and availability to law firms and litigants savvy enough to avail themselves of these technological advancements.

- What additional information would you like to add about the use of your court's share of the \$60 million augmentation?

The net result of the Santa Barbara Superior Court's portion of the \$60 million restoration of funding is appreciated but not significant in light of cuts sustained over the past years. This augmentation helps forestall some cuts but in FY 14/15 significant cuts will be necessary unless there is a further restoration of court funding.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

The net result of the Santa Barbara Superior Court's portion of the \$60 million restoration of funding is appreciated but not significant in light of cuts sustained over the past years. This augmentation helps forestall some cuts but in FY 14/15 significant cuts will be necessary unless there is a further restoration of court funding.

- What are your projected revenues and expenditures for NEXT fiscal year (2014-15)?

Projected Revenues: \$26,970,449.00

Projected Expenditures: \$26,970,449.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AS WE PREPARE THIS SURVEY. AS A REMINDER, PLEASE SUBMIT THIS COMPLETED FORM TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov ON OR BEFORE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 22. PLEASE CALL ANDI AT 916-323-3121 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

Superior Court of California,
County of SANTA CLARA
FY 2013-14

Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$2,436,612

There are a number of ways to maintain or increase public access to justice. Check all that are appropriate AND please provide as detailed an explanation for each as you can:

PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TYPING DIRECTLY INTO THIS TEMPLATE.
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CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 22ND.

We will avoid (or limit) previously planned staffing reductions.

- Please explain how many positions you will avoid reducing.

Consistent with our Judicial Snapshot, we were facing the prospect of discontinuing services in our outlying branches. This business plan, designed to balance our budget, would have necessitated the closure of Family Law Self-Help Operations (Sunnyvale), Small Claims and Traffic operations in our North (Palo Alto) and South (Morgan Hill) County courthouses, and reductions in services in our Civil and Family Law operations. Relative to closures, this would require customers to travel to Central courthouses located in Downtown San Jose, a drive in excess of 20 miles one way. The net impact would have been the reassignment/reduction of 20 employees in addition to the existing reduction of over 150 positions since 2008 court wide either through attrition and/or reassignments. In Civil and Family Law, litigants awaiting the outcome of their cases would have to wait weeks and even months longer before hearing the outcome of their cases. With the augmentation of \$60 million dollars to the Branch, in conjunction with the one-time use of our fund balance, we are able to suspend this action and continue with existing service levels.

- Please describe the kinds of positions you will avoid reducing.

The 20 employees identified above represent legal processing clerks and court specialists that are charged with processing petitions filed by members of the public or to assist customers seeking court hearings or trials.

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice in applicable divisions of your court or courthouse(s).

As reported above, the operational areas affected by the closure of these offices are Family Law, Small Claims, and Traffic. The closure of these operational functions would represent a hardship to the residents in North and South County who would have to not only travel significant distances to Downtown San Jose to obtain services, but also find and pay for parking which is extremely limited in the Downtown area.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

The preservation of these services this year is the result of additional allocated funding and the use of scarce reserves. Continuing these services into subsequent fiscal years will require additional funding and a removal of the 1% fund balance cap or at least an elevation of the 1% fund balance cap to an amount in excess of 12% so that funds can be carried from year to year to help offset a priority such as this.

___ We will avoid (or limit) previously planned courtroom closures.

- Please explain what types of hearings will be maintained.

In March, 2013, our court reported in its Judicial Branch Budget Snapshot multiple options that were being considered if additional appropriations were not directed to the Judicial Branch. Among the options considered was the closure of Traffic and Small Claims Courtrooms at two of our outlying court facilities and transferring the workload to our Downtown Courthouse located within the City of San Jose. This closure would have enabled the consolidation of court supervisory and line staff and with this shift in personnel, would have enabled the vacating of positions dedicated to maintaining these operations remotely.

Additionally, due to fiscal reductions, the Court reduced its night court operations from 3 nights weekly to two evenings per month. Receiving the additional funding this fiscal year will enable our Court to: 1) suspend this plan to close two Small Claims and Traffic Courtrooms and continue serving the Northern and Southern portions of our region and 2) increase our operating night court departments from 2 to 4 per month.

- Please describe the impact on the public by keeping open a courtroom planned for closure.

The distances between our two regional courthouses to our Downtown Superior Courthouse is in excess of 20 miles one way. This drive could result in a drive time of more than an hour for customers each way to conduct their business in a central location if the Small Claims and Traffic services discontinued regionally. Additionally, the increase in calendar size for a centralized hearing calendar would result in greater time between filings and the actual hearing which would be disadvantageous for parties requesting swifter resolution. By preserving these services regionally, the disadvantage to the public is eliminated.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

The suspended closures are directly associated with the infusion of new monies into the Branch this fiscal year. Although our Court's allotment from the \$60 million augmentation was \$2.4 million, the implementation of the new Funding Methodology provided a net increase of only \$160,000. In order to preserve these services, we have been required to utilize our precious and declining reserves to cover the additional costs to maintain these services. Continuing these services into subsequent fiscal years will require additional funding and a removal of the 1% fund balance cap or at least an elevation of the 1% fund balance cap to an amount in excess of 12% so that funds can be carried from year to year to help offset a priority such as this.

___ We will avoid previously planned courthouse closures.

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you are able to avoid closing.

Our Court has not closed or contemplated closures of courthouses.

- Please explain the impact on the public by keeping open this/these courthouse(s).

NA

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

NA

___ We will maintain, increase or restore public telephone hours.

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

As part of our published Budget Snapshot, we were contemplating a reduction in our public service telephone hours to help mitigate staffing reductions due to fiscal reductions. The reduction contemplated reducing telephone hours by approximately two hours per day to coincide with reduced staffing. This would enable staff to focus on customers appearing in-person or to focus on backlogs. The allocation of funding and the reliance on scarce reserves will enable us to maintain public telephone service during normal business hours with no reductions.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

As expressed earlier, the preservation of these services this year is the result of additional allocated funds and the use of scarce reserves. Continuing these services into subsequent fiscal years will require additional funding and a removal of the 1%

fund balance cap or at least an elevation of the 1% fund balance cap to an amount in excess of 12% so that funds can be carried from year to year to help offset a priority such as this.

We will maintain, increase or restore court clerk hours.

- Please explain what kinds of court clerk duties will be maintained, increased or restored.

As part of our published Budget Snapshot, we were contemplating a reduction in our public service hours to help mitigate staffing reductions due to fiscal reductions. Absent additional funding, we had contemplated increasing the number of unfilled positions through attrition to achieve a balanced budget. This reduction in available line staff would necessitate a reduction of our clerical business hours by approximately two hours daily to ensure the timely processing of filed documents. The allocation of funding and the reliance on scarce reserves will enable us to maintain normal business hours with no reductions.

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

By keeping our normal business hours intact, our Court is able to ensure continued access to litigants requiring services.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

As expressed earlier, the preservation of these services this year is the result of additional allocated funds and the use of scarce reserves. Continuing these services into subsequent fiscal years will require additional funding and a removal of the 1% fund balance cap or at least an elevation of the 1% fund balance cap to an amount in excess of 12% so that funds can be carried from year to year to help offset a priority such as this.

We will devote resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.

- Please explain the areas of backlog that will be addressed.

While the additional funds received were extremely helpful in expanding or maintaining ongoing services, they were not sufficient to address all areas of need. Addressing backlogs, although critical, are created by over-all reductions of staff and prioritization of work. This, in large part, is the result of statutory mandates that requires criminal and

juvenile cases to receive greater priority. Presently, we are able to make sporadic progress in reducing our backlogs using our fund balance to cover short term needs. Addressing our backlogs will continue to be a challenge absent additional ongoing funding.

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Much of the backlogs relate to Civil and Family Law cases. In Civil, parties, seeking a decision on cases where they are seeking a resolution to a financial dispute can experience a delay longer than 30-days, which cause parties to seek other temporary remedies while awaiting the outcome of their petitions. Delays in processing default judgments have extended from a week to nearly four since 2008. In Family Law, these delays are even greater with parties having to wait up to 90 –days, two months longer than they did in 2008.

In Family Law, parties seeking a final judgment in their dissolution can experience delays longer than 2 months. To obtain a hearing can be delayed 30-45 days.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

As expressed earlier, the preservation of these services this year is the result of additional allocated funds and the use of scarce reserves. Continuing these services into subsequent fiscal years will require additional funding and a removal of the 1% fund balance cap or at least an elevation of the 1% fund balance cap to an amount in excess of 12% so that funds can be carried from year to year to help offset a priority such as this.

We will suspend/avoid employee furloughs.

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice.

As a way to mitigate the budget reductions, our Court imposed upon all employees a mandatory furlough of two days per year. This furlough has reduced our salary costs; however, the savings are created by requiring employees to sustain a loss in compensation for two court-holidays when Court is closed. Under these conditions, access to justice is not a factor.

However, this solution has placed further burdens upon Court employees that are being asked to take on more duties due to increased vacancies. We hope furloughs can be discontinued with the appropriation of additional funds to the Trial Courts.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

The imposition of the furlough is contained in the existing labor agreements for affected employees and would not be affected by this allocation.

_____ We will maintain, increase or restore services in our self-help center.

- Please explain the details of this proposed increase.
- *As part of our published Budget Snapshot, we were contemplating a reduction in our Self-Help services at our Sunnyvale Courthouse. Absent additional funding, we had contemplated closing this Self-Help center and referring all customers requiring services to our main Self-Help center in San Jose. Maintaining the Sunnyvale center requires 2.4 FTE staff, the cost of which is funded entirely from local fund balances. The allocation of funding and the reliance on scarce reserves will enable us to maintain service in our self-help centers during normal business hours with no reductions.*

- Please explain how the increase in self-help services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

In our estimation, the continued funding of this program is vital for the residents of the North Santa Clara County residents as they would otherwise be required to travel to our main Self-Help center in San Jose to receive services and then return to the Sunnyvale Courthouse to have their cases heard. If self-represented litigants are unable to receive self-help services timely, their hearings are often postponed which necessitates a second or perhaps third return trip to the courthouse. Not providing onsite self-help services for our increasing self-represented litigant population causes unnecessary delays. We believe this arrangement to be problematic; however, the limited grant funding that is receive to support this program represents only represents a fraction of the total cost of the program, a cost that approaches \$1million annually.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

As expressed earlier, the preservation of these services this year is the result of additional allocated funds and the use of scarce reserves. Continuing these services into subsequent fiscal years will require additional funding and a removal of the 1% fund balance cap or at least an elevation of the 1% fund balance cap to an amount in excess of 12% so that funds can be carried from year to year to help offset a priority such as this.

We will maintain, increase or restore court reporting services.

- Please explain how increased court reporting services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

The Court currently provides court reporters in all mandated areas and for Civil and Family Law proceedings. This program was not contemplated to receive a targeted reduction this year and services are being provided with the assistance of the new Court Reporter Fee enacted by the Legislature in the 2012 Budget Act.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

As the Court has endeavored to provide services in all operational areas, it will continue to utilize funds to maintain critical services. Receiving additional funds and increasing the 1% fund balance cap are critically important for our Court to continue important programs such as this.

We will maintain, increase or restore specialty court(s).

- Please describe the specialty court(s) to be maintained, increased or restored.

At present, our Court maintains and operates regularly 20 Specialty Courts that were very difficult to sustain absent additional funding this fiscal year. They include the following: Middle School Education Court; Dependency Wellness Court; Teen Court; Family Law Treatment Court; Domestic Violence Wellness Court; Young Children's Settlement Team; Court for the Individualized Treatment of Adolescents (CITA); Juvenile Treatment Court; Dual Status Court; Domestic Violence Calendar; Complex Civil Litigation Court; Alternative Dispute Resolution Court; Mental Health Court; Veterans Court; Criminal DV Court; Prop 36 and Adult Drug Treatment Courts. Many of these courts operate with the financial assistance of Grants; however, they are also sustained by the use of local funds. All offer enormous benefits to the community and will continue this year without any reduction in services. Current funding used to sustain the costs of these programs is derived from local fund balances achieved through operational efficiencies.

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

As expressed earlier, these specialty courts were not contemplated for reductions this fiscal year. While most are not mandated, these courts have an enormous impact to the litigants and general public in our county. These courts ensure critical services are provided to litigants such as substance abuse treatment, mental health services, and residential services. As an example, our Dependency Court has successfully unified parents with their children at a rate of over 80%. Our Dependency Court is so successful

that it contributed to the closure of a local foster care facility. Additionally, these courts have been instrumental in reducing recidivism.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Despite the commitment to maintain these services this year, they are all subject for reconsideration in future years if fiscal reductions continue. Like many of the programs we operate, the funding source for many of our programs come from savings achieved from operational efficiencies and fund balances that are carried from year to year. Continuing these programs will be among the considerations the Court will be required to make if additional funds are not allocated to the Branch and changes are not made to the 1% funding balance restriction currently in effect. We simply will not have the funds or the ability to plan for the future unless there is confidence that fund balances can accumulate and carried to subsequent fiscal years.

Using as much additional space as you need, answer the following questions:

- Explain any other ways Superior Court of Santa Clara County intends to restore, maintain, or increase public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

The descriptions provided above outline the many important ways in which we plan to preserve services to our employees and maintain public access to justice as a result of the \$60 million appropriation to the Trial Courts. Access and services to the public are of critical importance and each year we continue to commit local fund balances to help us achieve these goals. Unfortunately, our fiscal funding falls far short of the amount required to preserve or even expand the current level of services in future years.

- What additional information would you like to add about the use of your court's share of the \$60 million augmentation?

Although the receipt of the \$2.4 million was helpful to maintain status quo, it falls short of what we need to deliver the level of service our residents need. The ongoing reductions to our Branch have generated a structural deficit for our Court in excess of \$23 million and when calculating the net impact to our budget in conjunction with the new allocation methodology our Court will net only \$160,000. As a Court which participated in the development of the Workload Assessment Funding Allocation Model (WAFM) over the past 10 months, we stand behind the new approach. But, in order for our fiscal chasm to be closed, significant augmentations are critical.

This challenge is compounded further by the inability for the Court to carry fund balances in excess of the 1% limit. The 1% cap amounts to less than \$1million dollars

our Court is able to carry in its reserve from year to year and the amount we must commit to our operating budget over and above our general fund allocation is in excess of that amount.

As expressed earlier, we utilize our fund balance to: maintain normal business hours; cover benefit costs that are unfunded; maintain staffing levels for our Small Claims and Traffic Operations regionally; fully staff our Self-Help centers; reduce our backlog with the assignment of additional staff; increase staff in critical operational areas not supported by the general allocation and maintain staffing levels to provide timely and accurate service to our litigants many of whom are non-English speaking and are self-represented. These services are in excess \$10 million dollars annually and are funded entirely from our fund balance. Further, these services will be unsustainable absent additional funding or an increase of the fund balance restriction from 1% to in excess of 12%.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

See Above

- What are your projected revenues and expenditures for NEXT fiscal year (2014-15)?

*The projected allocation to Santa Clara, in conjunction with the recurrence of the \$60 million appropriation next fiscal year (2014-2015), amounts to \$2.3 million. This represents a reduction in the amount received this year by approximately \$100,000. However, as a result of the redistribution of the Workload Allocation Funding Model and the increase in the distribution formula of "old" allocated monies from a ratio of 90/10 to 85/15 percent, **the fiscal impact to our Court will be a net reduction of \$1,200,000.***

With the absence of new additional monies and the fund balance cap of 1%, the Court will be required to offset a funding deficit in excess of \$24 million through severe staffing reductions and business office and courtroom closures. Services affected would include Small Claims and Traffic in outlying branches, Self-Help services in our Sunnyvale Courthouse, severe reductions to public service and telephone service hours; reduce or eliminate collaborative hearings unsupported by grant monies and increasing backlogs in non-mandated areas including Civil and Family Law.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AS WE PREPARE THIS SURVEY. AS A REMINDER, PLEASE SUBMIT THIS COMPLETED FORM TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov ON OR BEFORE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 22. PLEASE CALL ANDI AT 916-323-3121 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

**Superior Court of California,
County of SANTA CRUZ
FY 2013-14**

Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$367,125

There are a number of ways to maintain or increase public access to justice. Check all that are appropriate AND please provide as detailed an explanation for each as you can:

**PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TYPING DIRECTLY INTO THIS TEMPLATE.
TRANSMIT YOUR COMPLETED WORD DOCUMENT TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov BY/BEFORE
CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 22ND.**

N/A We will avoid (or limit) previously planned staffing reductions.

- Please explain how many positions you will avoid reducing.
- Please describe the kinds of positions you will avoid reducing.
- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice in applicable divisions of your court or courthouse(s).
- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

N/A We will avoid (or limit) previously planned courtroom closures.

- Please explain what types of hearings will be maintained.
- Please describe the impact on the public by keeping open a courtroom planned for closure.
- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

N/A We will avoid previously planned courthouse closures.

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you are able to avoid closing.
- Please explain the impact on the public by keeping open this/these courthouse(s).
- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

X We will maintain, increase or restore public telephone hours.

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

During this height of the budget crisis, the clerk's offices' public telephone hours were reduced by four hours each day. Last year, the court was able to restore three of those hours per day. The court intends to use its share of this augmentation to maintain our existing telephone hours. These additional hours of telephone service will enable members of the public (attorneys, self-represented litigants, defendants and other court users) to obtain case information, schedule court hearings and conduct other court business over a greater period of time and, in addition, they will be spending less time waiting for assistance due to the volume of calls being spread over those seven hours.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

In order to maintain this service level, the court will be dependent on either additional ongoing funding or the ability to maintain its fund balance from year to year.

X We will maintain, increase or restore court clerk hours.

- Please explain what kinds of court clerk duties will be maintained, increased or restored.

Over the course of the budget crisis, overall court staffing levels fell from a high of 169 FTE's in Fiscal Year 2007/2008 to 114 FTE's in Fiscal Year 2012/2013. One of the results of this decrease in staffing levels was the inability of the court to maintain clerk's office hours. The clerk's offices in Santa Cruz have historically been open for eight hours each day (8:00am to 4:00pm). The current clerk's office hours are from 8:00am to 3:00pm. Without the budget augmentation, the court would have been left with no other choice than to further reduce office hours as vacant position could not have been filled.

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

These additional clerks' office hours each week will permit members of the public (attorneys, self-represented litigants, defendants and other court users) to obtain case information, to schedule court hearing dates and conduct other court business.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

In order to maintain this service level, the court will be dependent on either additional ongoing funding or the ability to maintain its fund balance from year to year.

X We will devote resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.

- Please explain the areas of backlog that will be addressed.

Hiring legal processing clerks into vacant positions that were previously "frozen" enables the court to minimize backlogs in case processing.

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Case processing backlogs negatively impact litigant's ability to obtain the following types of case related documents:

1. *Family Law Judgments and Orders related to child custody, visitation and support*

2. *Civil Judgments (including default judgments) and orders which enable litigants to enforce money judgments*
3. *Numerous other documents*

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

In order to maintain this service level, the court will be dependent on either additional ongoing funding or the ability to maintain its fund balance from year to year.

N/A We will suspend/avoid employee furloughs.

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice.
- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

X We will maintain, increase or restore services in our self-help center.

- Please explain the details of this proposed increase.

A portion of the funding augmentation will be used for the following:

1. *Restoring and maintaining limited Self-Help Program Services to the Santa Cruz Courthouse. This includes workshops on the following topics: Small Claims, Civil Answers, And Family Law.*
2. *Maintaining Self-Help Services for Conservatorship Cases in the Main Self-Help Center in the Watsonville Courthouse*
3. *Maintaining a Spanish Language Paralegal in the Main Self-Help Center located in the Watsonville Courthouse*

- Please explain how the increase in self-help services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

The Self-Help Center plays a critical role in enabling the public's access to justice. Since it's opening in 2008, the demand for these services continues to grow. The Court currently assists up to 1,800 individuals each month. The Self-Help Center provides assistance to self represented litigants in the following areas:

- *Family Law: Including, but not limited to, divorce, child support, child custody*
- *Evictions (residential)*
- *Name Changes/Gender Change*
- *Emancipation*
- *Guardianship of the person*

- *Restraining Orders: Domestic Violence, Civil Harassment, Elder Abuse*
 - *Small Claims*
 - *Limited Civil (contract cases)*
 - *Conservatorship of the person*
 - *Provide community and legal resources*
- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

In order to maintain this service level, the court will be dependent on either additional ongoing funding or the ability to maintain its fund balance from year to year.

X We will maintain, increase or restore court reporting services.

- Please explain how increased court reporting services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

The funding augmentation will enable the court to fill a vacant court reporter position. This court reporter will be assigned to felony and juvenile hearings and trials. The addition of this court reporter improves the court's flexibility which allows it to move those felony and juvenile hearings and trials to available courtrooms that do not have court reporters permanently assigned (civil and family law).

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

In order to maintain this service level, the court will be dependent on either additional ongoing funding or the ability to maintain its fund balance from year to year.

N/A We will maintain, increase or restore specialty court(s).

- Please describe the specialty court(s) to be maintained, increased or restored.
- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services will maintain or increase public access to justice.
- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Using as much additional space as you need, answer the following questions:

- Explain any other ways the Santa Cruz Superior Court intends to restore, maintain, or increase public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.
- What additional information would you like to add about the use of your court's share of the \$60 million augmentation?

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

In order to maintain current service levels, the court will be dependent on either additional ongoing funding or the ability to maintain its fund balance from year to year.

- What are your projected revenues and expenditures for NEXT fiscal year (2014-15)?

1% Fund Balance:	\$149,582
Combined Revenue	<u>\$14,289,104</u>
Total:	\$14,438,686

Projected Expenditures: \$15,058,213

Projected Deficit: (\$619,527)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AS WE PREPARE THIS SURVEY. AS A REMINDER, PLEASE SUBMIT THIS COMPLETED FORM TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov ON OR BEFORE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 22. PLEASE CALL ANDI AT 916-323-3121 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

**Superior Court of California,
County of SHASTA
FY 2013-14
Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$323,090**

There are a number of ways to maintain or increase public access to justice. Check all that are appropriate AND please provide as detailed an explanation for each as you can:

**PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TYPING DIRECTLY INTO THIS TEMPLATE.
TRANSMIT YOUR COMPLETED WORD DOCUMENT TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov BY/BEFORE
CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 22ND.**

_____ We will avoid (or limit) previously planned staffing reductions.

- Please explain how many positions you will avoid reducing.

The Commissioner position previously being held vacant and in danger of being eliminated has been filled and the Commissioner has resumed full-time coverage in Shasta. The resource sharing arrangement with Trinity Superior Court has been restored and coverage for Trinity County resumes in two weeks.

Litigants are now able to access this court in Shasta and Trinity County Superior Courts as they did prior to the reductions implemented last fiscal year.

- Please describe the kinds of positions you will avoid reducing.

The court will continue to staff civil and traffic matters for now. Unless previous funding reductions are restored (the \$261 million reduction) it will become necessary to revisit staff downsizing in the 3rd quarter of 2013/2014.

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice in applicable divisions of your court or courthouse(s).

We will maintain our offices on reduced hours to the public. The court is unable to increase public access at this time.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

As mentioned above, we will need to downsize before the end of 2013/14 unless funding is restored for next fiscal year. The court will not be able to make payroll July 1, 2014.

_____ We will avoid (or limit) previously planned courtroom closures.

- Please explain what types of hearings will be maintained.

No additional courtroom closures are planned, however the Burney Branch Court will continue on the current reduced schedule throughout 2013/14.

- Please describe the impact on the public by keeping open a courtroom planned for closure.

N/A

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

N/A

We will avoid previously planned courthouse closures.

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you are able to avoid closing.

No additional courthouse closures had been planned.

- Please explain the impact on the public by keeping open this/these courthouse(s).

N/A

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

N/A

We will maintain, increase or restore public telephone hours.

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

We will continue the current telephone hours, which is 8:30 to 2:00 p.m. Unfortunately, Shasta's share of the augmentation cannot be stretched far enough to resume regular office hours of 8:30 to 4:30.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

As stated above, if previous reductions are not restored, the court will be faced with a large reduction in our workforce prior to the end of the fiscal year. We will not be able to make payroll July 1, 2014. Our fund balance cannot sustain the cost of our operations into 2014/15 without prior reductions being restored.

We will maintain, increase or restore court clerk hours.

- Please explain what kinds of court clerk duties will be maintained, increased or restored.

The Court will maintain the clerk's office hours of 8:30 to 2:00. Augmentation funding was insufficient to restore clerk's office hours.

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

We are not able to restore clerk's office hours to those before the budget reductions. We simply do not have the staff to keep up with the workload and the public's demands for services.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

As indicated previously, based on the projections for 2014/15 it is unlikely we be able to restore office hours unless new funding is allocated or previous year ongoing reductions are eliminated.

___ **We will devote resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.**

- Please explain the areas of backlog that will be addressed.

Backlogs that are considered essential to public service are being addressed with periodic specially approved overtime for which staff is compensated with comp time, not pay.

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Decreasing backlog in case processing enables the public to receive final judgments (family law) on a timely basis. In many cases this allows families to move on with their lives by being able to dispose of community property, etc.

Addressing backlog in calendaring criminal cases allows the public to have their day in court and makes for an efficient process by syncing up multiple cases for the same individual. For example, if a defendant has more than one case pending, all cases are gathered up and calendared before one judge in order to resolve all cases with the minimum number of appearances.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

The above actions are temporary and primarily used only when the backlogs impact the courtrooms (calendaring and filing) and cases that have a high impact on the public (family law).

___ **We will suspend/avoid employee furloughs.**

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice.

This court is not using employee furloughs the first half of this fiscal year, however we cannot rule out the possibility in the second half of the fiscal year. Unless funding is restored in 2014/15 the court will be faced with furloughs and downsizing in preparation for July 1, 2014.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

The staffing reductions are not limited to 2013-14. They will get worse unless funding is restored.

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore services in our self-help center.**

- Please explain the details of this proposed increase.

Augmentation funding will allow us to maintain the current services in our self-help center. They are desperately in need of additional staff to assist the public but we cannot add more positions at this time. Three additional computers are being added for the public's use in the self-help center in order to serve more people.

- Please explain how the increase in self-help services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

We cannot increase services at this time.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

The current staffing level will be maintained, but it is still insufficient to meet the public's demand.

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore court reporting services.**

- Please explain how increased court reporting services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

We cannot restore court reporting services at this time. During 2012/13 we conducted two failed recruitments to fill vacancies and were unable to hire new staff because our salaries are not competitive.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

The court reporter shortage will continue past this fiscal year until such time as salaries can be increased enough to attract employees.

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore specialty court(s).**

- Please describe the specialty court(s) to be maintained, increased or restored.

This court cannot add or restore any specialty courts.

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

The criminal courts are in dire need of restoring our DUI court and adding a reentry court or mental health court. We do not have the resources to do either.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

We cannot initiate or restore specialty courts until prior reductions are eliminated or some other funding is provided.

Using as much additional space as you need, answer the following questions:

- Explain any other ways Shasta intends to restore, maintain, or increase public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

The current deficit in contract dependency counsel costs is \$146,367, which will be paid using a portion of the court's share of the \$60m augmentation. The contracts continue to provide caseloads that are more than double the statewide standard that an attorney can be expected to competently handle.

- What additional information would you like to add about the use of your court's share of the \$60 million augmentation?

Shasta Superior Court is financially unstable. While we welcomed the augmentation, it replaced only a small portion (\$323,090) of our share of the \$261m reduction (\$1.3 million). The multi-year cuts were compounded because this court was already historically underfunded. Our fund balance was made up of comprehensive collections operational costs because we perform collections for six other courts. (We receive no trial court funding for collections staff.) Now that the fund balance has been exhausted we cannot continue to provide collections services beyond 6-30-14. Our collections operations resulted in revenue collected from 1993 to 2013 in the amount of \$104,754,000.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.
- What are your projected revenues and expenditures for NEXT fiscal year (2014-15)?

Our projected revenues for 2014/15 are approximately \$11,500,000. Projected expenditures are \$12,800,000.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AS WE PREPARE THIS SURVEY. AS A REMINDER, PLEASE SUBMIT THIS COMPLETED FORM TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov ON OR BEFORE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 22. PLEASE CALL ANDI AT 916-323-3121 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

H:SURVEY RESPONSE \$60M QUESTIONS 8-18-13

**Superior Court of California,
County of SIERRA
FY 2013-14
Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$7,615**

There are a number of ways to maintain or increase public access to justice. Check all that are appropriate AND please provide as detailed an explanation for each as you can:

**PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TYPING DIRECTLY INTO THIS TEMPLATE.
TRANSMIT YOUR COMPLETED WORD DOCUMENT TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov BY/BEFORE
CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 22ND.**

___ We will avoid (or limit) previously planned staffing reductions.

- Please explain how many positions you will avoid reducing.

As we expect a minimal share of the augmentation funding, no reductions are avoided. Sierra is currently operating below minimum fiscal audit and labor standards with 3 FTE clerks and CEO.

- Please describe the kinds of positions you will avoid reducing.

N/A

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice in applicable divisions of your court or courthouse(s).

N/A

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

N/A

___ We will avoid (or limit) previously planned courtroom closures.

- Please explain what types of hearings will be maintained.

N/A.

- Please describe the impact on the public by keeping open a courtroom planned for closure.

N/A

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

N/A

___ **We will avoid previously planned courthouse closures.**

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you are able to avoid closing.

N/A

- Please explain the impact on the public by keeping open this/these courthouse(s).

N/A

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

N/A

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore public telephone hours.**

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

We did not previously limit public telephone hours

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

N/A

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore court clerk hours.**

- Please explain what kinds of court clerk duties will be maintained, increased or restored.

-

- *We did not previously limit public court clerk hours*

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

N/A

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

N/A

___ **We will devote resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.**

- Please explain the areas of backlog that will be addressed.

Sierra's portion of the \$60 Million augmentation is marginal, expected to be under \$6,000, therefore not enough to impact or reduce our case processing backlog.

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog will maintain or increase public access to justice.

N/A

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

N/A

_____ We will suspend employee furloughs.

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice.

No furloughs are or were in place

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

N/A

_____ We will maintain, increase or restore services in our self-help center.

- Please explain the details of this proposed increase.

Sierra clerks provide self help assistance to the public – we do not maintain a separate self help center. We do not anticipate that our share of the augmentation will change the level of service we currently provide.

- Please explain how the increase in self-help services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

N/A

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

N/A

_____ We will maintain, increase or restore court reporting services.

- Please explain how increased court reporting services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

We will maintain our contracted CSR services which are limited to criminal case reporting. This service provides for the availability of criminal hearing transcripts for defendant's preparation of appeal, a statutory right of public access to court records

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

We have no expectation of discontinuing court reporting services unless legislation and related funding develops toward implementation of a digital recording system for our courtroom.

___ We will maintain, increase or restore specialty court(s).

- Please describe the specialty court(s) to be maintained, increased or restored.

Sierra will maintain our only specialty court, Drug Court, within our current staffing and judicial availability.

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

N/A

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

N/A

Using as much additional space as you need, answer the following questions:

- Explain any other ways Sierra intends to restore, maintain, or increase public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

Albeit a small sum, any funding augmentation will be best used to maintaining the current staffing level of which any reduction would significantly impact the public's access to our court.

- What additional information would you like to add about the use of your court's share of the \$60 million augmentation?

None

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

For Sierra, use of such limited augmentation funds is temporary, unless it becomes a permanent restoration without further reductions in funding. As that scenario seems unlikely during the next few years, we don't expect that any benefit from this funding will provide relief beyond FY13/14.

- What are your projected revenues and expenditures for NEXT fiscal year (2014-15)?

We cannot answer that question with specific numbers at this time. We do not expect our expenditures to change significantly and cannot forecast funding revenue as determined by the state budget.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AS WE PREPARE THIS SURVEY. AS A REMINDER, PLEASE SUBMIT THIS COMPLETED FORM TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov ON OR BEFORE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 22. PLEASE CALL ANDI AT 916-323-3121 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

**Superior Court of California,
County of SISKIYOU
FY 2013-14**

Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$70,136

There are a number of ways to maintain or increase public access to justice. Check all that are appropriate AND please provide as detailed an explanation for each as you can:

**PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TYPING DIRECTLY INTO THIS TEMPLATE.
TRANSMIT YOUR COMPLETED WORD DOCUMENT TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov BY/BEFORE
CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 22ND.**

n/a **We will avoid (or limit) previously planned staffing reductions.**

- Please explain how many positions you will avoid reducing.

As described infra, this Court's net share of funding is very limited. For that reason we cannot apply the funds for this purpose.

- Please describe the kinds of positions you will avoid reducing.
Type your response here
- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice in applicable divisions of your court or courthouse(s).
Type your response here
- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.
Type your response here

n/a **We will avoid (or limit) previously planned courtroom closures.**

- Please explain what types of hearings will be maintained.

As described infra, this Court's net share of funding is very limited. For that reason we cannot apply the funds for this purpose.

- Please describe the impact on the public by keeping open a courtroom planned for closure.
Type your response here
- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.
Type your response here

n/a **We will avoid previously planned courthouse closures.**

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you are able to avoid closing.

As described infra, this Court's net share of funding is very limited. For that reason we cannot apply the funds for this purpose.

- Please explain the impact on the public by keeping open this/these courthouse(s).
Type your response here
- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.
Type your response here

n/a We will maintain, increase or restore public telephone hours.

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

As described infra, this Court's net share of funding is very limited. For that reason we cannot apply the funds for this purpose.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.
Type your response here

n/a We will maintain, increase or restore court clerk hours.

- Please explain what kinds of court clerk duties will be maintained, increased or restored.

As described infra, this Court's net share of funding is very limited. For that reason we cannot apply the funds for this purpose.

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.
Type your response here
- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.
Type your response here

n/a We will devote resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.

- Please explain the areas of backlog that will be addressed.

As described infra, this Court's net share of funding is very limited. For that reason we cannot apply the funds for this purpose.

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog will maintain or increase public access to justice.
Type your response here
- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.
Type your response here

n/a We will suspend/avoid employee furloughs.

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice.

As described infra, this Court's net share of funding is very limited. For that reason we cannot apply the funds for this purpose.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

x We will maintain, increase or restore services in our self-help center.

- Please explain the details of this proposed increase.

To the extent we receive net funding from the restoration of funding, we will apply those funds to the maintenance of services in our self-help center, and will be use the funds for supplies needed for self-help services.

- Please explain how the increase in self-help services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

The funding we receive will not allow us to increase self-help services.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

The funding for self-help support will be temporary and not likely to extend beyond the fiscal year without additional funding.

n/a We will maintain, increase or restore court reporting services.

- Please explain how increased court reporting services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

As described infra, this Court's net share of funding is very limited. For that reason we cannot apply the funds for this purpose.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

n/a We will maintain, increase or restore specialty court(s).

- Please describe the specialty court(s) to be maintained, increased or restored.

As described infra, this Court's net share of funding is very limited. For that reason we cannot apply the funds for this purpose.

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

Using as much additional space as you need, answer the following questions:

- Explain any other ways Siskiyou County Superior Court intends to restore, maintain, or increase public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

As described infra, this Court's net share of funding is very limited. For that reason we are limited in how we apply the funds.

- What additional information would you like to add about the use of your court's share of the \$60 million augmentation?

As indicated above, Siskiyou County's share of the \$60 million augmentation is very limited, \$70,136; with the new WAFM implemented, Siskiyou County estimates its share of "new" funds is approximately \$4,000. This is simply not enough to restore services or staffing levels that have already been reduced due to funding reductions.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

- What are your projected revenues and expenditures for NEXT fiscal year (2014-15)?

<i>Revenues:</i>	<i>\$2,964,825 (TCTF only) – estimated</i>
<i>Expenditures:</i>	<i>\$3,124,640 (Salaries and Benefits excluding AB1058, Facilitator and Enhanced Collections)</i>
	<i><u>770,000 (estimated OE&E per WAFM)</u></i>
<i>Total</i>	
<i>Expenditures:</i>	<i>\$3,894,640 - estimated</i>

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AS WE PREPARE THIS SURVEY. AS A REMINDER, PLEASE SUBMIT THIS COMPLETED FORM TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov ON OR BEFORE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 22. PLEASE CALL ANDI AT 916-323-3121 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

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**Superior Court of California,
County of SOLANO
FY 2013-14**

Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$758,555

There are a number of ways to maintain or increase public access to justice. Check all that are appropriate AND please provide as detailed an explanation for each as you can:

**PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TYPING DIRECTLY INTO THIS TEMPLATE.
TRANSMIT YOUR COMPLETED WORD DOCUMENT TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov BY/BEFORE
CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 22ND.**

 We will avoid (or limit) previously planned staffing reductions.

- Please explain how many positions you will avoid reducing.

The funding will allow Solano to maintain current staffing levels; however, we will not be able to hire back positions over the past five years. Solano has gone from 266 employees to 206. We believe we will maintain 206 positions this fiscal year.

- Please describe the kinds of positions you will avoid reducing.

With the ability to maintain positions, we will maintain court reporters in civil and family.

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice in applicable divisions of your court or courthouse(s).

This funding allows us to eliminate employee furloughs and limited operation days. Otherwise, we will maintain current services; however, we are unable to increase the public's ability to access the court system beyond elimination of the limited operation days.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

We currently project a deficit of \$700,000 for the fiscal year, which will be absorbed by fund balance. Accordingly, all measures are temporary so long as we maintain a structural deficit.

 We will avoid (or limit) previously planned courtroom closures.

- Please explain what types of hearings will be maintained.

Solano had no planned courtroom closures.

- Please describe the impact on the public by keeping open a courtroom planned for closure.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

___ **We will avoid previously planned courthouse closures.**

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you are able to avoid closing.

Solano had no courthouse closures planned.

- Please explain the impact on the public by keeping open this/these courthouse(s).

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore public telephone hours.**

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

We are unable to increase or restore public telephone hours without hiring additional staff.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore court clerk hours.**

- Please explain what kinds of court clerk duties will be maintained, increased or restored.

We are unable to increase or restore court clerk hours until we have the ability to hire additional staff. Clerk's Office hours have gone from 8:00 to 4:00 to 8:00 to 2:00.

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We will devote resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.**

- Please explain the areas of backlog that will be addressed.

Other than staff being here during the limited operation days, we are unable to devote additional staff to reducing backlogs in case processing.

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We will suspend employee furloughs.**

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice.

We will use the funding provided to eliminate staff furloughs. Solano had twelve days of furlough in FY 12/13 with a cost savings of \$755,041. Solano is receiving \$758,555 of the \$60 million. Accordingly, all funding received will go for the elimination of furloughs.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Solano projects a deficit of \$700,000 for 13/14, which will be absorbed by fund balance. If no additional funding is forthcoming, Solano will be required to implement furloughs in 14/15.

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore services in our self-help center.**

- Please explain the details of this proposed increase.

We are unable to restore services in Self-Help; however, we will maintain our current services. Under current services, we turn up to 20 people away a day and unfortunately, will be required to turn away people daily.

- Please explain how the increase in self-help services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore court reporting services.**

- Please explain how increased court reporting services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

We will maintain current court reporting services.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Without additional funding, we may be required to eliminate court reporters in civil and family.

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore specialty court(s).**

- Please describe the specialty court(s) to be maintained, increased or restored.

No impact to specialty courts.

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

Using as much additional space as you need, answer the following questions:

- Explain any other ways Solano intends to restore, maintain, or increase public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

No additional ways other than mentioned.

- What additional information would you like to add about the use of your court's share of the \$60 million augmentation?

Solano has a fund balance which will assist with court operations this fiscal year; however, with the new fund balance statutory requirement, the court will be unable to rely on fund balance to maintain operations. Accordingly, without additional funding in 14/15, the Court will be required to institute cost saving measures, which may include furloughs, layoffs, and further elimination of services.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

- What are your projected revenues and expenditures for NEXT fiscal year (2014-15)?

Projected Revenue: \$22,454,225

Projected Expense \$23,158,250

Projected Deficit \$704,024

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AS WE PREPARE THIS SURVEY. AS A REMINDER, PLEASE SUBMIT THIS COMPLETED FORM TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov ON OR BEFORE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 22. PLEASE CALL ANDI AT 916-323-3121 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

Superior Court of California,
County of SONOMA
FY 2013-14

Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$844,404

There are a number of ways to maintain or increase public access to justice. Check all that are appropriate AND please provide as detailed an explanation for each as you can:

PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TYPING DIRECTLY INTO THIS TEMPLATE. TRANSMIT YOUR COMPLETED WORD DOCUMENT TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov BY/BEFORE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 22ND.

X **We will avoid (or limit) previously planned staffing reductions.**

- **Please explain how many positions you will avoid reducing.**

The infusion of \$844,000 back into our budget will allow our court to avoid further reductions of approximately 10 to 11 positions. We are already at a reduced workforce of 26% percent or 57 positions.

- **Please describe the kinds of positions you will avoid reducing.**

We would have looked first to reduce court reporter positions in the civil and family law divisions, resulting in 7 of the positions. The additional positions would have come from Self Help and the clerks' office, to round out the remaining 10 to 11 positions. The positions would be legal processors and legal assistant positions.

- **Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice in applicable divisions of your court or courthouse(s).**

Retaining employee court reporters in the civil division allows the smooth and efficient flow of cases to proceed to trial, without the litigants having to find and procure reporters. Locally, we are facing a shortage of court reporters and by eliminating this important position, it could delay civil trials or affect the accountability of transcripts if the reporters are not employed by the court, who assure licensing and training.

Keeping the legal assistant positions in the Self Help Center assures that this valuable service for the public will remain and that the hours would not have to be further reduced. Our pro-per litigants rely on the services of the Self Help Center and any further erosion would limit the benefits of this division and ultimately slow down the processes in the trial courts, as litigants would be less prepared to navigate the challenging process of divorce, custody, unlawful detainers and small claims cases. The very areas that hit the majority of our trial court users.

Our legal processors have taken the biggest hit in reduction of work force so eliminating any further positions in this area assures that we can maintain the current process for filing of documents in Civil, Family Law, Criminal and Traffic. While we do have backlogs compared to the days when we were fully staffed, we are managing to keep the paper moving under the new "normal" for processing. Additional reductions in this area would force longer delays and/or further reduction of filing hours to allow the limited staff to process paperwork.

- **Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.**

Until funding for future years is known it is difficult to determine if any of the actions above would continue beyond this fiscal year. Expenditure costs continue to rise, including IT vendor contracts, court operations contracts, (forensic, transcript costs), screening and janitorial costs, and employee health and retirement costs. In order to balance the budget with certain fixed costs, some staff reductions may have to occur, so that a structural deficit does not occur for 14-15, since we will have no safety net (reserves) to offset any increased expenditures over our base funding.

 We will avoid (or limit) previously planned courtroom closures.

- Please explain what types of hearings will be maintained.

Type your response here

- Please describe the impact on the public by keeping open a courtroom planned for closure.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

 We will avoid previously planned courthouse closures.

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you are able to avoid closing.

Type your response here

- Please explain the impact on the public by keeping open this/these courthouse(s).

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

 X **We will maintain, increase or restore public telephone hours.**

- **Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.**

We continue to staff phone hours from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. every day in our clerks' offices, which has been difficult with the already reduced staffing. It is our commitment to continue this schedule since no further staff reductions need to occur this year. Providing the four hours a day of public phone access aids our public in unnecessary trips to the courthouse to obtain information. Often the public can handle their business over the phone, rather than making a trip to the courthouse. Further, the current access to court staff via the phone guides them to the proper procedures to assure timely filings, responses, payments reducing unintended consequences in increased fines (civil assessments) or ability to respond in civil and family cases appropriately. It also allows the public, which may have difficulty reaching the court during our normal working hours due to their employment schedule or perhaps due to disability, to obtain valuable information.

- **Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.**

As noted above, it is difficult to determine what additional reductions our court might need to make pending future funding allocations and expenditures increases. However it is the intent of the court to try to continue our public phone hours for as long as possible, while continuing to look at alternate ways to communicate information, such as emails, FAQs, internet updates, etc.

X We will maintain, increase or restore court clerk hours.

- **Please explain what kinds of court clerk duties will be maintained, increased or restored.**

Our clerks' office hours will remain at the current closure time of 3:30 p.m. to allow our staff to continue to process the volume of paperwork submitted daily. Our clerks will be able to maintain the setting up of new filings, responses, proof of service notices, collection of fines and fees, calendaring, etc.

- **Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.**

Since the \$844,000 will result in no further reductions to staff in this area, we can be assured that the public will continue to have the same timely and efficient access to the court to file cases and resolve their disputes, as we currently do. If we had to reduce legal processors as a result of no additional funds, our backlogs would have increased and/or we would have to consider even shorter available hours to the public. If our clerks become backlogged in processing the paper, then timely access to justice is not achieved.

- **Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.**

Until additional funding is secured allowing us to hire back some of our frozen positions, we will not be able to increase our lobby hours beyond 3:30 p.m. The current flow of additional funds only negated further reductions to these areas and possible increased closure times. Therefore,

until the funding allocations for 14-15 are known, it is difficult for our court to respond to whether these actions are temporary or are likely to extend.

X We will devote resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.

- **Please explain the areas of backlog that will be addressed.**

We are continually looking to decrease our filing backlogs in Civil, Criminal and Family Law. Specifically, divorce filings, destruction of exhibits, purging of unserved old bench warrants, processing expungements, purging of case files for destruction, entry of traffic citations, processing of judgments, records search requests and data entry quality control.

- **Please explain how decreasing the backlog will maintain or increase public access to justice.**

Continuing to reduce the backlogs in the various clerks' office increases the efficiency and access that the public has to justice in seeing their cases resolved timely. In some cases this impacts peoples' livelihoods and waiting months and months to resolve disputes only further exacerbates an already challenging situation for many of our customers. For example those wishing to expunge criminal records for background references will obtain this service in an acceptable time frame and not result in the possible loss of future jobs. If traffic citations can be sent out timelier, this enables more time for them to make payment arrangements earlier and possibly avoid additional assessments being imposed for failing to pay on time. Focusing our energy and limited staff resources on achieving these goals is an ultimate win for the public in achieving timely resolution of disputes.

- **Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.**

As noted previously, unless adequate funding is restored, the ability to continue to focus on the backlogs will diminish, as staff burnout, increased workers compensation claims and further increased expenditures erodes our funding base, resulting in potential lay-offs or a reduced workforce in not filling vacated positions due to retirement. The backlogs are one of the first areas that are hit, with the reduced workforce. At some point a new case management system would allow our court to be more efficient in case processing, however given that reserves will be depleted, it is difficult to know when such a solution may be possible for our court, jeopardizing the much needed improvements that will allow a smaller workforce, utilizing technology.

We will suspend employee furloughs.

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

X **We will maintain, increase or restore services in our self-help center.**

- **Please explain the details of this proposed increase.**

As noted previously, the Self Help Center was one of the targeted areas for additional reduction of staff in order to balance our budget. The additional infusion of \$844,000 staves off those additional reductions and allows us to continue self-help services as we have been. This assures that this valuable service will continue thereby "increasing the services" that would have been cut if no additional funding was secured.

- **Please explain how the increase in self-help services will maintain or increase public access to justice.**

As noted previously self-help services are an important service to our pro-per litigants as it helps them navigate the often difficult and challenging processes to resolve their disputes. Additional reductions in this division would further hamper the court's ability to continue to provide this service, resulting in increased delays for the public, as incomplete documents are returned from filings, or important dates and deadlines are missed. The one -on -one and workshop approach fills a vast void in the public in navigating the court and dispute resolution processes.

- **Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.**

Unknown until funding for future years is determined, as previously mentioned.

X **We will maintain, increase or restore court reporting services.**

- **Please explain how increased court reporting services will maintain or increase public access to justice.**

As mentioned above court reporters were one of the targeted areas for staffing reduction in order to balance our budget. With the additional funding we will be able to keep staff reporters in the civil and family divisions. This assures a more efficient process with respect to trials for the litigants and reduces any possible delays in attorneys and litigants having to procure their own reporters. Court reporters are more and more difficult to hire, given the overall reduction graduating from the reporter schools, so continuing to supply them in civil and family keeps the process efficient and timely.

- **Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.**

Unknown until funding for future years is determined, as previously mentioned. Since this option is one that doesn't eliminate the service but puts the responsibility on the litigants, it may be one that is seriously considered if our court continues to face budget deficits, rather than reducing the workforce in other areas of the court that would have to be eliminated or seriously delayed.

X We will maintain, increase or restore specialty court(s).

- **Please describe the specialty court(s) to be maintained, increased or restored.**

Our court will continue to hear the following specialty courts: Drug Court, DUI Court, Mental Health Court, DV Court, Juvenile Drug Court, and Dependency Drug Court.

- **Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services will maintain or increase public access to justice.**

For these specialty programs, providing dedicated courts and teams to work with these populations assures improved successes over processing in the mainstream courtrooms. While the benefits are initially to those receiving the specialty services, it also impacts the overall public by reducing the incidents of abuse or addiction, providing for a safer community. It also improves the lives of the family members of these limited populations if they are restored to a functioning level; therefore it reduces the drain on the family and/or the community.

- **Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.**

This remains unknown until future funding is determined. Some of these programs do have separate funding sources through grants or county funding and would continue as long as those funds remained available.

Using as much additional space as you need, answer the following questions:

- **Explain any other ways Sonoma intends to restore, maintain, or increase public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.**

We hope to pursue technological innovations to better streamline the work product and allow the public to have faster and more accurate information. While the infusion of \$844,000 cannot solve all of our problems, we do continue to focus on how technology can make up the difference in staff reductions so that we can continue to serve the public by providing timely access to justice. We are hopeful that we can update our case management system from a very old Legacy system to one that can actually accept technological advances, such as e-filing and records imaging, that would further reduce the reliance on staff to process and retrieve files. The challenges are in implementing new case management systems while in a staff reduction mode, since implementing new systems creates a short term drain on staff resources. We have been working two years on a traffic conversion and the work stress on staff in completing their normal daily tasks in addition to implementing a new system is high.

- **What additional information would you like to add about the use of your court's share of the \$60 million augmentation?**

As mentioned, our share of the \$60 million augmentation, while appreciated, does not bring us back to where we need to be in order to restore our vital services and providing timely access to justice. Our current timelines for some of our case types, such as child custody investigations at four months, or mediation appointments at three to four months, or telephone calls at 30 minutes plus wait times are not adequate for the public. If we were a private enterprise, we would be out of business by now, as the public would not accept this type of service. We are concerned if we restore some of these critical positions like courtroom staff, mediators or probate court investigators (who perform conservatorship case investigations) that we would be contributing to a structural deficit if no additional funding is restored for FY 14-15, resulting in lay-offs for these same positions. We will consider restoring these positions during this current fiscal year if the budget projection outlook for FY 14-15 seems more favorable, as more information is provided regarding the ongoing funding from the Legislature and Department of Finance. So our \$844,000 at this time, supports no further reductions this year, but does not solve the continued on-going significant reductions to our base allocation and until that is resolved, we are challenged in providing quality, efficient access to justice.

- **Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.**

As we have mentioned throughout this survey, we are unable to anticipate whether we will be able to maintain at the same levels in FY 14-15, until such time that we know what our revenues are. We continue to see increased costs in other services and without increased funding, it erodes our budget, forcing additional freezes on vacated positions. It is staff resources that allow the work of the court to proceed, so increased reductions in staffing will continue to have negative impacts on the system. If additional funds are restored next year, then the court should be able to maintain the levels of service in FY 13-14 and add back additional critical areas, such as mediations.

- **What are your projected revenues and expenditures for NEXT fiscal year (2014-15)?**

Projected revenues and expenditures for FY 14-15 as depicted by the AOC are as follows:

Revenue \$26,301,739 (includes local fees and grants)

Expenditures \$27,537,348

Currently resulting in a loss of \$1,235,609, which would require the court to make yet-to-be-determined additional expenditure reductions.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AS WE PREPARE THIS SURVEY. AS A REMINDER, PLEASE SUBMIT THIS COMPLETED FORM TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov ON OR BEFORE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 22.

**Superior Court of California,
County of STANISLAUS
FY 2013-14**

Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$839,468

There are a number of ways to maintain or increase public access to justice. Check all that are appropriate AND please provide as detailed an explanation for each as you can:

**PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TYPING DIRECTLY INTO THIS TEMPLATE.
TRANSMIT YOUR COMPLETED WORD DOCUMENT TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov BY/BEFORE
CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 22ND.**

X We will avoid (or limit) previously planned staffing reductions.

- Please explain how many positions you will avoid reducing.

Due to anticipated budget shortfall, we had estimated lay-off of 20 employees in FY 13/14. We are now able to avoid this planned layoff.

- Please describe the kinds of positions you will avoid reducing.

Clerical positions across all clerk's offices.

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice in applicable divisions of your court or courthouse(s).

Lay-off of 20 employees translates to the loss of 41,600 man hours annually. Avoiding these layoffs allows for those 41,600 man hours to remain in the court's work force available for assistance to the public in our clerical divisions (across all divisions), assisting the public at the counters processing new filings and answering general questions regarding cases as well as assisting with processing of out of court documents; thus allowing the public more timely access to justice than if we had to lay off these 20 positions.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

The avoidance of these layoffs will be limited to FY 13/14 if the \$60M funding is not ongoing.

X We will avoid (or limit) previously planned courtroom closures.

- Please explain what types of hearings will be maintained.

Courtroom closures have happened in prior years; with the last courtroom closed in December of 2012. We anticipate maintaining the number of courtrooms we had at the end of FY 12/13.

- Please describe the impact on the public by keeping open a courtroom planned for closure.

N/A

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

N/A

X We will avoid previously planned courthouse closures.

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you are able to avoid closing.

Courthouse closures have happened in prior years. We anticipate maintaining the number of courthouses we had at the end of FY 12/13.

- Please explain the impact on the public by keeping open this/these courthouse(s).

N/A

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

N/A

X We will maintain, increase or restore public telephone hours.

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

We will maintain the same telephone hours as FY 12/13, with a priority made on public counter hours.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Limited to FY 13/14 if the \$60M funding is not ongoing.

X We will maintain, increase or restore court clerk hours.

- Please explain what kinds of court clerk duties will be maintained, increased or restored.

Court clerk hours will be restored Monday through Thursday each week from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Each clerk's office will be open to the public 4 additional hours per week as compared to FY 12/13. We are only able to do this because we are not laying off more employees; however, we are still operating below sufficient staffing levels due to many years of decreased funding. If/when we are funded at sufficient staffing levels, we will be able to restore hours on Friday afternoons. Currently we close to the public at noon every Friday in order for staff to address paperwork backlogs.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

This action will be limited to FY 13/14 if the \$60M funding is not ongoing.

X We will devote resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.

- Please explain the areas of backlog that will be addressed.

See answer above. We will continue to address backlogs on Friday afternoons when closed to the public.

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog will maintain or increase public access to justice.

We are maintaining the FY 12/13 hours open to the public on Fridays.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Limited to FY 13/14 if the \$60M funding is not ongoing.

X We will suspend/avoid employee furloughs.

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice.

Initially, we had 11 months of furloughs planned for FY 13/14 (from July 2013 through May 2014), with employees earning Furlough Time Off at 4 hours per pay period to be used randomly as per division needs. By suspending the furlough in mid-August 2013, we will increase public access, as employees will not have additional time off to utilize; additional time off translates to fewer employees in the divisions to assist the public, fewer employees available to clerk in court, etc. when using furlough leave. Suspending the furloughs in August 2013 gives the court an additional 17,220 man hours of availability to assist the public in FY 13/14 than if we had continued furloughs through May 2014.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Limited to FY 13/14 if \$60M funding is not ongoing.

X We will maintain, increase or restore services in our self-help center.

- Please explain the details of this proposed increase.

The SHC hours will be increased 4 hours per week in FY 13/14 beginning mid-September 2013.

- Please explain how the increase in self-help services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Currently the SHC closes to the public at 3 p.m. (Monday through Thursday). The public will be assisted until 4 p.m. in the SHC (Monday through Thursday) effective mid-September 2013. This gives an additional 4 hours of service to the public each week.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Limited to FY 13/14 if \$60M funding is not ongoing.

X We will maintain, increase or restore court reporting services.

- Please explain how increased court reporting services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

We will maintain all court reporting services as per FY 12/13; which includes all mandated case types as well as civil as available. Otherwise, civil attorneys may request per diem court reporters.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Maintaining our current staffing level for court reporters should be ongoing with no further cuts in FY 14/15 forward.

X We will maintain, increase or restore specialty court(s).

- Please describe the specialty court(s) to be maintained, increased or restored.

We will maintain the current specialty courts; mental health and drug court.

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

The Court is able to maintain current level of services only.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

These services may be limited to FY 13/14 if \$60M funding is not ongoing.

Using as much additional space as you need, answer the following questions:

- Explain any other ways Stanislaus intends to restore, maintain, or increase public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

The Court is pursuing automated access beginning in FY 13/14.

- What additional information would you like to add about the use of your court's share of the \$60 million augmentation?

We are implementing a Document Management System (DMS) in FY 13/14 with rollout to the IV-D Division and the IV-D Courtroom in August 2013. The Family Law and Criminal Divisions & Courtrooms are also to be implemented before the end of FY 13/14. All other divisions are slated to be implemented in FY 14/15. Additional funding may be needed in order to complete this project.

This project will allow the court to go paperless and also allow the court to offer e-filing in the very near future. The court believes the paperless model will allow the court to function more efficiently in the future.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

The implementation of the DMS will extend to all case types in future years with continued funding.

- What are your projected revenues and expenditures for NEXT fiscal year (2014-15)?

Both revenues and expenditures are projected at \$22,750,000 in FY 14/15.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AS WE PREPARE THIS SURVEY. AS A REMINDER, PLEASE SUBMIT THIS COMPLETED FORM TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov ON OR BEFORE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 22. PLEASE CALL ANDI AT 916-323-3121 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

Superior Court of California,
County of SUTTER
FY 2013-14

Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$165,851

There are a number of ways to maintain or increase public access to justice. Check all that are appropriate AND please provide as detailed an explanation for each as you can:

PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TYPING DIRECTLY INTO THIS TEMPLATE.
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CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 22ND.

 We will avoid (or limit) previously planned staffing reductions.

- Please explain how many positions you will avoid reducing.

The Sutter County Superior Court made staffing reductions in FY 12-13 to reach the anticipated level of funding going into FY 14-15. It was anticipated that one additional position would be reduced in FY 13-14. It now appears that this position will not have to be reduced.

In addition we will restore two positions eliminated due to lay off in FY 2012-2013.

- Please describe the kinds of positions you will avoid reducing.

We were considering the reduction of an administrative or supervisory position.

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice in applicable divisions of your court or courthouse(s).

Quality of supervision of operational divisions will not be disrupted. Given the loss of other critical positions the workload per employee has increased requiring more attention to the monitoring, prioritization and distribution of workload by supervisors.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Unless there are additional reductions in FY 14-15 this is an ongoing action.

 We will avoid (or limit) previously planned courtroom closures.

- Please explain what types of hearings will be maintained.

There were no planned courtroom closures.

- Please describe the impact on the public by keeping open a courtroom planned for closure.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We will avoid previously planned courthouse closures.**

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you are able to avoid closing.

There were no previously planned courthouse closures.

- Please explain the impact on the public by keeping open this/these courthouse(s).

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore public telephone hours.**

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

It is this court's intent to restore 2 court clerk positions previously eliminated due to layoff supplemented by part-time or extra-help staff. The restoration of these positions will help the court to maintain phone hours. The court recently reduced telephone hours one hour per day to coincide with public filing hours. While the court expects to continue this very small reduction in phone hours, it will not be moving forward with plans to reduce telephone hours more substantially.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Unless there are additional reductions in FY 14-15, this is an ongoing action.

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore court clerk hours.**

- Please explain what kinds of court clerk duties will be maintained, increased or restored.

Our court has held off reducing court clerk hours as we see this as an essential component of access to justice, however, as backlogs continue to grow, it was again under consideration. We are hopeful with the restoration of the two court clerk positions we will be able to avoid reducing court clerk hours.

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Maintaining our court clerk hours will allow us to continue to provide this essential component of access to justice by providing the public access to the ability to obtain information, file documents, pay fines, etc. for 8 hours per day.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

___ **We will devote resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.**

- Please explain the areas of backlog that will be addressed.

The restored positions will greatly improve our ability to reduce backlog in criminal cases.

Reduce delay in processing of criminal courtroom minutes from 3 – 4 weeks to two weeks.

Reduce delay in processing of criminal records requests from 8 weeks to 4 weeks.

Reduce delay in processing of state prison commitments from 3 weeks to 10 days.

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog will maintain or increase public access to justice.

A primary function of the court clerk is to serve as the “keeper of the record.” When there is a backlog in the preparation of court minutes, the record is not complete and this primary function of the clerk’s office is not adequately being met. By reducing the delay in the preparation of the minutes, we increase the public’s ability to gain access to current and accurate case information as well as provide timely case disposition information to other criminal justice agencies.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

The above reductions are anticipated with the restoration of the two positions.

___ **We will suspend/avoid employee furloughs.**

Employee furloughs were not anticipated due to the elimination of positions in FY 12-13.

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore services in our self-help center.**

- Please explain the details of this proposed increase.

The Family Law Center continues to operate under current grant funding. It is unlikely that the new funds will be sufficient to allow the court to augment this program.

- Please explain how the increase in self-help services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore court reporting services.**

- Please explain how increased court reporting services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

The Sutter County Superior Court historically has only provided court reporting services in mandated proceedings only so there has been no reduction in these services.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore specialty court(s).**

- Please describe the specialty court(s) to be maintained, increased or restored.
- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

Using as much additional space as you need, answer the following questions:

- Explain any other ways Sutter intends to restore, maintain, or increase public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.
- What additional information would you like to add about the use of your court's share of the \$60 million augmentation?

While access to justice is this court's number one priority and these funds will be utilized to maintain that access to the greatest extent possible, the reality is that basic infrastructure and daily operating costs such as postage, janitorial, supplies, insurance, accounting, payroll, human resources, etc. continue to escalate and funding to address those basic needs is imperative.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

So long as funding is not further reduced, the actions described will be ongoing.

- What are your projected revenues and expenditures for NEXT fiscal year (2014-15)?
This court has made the requisite reductions to ensure our budget is balanced going into FY 2014-2015.

However, balanced does not mean adequate and restoration of funding to restore the other 11 positions lost over the past two years as well as funding to cover basic infrastructure and operating costs is essential.

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**Superior Court of California,
County of TEHAMA
FY 2013-14
Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$117,632**

There are a number of ways to maintain or increase public access to justice. Check all that are appropriate AND please provide as detailed an explanation for each as you can:

PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TYPING DIRECTLY INTO THIS TEMPLATE. TRANSMIT YOUR COMPLETED WORD DOCUMENT TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov BY/BEFORE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 22ND.

We will avoid (or limit) previously planned staffing reductions.

- Please explain how many positions you will avoid reducing.
 - *2 entry level clerk positions; if our VSIP and our future labor negotiations are successful.*

- Please describe the kinds of positions you will avoid reducing.
 - *Entry level clerk positions—those who give direct assistance to the public via phone and public counter.*

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice in applicable divisions of your court or courthouse(s).
 - *The court will maintain the current number of clerks serving the public instead of laying off two.*

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.
 - *Tehama Court is hopeful the new money being allocated will be ongoing. If it is in fact onetime money, our court will have to look again at layoffs or offering another VSIP and doing some more reorganizing the following fiscal year.*

We will avoid (or limit) previously planned courtroom closures.

- Please explain what types of hearings will be maintained.
 - *Tehama Court will not be able to re-open our Corning Branch as a result of the \$60 million allocation. However, our court will be implementing a Business Process*

Reengineering Plan through the AOC, which will assist us in more efficiently utilizing the 4 court employees who were merged into our Red Bluff locations.

- Please describe the impact on the public by keeping open a courtroom planned for closure.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

_____ **We will avoid previously planned courthouse closures.**

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you are able to avoid closing.

N/A

- Please explain the impact on the public by keeping open this/these courthouse(s).

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

_____ **We will maintain, increase or restore public telephone hours.**

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.
 - *The court will maintain the current number of clerks serving the public instead of laying off two.*
 - *The positions we will avoid laying off serve the public directly via phone and public counters.*
 - *The \$60 million allocation will not allow Tehama Court to increase our public hours at this time.*
- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

- *Tehama Court is hopeful the new money being allocated will be ongoing. If it is in fact onetime money, our court will have to look again at layoffs or another VSIP the following fiscal year.*

_____ We will maintain, increase or restore court clerk hours.

- Please explain what kinds of court clerk duties will be maintained, increased or restored.
 - *Tehama Court negotiated a 39-hour workweek for all but 2 court employee positions during our last negotiations. This resulted in a 2.5% reduction to wages and benefits. We reduced the work week instead of implementing furloughs to achieve our necessary cuts for our FY 12/13 budget.*
 - *It is unknown at this time if these hours will be restored as they are subject to labor negotiations.*
- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

_____ We will devote resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.

- Please explain the areas of backlog that will be addressed.
 - *By not having to lay off 2 clerk positions, Tehama Court will be able to continue to address our backlogs and not get further behind. We will also continue to get caught up on our court ordered debt collection which will increase our revenue.*
- Please explain how decreasing the backlog will maintain or increase public access to justice.
 - *By getting backlogs under control, Tehama Court is hopeful it will be able to reinstate the hours we are open to the public, as more staff becomes available to take filings and assist court users at the public counters.*
- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

- *Tehama Court is hopeful the new money being allocated will be ongoing. If it is onetime money, our court will have to look again at layoffs or offering another VSIP the following fiscal year.*

___ We will suspend employee furloughs.

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice.

See section above on reduced clerk work hours.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

We will maintain, increase or restore services in our self-help center.

- Please explain the details of this proposed increase.
 - *Tehama has a collaborative Self-Help Center—shared with Butte and Lake Courts. This is completely maintained with grant funding at this time. We are not able to increase this service with this \$60 million allocation.*
 - *Eliminating backlogs and restoring public service hours is our primary goal at this time.*
- Please explain how the increase in self-help services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ We will maintain, increase or restore court reporting services.

- Please explain how increased court reporting services will maintain or increase public access to justice.
 - *There will be no change to our Court Reporting Services as a result of receiving this new allocation.*

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

We will maintain, increase or restore specialty court(s).

- Please describe the specialty court(s) to be maintained, increased or restored.
 - *There will be no change to our current specialty courts as a result of receiving this new allocation.*
 - *Tehama Court is beginning a Truancy Court Sept. 24th, but there was not additional increase to the court for this.*
- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

Using as much additional space as you need, answer the following questions:

- Explain any other ways Tehama intends to restore, maintain, or increase public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.
 - *Tehama Court will be attempting to procure a new telephone system which utilizes VOIP.*
 - *It has been demonstrated by other courts that a VOIP phone system saves a significant amount of money each year in telephone operations expenses and reduces the time court personnel spend on the phone.*
 - *A VOIP system reduces the number of phone lines a court needs to maintain and it streamlines the calls to the appropriate court message, website and/or division of the court more quickly.*

- What additional information would you like to add about the use of your court's share of the \$60 million augmentation?

Tehama Court is in the early stage of a Voluntary Separation Incentive Program (VSIP) which, when finalized in October, is projected to result in saving an amount equal to or exceeding the amount spent on it on an annualized basis.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Tehama Court is hopeful that when it moves into the new Red Bluff Courthouse at the beginning of 2016, that the hours we are open to the public can be increased.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

The savings realized from the VOIP phone system and the VSIP will continue into future fiscal years. The VOIP phone system should stabilize the court's cost of phone services at the lowest possible level for several years into the future. The VSIP program will allow the court benefit from reduced staff cost in several positions for a number of years.

- What are your projected revenues and expenditures for NEXT fiscal year (2014-15)?

Tehama Court's goal last year was to adjust to a \$500,000 reduction to our allocation in a 2-year timeframe.

Last year the court had successful labor negotiations which reduced our wages and benefits 6%. We still need to cut another 10% to have a balanced budget—even with the \$60 million additional money allocate(approx.. \$114,000).

Our labor negotiations have not begun yet for our FY 13/14 budgeting—which has an impact on our 14/15 budget, so unfortunately a strong projection for our 14/15 budget is unknown—as is our FY 13/14 budget. Tehama will have a much better grasp of our 13/14 and 14/15 budgets after the current VSIP program ends and our labor negotiations conclude at the beginning of October.

Tehama Court would feel very fortunate to remain at "status quo," for FY 14/15—which is not where we want to be in regard to our long-term goal—"status quo" still leaves us

with a reduced workforce and reduced public hours and locations-however we would feel fortunate to not have any ADDITIONAL cuts on top of that.

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**Superior Court of California,
County of TRINITY
FY 2013-14
Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$43,420**

There are a number of ways to maintain or increase public access to justice. Check all that are appropriate AND please provide as detailed an explanation for each as you can:

**PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TYPING DIRECTLY INTO THIS TEMPLATE.
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CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 22ND.**

N/A We will avoid (or limit) previously planned staffing reductions.

- Please explain how many positions you will avoid reducing.

We have no planned staff reductions, but are not filling vacant positions for the third year in a row and will be functioning at a 35-40% vacancy rate when comparing filled FTEs to the 2013-2014 Workload-Based Allocation and Funding Methodology (WAFM) FTE need. In addition, the new funds are not being designated for this purpose but it is important to note that the court continues to be diligent in its efforts to control costs due to the ongoing general fund reductions. In an effort to avoid layoffs, a 1% salary reduction was implemented for all court employees effective 7/1/2013 for FY13/14 and a portion of FY14/15. Additional concessions have been implemented as well based pursuant to the newly ratified MOUs.

- Please describe the kinds of positions you will avoid reducing.

Our vacancies persist on security, administrative and court services staff rolls.

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice in applicable divisions of your court or courthouse(s).

N/A

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

The ongoing reductions to the branch continue to adversely impact the court. Employees have absorbed the work of vacant positions at lesser pay and attrition may further impact service levels which are already diminished. Unless restoration of funds is a viable option, these are ongoing issues that will extend beyond the current fiscal year.

X We will avoid (or limit) previously planned courtroom closures.

- Please explain what types of hearings will be maintained.

The court's proportionate share of \$60 million will be used to augment the court's woefully underfunded Marshal's Office. The court intends to use its \$43,200 to partially fund one new deputy marshal position to partially correct the findings of the confidential security assessment reports conducted by the U.S. Marshal's Service and the AOC's Office of Emergency Response and Security. By using funds for this purpose the court is optimistic that it will mitigate the need to close non-criminal courtrooms due to inadequate security service levels thus improving safety and access to justice.

- Please describe the impact on the public by keeping open a courtroom planned for closure.

The court is optimistic that civil courtrooms will not be adversely impacted; however, this is not guaranteed because the court's proportionate share of the \$60 million is not sufficient to fully fund the necessary one additional marshal deputy position. The recommendations indicate security service levels need to be increased by 2 to 3 FTEs. Criminal proceedings are the predominate case type for our court and these cases have priority over civil. When there is a conflict due to inadequate security service levels, criminal proceedings will trump non-criminal proceedings, necessitating continuances and delays in resolving non-criminal cases and further eroding the public's trust and confidence in the judiciary's ability to resolve disputes..

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Restoration of funding to the judicial branch, including replenishing fund balances sufficient for cash flow, is necessary for a long term resolution.

X We will avoid may be able to mitigate the need for previously planned courthouse closures.

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you are able to avoid closing.

*In Trinity, marshal employees perform the essential core function of court security. Recently the court had two third-party assessments conducted; one by the U.S. Marshal's Service and the other by the AOC's Office of Emergency Services and Response. The findings and recommendations of these reports conclude that security service levels are below **minimum** best practices and 2 to 3FTEs are needed to properly secure the courthouse and the court's two branch locations in Hayfork and Mad River.*

Based on the current funding model there is no mechanism that ties need to funding, despite the recommendations of the third-party experts. As such, Trinity intends to apply its proportionate share of the \$60M, which is \$43,420, to augment our woefully underfunded security allocation. These new monies will partially fund one new deputy marshal position in FY13/14, but are not sufficient to fully fund a position.

Provided there are sufficient security resources at the historic courthouse in the county seat of Weaverville to allow the traveling court team to continue to service the Hayfork

and Mad River branch locations without jeopardizing the safety of the judges, court staff and the public we serve; the court may avoid reducing hours or closing these remote branches that are one and more than two hours away from the historic courthouse, respectively. If security is inadequate for any reason at the historic courthouse due to conflicting court calendars, preplanned vacations, unplanned absences or lawfully protected leaves of absence, we will continue to be at risk of temporary or permanent closures. These decisions will be addressed on a month to month basis contingent on available resources. The historic courthouse in Weaverville has a greater need based on the number of court users served, so the branch locations will continue to be at risk.

- Please explain the impact on the public by keeping open this/these courthouse(s).

If the court is unable to continue to service its branch locations in a safe and secure manner due to inadequate security service levels, it may need to reduce hours or close these locations. As mentioned above, a minimum of 2-3 more marshal deputies are needed and \$43,420 is not enough money to fill one position. Closures will be harmful to our constituents living in these remote locations and they will be forced to commute one and more than two hours one-way to the county seat in Weaverville to conduct their court business. Constituents living in these remote regions are often indigent and lack reliable transportation or have had their drivers licenses revoked. Public transportation, such as bus and rail service, is nonexistent in our rural county.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Keeping the branch courts open is temporary, and may be suspended at any time for the reasons stated above. Further, in addition to the court's Marshal's Office being woefully under-resourced, the local Sheriff's Office is also under-resourced due to budget cuts or constraints. Despite the court's efforts to reach out to other law enforcement agencies for back up support the need often goes unmet because there is an inadequate pool of resources in our region and other agencies are feeling the same pinch. Until the court's security deficiencies are corrected in accordance with the recommendations of the third-party experts, this is an ongoing issue that will extend beyond FY2013/2014. The court's confidential security assessment reports will be made available upon request.

N/A We will maintain, increase or restore public telephone hours.

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Not at this time. The court is not sufficiently funded to rescind its public announcement pursuant to Government Code section 68106 to reduce service hours including telephone hours to the public effective September 9, 2013.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Restoration of funds to the judiciary, particularly Trinity, is necessary to restore service levels to the public.

N/A We will maintain, increase or restore court clerk hours.

- Please explain what kinds of court clerk duties will be maintained, increased or restored.

Not at this time. The court is not sufficiently funded to rescind its public announcement pursuant to Government Code section 68106 to reduce service hours to the public effective September 9, 2013.

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Restoration of funds to the judiciary, particularly Trinity, would be necessary to restore service levels to the public and increase access to justice.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

N/A

_____ We will devote resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.

- Please explain the areas of backlog that will be addressed.

N/A

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog will maintain or increase public access to justice.

N/A

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

N/A

N/A We will suspend/avoid employee furloughs.

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice.

The new funds are not being designated for this purpose but it is important to note that the court continues to be diligent in its efforts to control costs due to the ongoing

reductions. In an effort to avoid employee furloughs, a 1% salary reduction was implemented for all court employees effective 7/1/2013 for FY13/14 and a portion of FY14/15. Additional concessions have been implemented as well based on the newly ratified MOUs.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

N/A

_____ We will maintain, increase or restore services in our self-help center.

- Please explain the details of this proposed increase.

N/A

- Please explain how the increase in self-help services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

N/A

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

N/A

_____ We will maintain, increase or restore court reporting services.

- Please explain how increased court reporting services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

N/A

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

N/A

_____ We will maintain, increase or restore specialty court(s).

- Please describe the specialty court(s) to be maintained, increased or restored.

N/A

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

N/A

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

N/A

Using as much additional space as you need, answer the following questions:

- Explain any other ways Trinity intends to restore, maintain, or increase public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

As mentioned above, the court recently had two third-party assessments of its security operation. The confidential reports will be provided to the Legislature or Department of Finance upon request. Providing a safe and secure environment for judges, court staff and the court users we serve is an essential core function of the court if we are to provide fair and equal access to our justice system without fear or risk of harm. The confidential reports have identified security deficiencies that must be corrected so the court will use its entire proportionate share of the \$60M in new funds to augment its stagnant security allocation in FY2013/2014. The new monies (\$43,420) will be used to offset the costs of hiring one new deputy marshal position. It is important to note \$43,420 is only a fraction of what is needed to correct the findings of the reports.

- What additional information would you like to add about the use of your court's share of the \$60 million augmentation?

Correcting the safety deficiencies identified by third-party experts is our most critical and pressing concern with respect to improving access in Trinity County. Employees working in the courthouse and users relying on the justice system to help them resolve their legal disputes should have confidence that the courthouse and courtrooms are safe and secure from threats or acts of violence.

Although the new funds are very much appreciated and will be applied toward needed security improvements, additional funds are crucial to bringing this court into compliance with the recommendations to increase service levels to the minimum best practices for this core function.

The court is hopeful that it will be able to resume normal operations in other critical areas to restore access to the public that have been adversely impacted by the ongoing reductions, at some point in the future if and when funding is restored to the branch.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Until the court's security deficiencies are corrected and the new funding model takes into account Trinity's unique organizational structure of having marshals providing court security, these

funding deficiencies will extend beyond FY2013/2014. Currently there is no mechanism in place to tie need to funding despite findings and recommendations of third-party experts in the field of courthouse and judiciary security. The court has a duty and obligation to secure its courthouse and ensure court staff and jurors are safe in the performance of their civil duties and litigants can resolve their legal disputes, both civil and criminal, in accordance with established legal procedures in the calmness and solemnity expected.

Additionally, the ongoing reductions continue to hinder the court's ability to return to normal operating levels in all other areas where services to the public have been diminished.

- What are your projected revenues and expenditures for NEXT fiscal year (2014-15)?

As of the date of this survey submission, the court is still in the process of finalizing its FY2013-2014 budget, so projected revenues and expenditures for FY2014-2015 are not readily available but the court does not anticipate any significant changes from the current year. The court anticipates cash flow to be an issue in the current fiscal year, and these concerns are likely to extend into next fiscal year.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AS WE PREPARE THIS SURVEY. AS A REMINDER, PLEASE SUBMIT THIS COMPLETED FORM TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov ON OR BEFORE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 22. PLEASE CALL ANDI AT 916-323-3121 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

**Superior Court of California,
County of TULARE
FY 2013-14
Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$558,947**

There are a number of ways to maintain or increase public access to justice. Check all that are appropriate AND please provide as detailed an explanation for each as you can:

**PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TYPING DIRECTLY INTO THIS TEMPLATE.
TRANSMIT YOUR COMPLETED WORD DOCUMENT TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov BY/BEFORE
CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 22ND.**

We will avoid (or limit) previously planned staffing reductions.

- *Number avoid reducing: Assuming, based on the RAS study, that our mixed program 10 & 90 salary and benefit costs average \$80,000 per employee, we would be able to keep 7.5 employees who would otherwise have been laid off.*

- Please describe the kinds of positions you will avoid reducing.

Court clerks; courtroom clerks; legal processing clerks; facilitator staff; court reporters, mediators, and investigators.

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice in applicable divisions of your court or courthouse(s).

How to maintain access to justice

It will not enable us to maintain or increase access. It only reduced, for us, a larger cut to \$2,176,236. It only decreased the extent to which we have to cut positions and therefore services. Keeping facilitator staff will enable self-represented litigants to properly participate in court, particularly in family law, guardianship and conservatorship matters. Keeping clerk staff will enable us not to cut public access hours. We will also be able to have court reporters in family law matters.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

- *If we do not receive significant restoration of prior cuts next year, we will have to absorb another huge cut, because we are using the last of our reserves (\$1.2 million) this year and will have increased costs. This will require either crippling personnel reductions or large salary reductions.*

___ **We will avoid (or limit) previously planned courtroom closures.**

- Please explain what types of hearings will be maintained.
- *Types:* We will still hear small claims cases on a regular basis, as well as family law and domestic violence cases on a regular basis.

- Please describe the impact on the public by keeping open a courtroom planned for closure.

Impact: Victims of domestic violence will still be able to obtain prompt court orders and citizens will be able to resolve their disputes in a timely manner.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Temporary: Same as above. Without significant restoration of prior cuts, access to the court for all services, including domestic violence and small claims, will be affected due to required additional personnel cuts.

___ **We will avoid previously planned courthouse closures.**

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you are able to avoid closing.

- *Avoid:* We have already closed all it is possible for us to do – Dinuba and Tulare.

- Please explain the impact on the public by keeping open this/these courthouse(s).

- *Impact:* Not applicable.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Temporary: Not applicable.

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore public telephone hours.**

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

- *How restoration increases*

- *We had to cut telephone hours by one hour due to the staff shortage. The most we can say is that without the funding, we would have had to cut more*

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.
- *Temporary: Without significant restoration of prior cuts, we will have to cut more hours.*

_____ We will maintain, increase or restore court clerk hours.

- Please explain what kinds of court clerk duties will be maintained, increased or restored.
- *We have had to lay off clerks, so lines will be longer, but processing clerks will still be available for domestic violence and family law orders and small claims.*
- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours will maintain or increase public access to justice
- *They will have to wait longer, due to reduced staff, but the services will still be available.*
- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.
- *Without significant restoration of prior cuts, public access to clerks will likely have to be reduced.*

_____ We will devote resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.

- Please explain the areas of backlog that will be addressed.
 - *We will not be able to do this because we will have fewer processing clerks.*
 - Please explain how decreasing the backlog will maintain or increase public access to justice.
 - *Without the funding, it would be even worse.*
 - Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.
- Without significant restoration of prior cuts, further staff reductions will be required and access will be further impaired.*

___ **We will suspend/avoid employee furloughs.**

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice.
- *We cannot do this because of the severe cuts. In fact, we have had to increase the furlough days from 10 to 12.*
- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.
- *Without significant additional restoration of prior cuts, it will get worse.*

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore services in our self-help center.**

- Please explain the details of this proposed increase.
- *The main effect of our additional funding is to allow us to maintain Self Help staff. All other areas are being affected by cuts.*
- Please explain how the increase in self-help services will maintain or increase public access to justice.
- *Tulare County has a large very low income population. They cannot afford lawyers. Legal Aid is overwhelmed and cannot provide services. The Self Help Centers are their only resource, and are critically important to access the judicial system in this county.*
- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Without significant restoration of prior cuts, we will have a large deficit to cover next year and thereafter, so cuts would be inevitable

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore court reporting services.**

- Please explain how increased court reporting services will maintain or increase public access to justice.
- *This will not enable us to increase court reporting services. It will, however, limit the budget required reduction we have had to impose. We will still have reporters in family law, but are eliminating them for all other civil trials.*
- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.
- *Without a restoration of the huge cuts we have experienced, we will have no choice but to further reduce court reporters in non-mandated matters.*

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore specialty court(s).**

- Please describe the specialty court(s) to be maintained, increased or restored.
We have Veteran's Court, Mental Health Court, Drug Court and Recovery Court. The additional funding will enable us to keep these courts open this fiscal year.
- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services will maintain or increase public access to justice.
- *These courts are critical in that they are a vehicle for the rehabilitation of the participants, who can then become contributing members of society rather than a danger to the public and a drain on public resources and a burden on the courts.*
- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.
- *All but Recovery Court are not mandated programs, and would be subject to being eliminated if we have the deficit we will next year without significant restoration of prior cuts.*

Using as much additional space as you need, answer the following questions:

- Explain any other ways Tulare intends to restore, maintain, or increase public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

- *We will open our new South County Courthouse, though with skeleton staffing. Without the funding, we probably could not have opened at all.*
- **What additional information would you like to add about the use of your court's share of the \$60 million augmentation?**

Our pro-rata share of the additional \$60 million is a net zero. We were required to give back about \$305,000 to the State for a state reserve. We had large benefit increases and technology costs for replacing non-supported software.

We covered all but about \$350,000 of what stated as a projected estimated \$3.8 million deficit by using the last of reserves (\$1.2 million); obtaining \$762,000 from the County; not providing any new staffing for our new courthouse; laying off three (3) court reporters, reducing staff by another eight (8) positions, in clerical, Human Resources, and Finance, plus every small cut we could find.

The County told us this was one time relief. We will have no usable reserves next year. This leaves us with the prospect of starting Fiscal Year 2014/2015 with a structural deficit of about \$1.2 million, plus any cost increases absent restoration.

This hole was not created by us. Even though we are a significantly underfunded Court (for example: per the RAS workload studies Marin Court's employee costs, at the BLS comparability level, exceed ours by 33% for Program 10s, and 24% for 90's, but their per authorized judge funding is 99% more than ours. San Luis Obispo County has 5% and 9% higher BLS comparable employee costs, but gets 36% more per judge funding than we do), during the "good years" of SAL, we were conservative and saved money, building a nice reserve. But with the cuts since 2009, despite closing our Dinuba and Tulare Courthouses, laying off 36 employees, from a commissioner on down, freezing wages and imposing 10 furlough days, we still had an operating deficit, which we funded from our reserves.

The cut this year of \$2,176,000, with no "backfill" available from the AOC, was the last straw. Per RAS, we should have 282 employees and an operations budget around \$28 million. We have about half that, and will be down to 206 employees.

The only way to maintain access to justice here is to restore funding to enable us to bring back the 46 employees we have lost. The only way to increase access is to restore all prior cuts. The only way provide proper access is to fund us based on the objective criteria of the RAS workload study and the judicial workload study.

- **Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.**

Our pro-rata share of the additional \$60 million is a net zero. We were required to give back about \$305,000 to the State for a state reserve. We had large benefit increases and technology costs for replacing non-supported software.

We covered all but about \$350,000 of what stated as a projected estimated \$3.8 million deficit by using the last of reserves (\$1.2 million); obtaining \$762,000 from the County; not

providing any new staffing for our new courthouse; laying off three (3) court reporters, reducing staff by another eight (8) positions, in clerical, Human Resources, and Finance, plus every small cut we could find.

The County told us this was one time relief. We will have no usable reserves next year. This leaves us with the prospect of starting Fiscal Year 2014/2015 with a structural deficit of about \$1.2 million plus any cost increases absent restoration.

This hole was not created by us. Even though we are a significantly underfunded Court (for example: per the RAS workload studies Marin Court's employee costs, at the BLS comparability level, exceed ours by 33% for Program 10s, and 24% for 90's, but their per authorized judge funding is 99% more than ours. San Luis Obispo County has 5% and 9% higher BLS comparable employee costs, but gets 36% more per judge funding than we do), during the "good years" of SAL, we were conservative and saved money, building a nice reserve. But with the cuts since 2009, despite closing our Dinuba and Tulare Courthouses, laying off 36 employees, from a commissioner on down, freezing wages and imposing 10 furlough days, we still had an operating deficit, which we funded from our reserves.

The cut this year of \$2,176,000, with no "backfill" available from the AOC, was the last straw. Per RAS, we should have 282 employees and an operations budget around \$28 million. We have about half that, and will be down to 206 employees.

The only way to maintain access to justice here is to restore funding to enable us to bring back the 46 employees we have lost. The only way to increase access is to restore all prior cuts. The only way provide proper access is to fund us based on the objective criteria of the RAS workload study and the judicial workload study.

- What are your projected revenues and expenditures for NEXT fiscal year (2014-15)?

Our revenue will be whatever the Legislature appropriates. If at the same level, under the WAFM formula we would receive only \$107,295 more.

Based on expenses not increasing, we would start 2014-2015 with a structural deficit of about \$1.2 million. Expense increases would add to that.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AS WE PREPARE THIS SURVEY. AS A REMINDER, PLEASE SUBMIT THIS COMPLETED FORM TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov ON OR BEFORE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 22. PLEASE CALL ANDI AT 916-323-3121 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

**Superior Court of California,
County of TUOLUMNE
FY 2013-14**

Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$92,130

There are a number of ways to maintain or increase public access to justice. Check all that are appropriate AND please provide as detailed an explanation for each as you can:

**PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TYPING DIRECTLY INTO THIS TEMPLATE.
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CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 22ND.**

___ We will avoid (or limit) previously planned staffing reductions.

- Please explain how many positions you will avoid reducing.

For FY 2013-2014, we will not have to further reduce our staff by the 1-2 positions that we were anticipating cutting. Since we are currently down 27% in staffing court wide, which translates to 12.75 positions, this is very significant.

- Please describe the kinds of positions you will avoid reducing.

We will avoid reducing at least one (1) clerical operations staff, and one (1) clerical operations manager position.

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice in applicable divisions of your court or courthouse(s).

Our court will be able to maintain current hours of operation at seven (7) hours, rather than implementing a draft plan to close our court between 12:00 and 1:00 PM. to address staff coverage issues, and reducing hours of operation to six (6).

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

For FY 2014-2015, without dramatic increases to revenue, we will once again be looking at possible staffing reductions of up to 2-3 additional positions.

___ We will avoid (or limit) previously planned courtroom closures.

- Please explain what types of hearings will be maintained.

N/A

- Please describe the impact on the public by keeping open a courtroom planned for closure.

N/A

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

N/A

___ **We will avoid previously planned courthouse closures.**

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you are able to avoid closing.

N/A

- Please explain the impact on the public by keeping open this/these courthouse(s).

N/A

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

N/A

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore public telephone hours.**

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

We will be able to maintain current phone hours of operation, rather than reducing them to coincide with previously proposed Clerk's Office hour reductions.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Without dramatic increases in revenue in 2014-2015, we will need to once again look at reducing counter/phone hours this time next year.

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore court clerk hours.**

- Please explain what kinds of court clerk duties will be maintained, increased or restored.

Clerk's Offices will remain open and accessible for seven (7) hours per day as they are currently. Duties that will be able to be continued without incurring significant backlog are: DOJ reporting, DMV reporting/updating, and JBSIS and other statistical reporting.

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

N/A

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Maintaining the current hours of operation for phone and public counter access will be temporary, if there are not significant increases to revenue in FY 2014-2015. By necessity, we will need to reduce office hours to six (6) hours per day only, and we will additionally need to limit the number of hours spent by the clerical employee assigned to the Self-Help Center and utilize more of her time in the Family Law Clerk's Office.

_____ We will devote resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.

- Please explain the areas of backlog that will be addressed.

Data entry into our case management system that has not been addressed due to lack of time to properly train staff will be addressed.

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Accurate entry into the case management system and related scanning into the document management system improves our ability to provide the court, our justice partners, and the public with accurate and timely information, and the ability to efficiently provide copies of requested documents at the counter or as attachments to email.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Due to short staffing, managers will continue to absorb backlogs to assist subordinate staff and the court, resulting in renewed backlogs in the areas of JBSIS statistical review and reporting, DOJ criminal disposition reporting, and DMV reporting/updates. This also results in the inability of managers to think and plan strategically, rather than tactically.

_____ We will suspend employee furloughs.

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice.

Through the savings realized following the MOU negotiations and the employees' agreement to contribute 7% to their retirement, our court will be able to maintain

current levels of access and will not have to reinstitute voluntary or involuntary furloughs.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

For FY 2013-2014, our court is still unable to maintain current expenses with the reduced revenues, (down \$344,000), making furloughs/layoffs in the future a real possibility.

___ We will maintain, increase or restore services in our self-help center.

- Please explain the details of this proposed increase.

The court will be able to maintain a clerk dedicated to staffing the Self-Help Center (SHC), full-time.

- Please explain how the increase in self-help services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

The court was considering an option to close the Self-Help Center at 3:00 PM, reducing the hours of operation of the Self-Help Center to six (6) hours a day. With increased funding, the court would be able to maintain SHC office hours at 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM, with the clerk taking a ½ hour lunch.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

With increased funding, the court currently has a 12.75 vacancy (27%). The clerk in the SHC is needed to assist the Civil/Family Law Division.

___ We will maintain, increase or restore court reporting services.

- Please explain how increased court reporting services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

We will maintain our current reporter staffing levels at two (2). The cost for a reporter is estimated at \$100,000 per year for salary and benefits. At this cost, the court is only able to maintain the current staffing level of two (2) reporters. Our court's share of the \$60 Million augmentation will not enable our court to fill our current reporter vacancy; the entire amount would be dedicated to doing nothing more than hiring a reporter and there are other priorities to address.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

The court's maintenance of reporter staffing levels at two (2) full-time reporters is limited to FY 2013-2014, and will need to be re-evaluated for 2014-2015.

___ We will maintain, increase or restore specialty court(s).

- Please describe the specialty court(s) to be maintained, increased or restored.

Our court intends to maintain Drug Court and Dependency Drug Court programs at currently supported levels through FY 2013-2014.

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

N/A

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Without an increase to funding, we will need to look at reducing the services provided to support the success of these programs and their participants.

Using as much additional space as you need, answer the following questions:

- Explain any other ways Tuolumne intends to restore, maintain, or increase public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

Our court's share of the \$60 Million appropriation, while important in allowing us to maintain services and public access at relatively current (already reduced) levels, is not sufficient to positively impact public access or to fund any additional programs or services.

- What additional information would you like to add about the use of your court's share of the \$60 million augmentation?

Our court's share of the reinvestment monies are also insufficient to allow us to restore our much needed Jury Assembly Room, leased space located across the street from the court, at the former cost of \$12,000 annually. The loss of the Jury Assembly Room has resulted in further limiting access to the potential jurors, and has created additional work for our limited staff. The continued delay of our new courthouse project perpetuates the limiting of access to the public as our historic courthouse has no elevator, forcing

judicial officers and courtroom personnel to move their operation to the first floor so that cases can be heard and we remain compliant with the ADA.

It is difficult for the court to make decisions in regard to improving levels of service and/or to increasing the number of programs or services provided to current programs with a one-time increase. We cannot fund ongoing expenses with one-time monies.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

The court cannot improve services or increase public access without assurance that this funding would be part of an ongoing revenue stream.

- What are your projected revenues and expenditures for NEXT fiscal year (2014-15)?

Revenues: \$3,561,162. (given funding levels remaining the same)

Expenditures: \$3,906,138. (given no emergencies, sudden unforeseen expenses)

Budget shortfall: (\$344,976)

Since the reduction to the allocation to the Trial Courts in FY 2009-2010, the court has been forced to delay or eliminate automation projects and to use reserves to cover the court's basic and necessary expenses.

Even with the 12.75 vacancies, and the employees contributing 7% to their retirement, the restructuring of the health premium amounts given to employees to cover health care costs, and continued reductions in operating expenses, the court is still projecting a shortfall of \$344,976, and without the fund balance to cover this deficit, the court's only option will be to lay off additional staff, an option which will not allow us to maintain services at current levels. Additionally, the court is unable to fund any significant operational improvements (e.g., IT equipment; automation initiatives).

With benefit cost increases not funded out of the General Fund but out of the Trial Court Trust Fund, this will result in additional unfunded expenses to the court with no reserves to cover these expenses.

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**Superior Court of California,
County of VENTURA
FY 2013-14**

Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$1,164,629

There are a number of ways to maintain or increase public access to justice. Check all that are appropriate AND please provide as detailed an explanation for each as you can:

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CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 22ND.**

X We will avoid (or limit) previously planned staffing reductions.

- Please explain how many positions you will avoid reducing.

Overall 15 positions are protected this fiscal year by this additional funding.

- Please describe the kinds of positions you will avoid reducing.

Court Processing Assistants, Judicial Assistants, Court Reporters, Administrative Staff including Fiscal, Human Resources and IT, Attorneys and Management.

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice in applicable divisions of your court or courthouse(s).

The additional funding will allow the court to maintain the same level of service as the prior fiscal year, otherwise major service reductions to the courtrooms and public counters would result from the staffing reductions.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Additional new funding will be required in the upcoming fiscal year in order to maintain this current level of service.

X We will avoid (or limit) previously planned courtroom closures.

- Please explain what types of hearings will be maintained.

The court will continue the two days of limited court services of Traffic court trials and Small Claims trials at the East County Courthouse that started last fiscal year.

- Please describe the impact on the public by keeping open a courtroom planned for closure.

Without this funding the public and law enforcement from the east end of the county will have to make an 80 mile round trip into Ventura or Oxnard and spend over an hour and a half of travel time to handle their court business. This will increase the demand for parking at the Ventura Government Center and Juvenile Courthouse as well as produce more visitor congestion at the Hall of Justice and Juvenile Justice Complex. This will create longer lines and wait-times at the public counters and in the courtrooms.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Additional new funding will be required in the upcoming fiscal year in order to maintain this current level of service.

X We will avoid previously planned courthouse closures.

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you are able to avoid closing.

This additional funding will allow the court to continue the limited 2 days per week operation at the East County Courthouse that was implemented in the 2012-13 fiscal year. This courthouse was slated for closure in the 2012-13 fiscal year but was spared for limited service due to the County of Ventura and five local cities contributing funds to the court to maintain a minimal level of service at that location. The new state funding will allow this to continue for one more fiscal year.

- Please explain the impact on the public by keeping open this/these courthouse(s).

Without the funding the public and law enforcement from the east end of the county will have to make an 80 mile round trip into Ventura or Oxnard and spend over an hour and a half of travel time to handle their court business. This will increase the demand for parking at the Ventura Government Center and Juvenile Courthouse as well as produce more visitor congestion at the Hall of Justice and Juvenile Justice Complex. This will create longer lines and wait-times at the public counters and in the courtrooms.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Additional new funding will be required in the upcoming fiscal year in order to maintain this current level of service.

X We will maintain, increase or restore public telephone hours.

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Service to the public will be increased in this area resulting from the elimination of two court closure days and resulting in more time to handle the public's telephone calls.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Additional new funding will be required in the upcoming fiscal year in order to maintain this current level of service.

X We will maintain, increase or restore court clerk hours.

- Please explain what kinds of court clerk duties will be maintained, increased or restored.

Public service will be increased as the court will have two less court closure days than the previous two fiscal years. This will result in two additional days of courtroom and public counter access to the public than in the 2012-13 and 2011-12 fiscal years.

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

The entire court will be open to the public two more days than the past two fiscal years.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Additional new funding will be required in the upcoming fiscal year in order to maintain this current level of service.

We will devote resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.

- Please explain the areas of backlog that will be addressed.

N/A

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog will maintain or increase public access to justice.

N/A

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

N/A

X We will suspend/avoid employee furloughs.

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice.

The number of mandatory furlough days will be reduced by two days from the 2012-13 fiscal year level, going from 6 days to 4 days will provide an increase of two full days of service to the public. For context, the court's furlough history is below.

FY 2013-14: 4 days; FY 2012-13: 6 days; FY 2011-12: 13, 15 or 18 days based on classification; FY2010-11: 12 days; FY 2009-10: 12 days.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Since the court's fund balance will be exhausted at the end of this fiscal year, additional furloughs and potentially lay-offs may be required to balance the court's budget structural deficit.

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore services in our self-help center.**

- Please explain the details of this proposed increase.

N/A

- Please explain how the increase in self-help services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

N/A

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

N/A

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore court reporting services.**

- Please explain how increased court reporting services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

N/A

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

N/A

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore specialty court(s).**

- Please describe the specialty court(s) to be maintained, increased or restored.

N/A

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

N/A

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

N/A

Using as much additional space as you need, answer the following questions:

- Explain any other ways Ventura Superior Court intends to restore, maintain, or increase public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

This funding is essentially being used to maintain the same level of service provided in 2012-13 as the amount of funds provided is not enough to offset the budget reductions allocated along with increased costs.

- What additional information would you like to add about the use of your court’s share of the \$60 million augmentation?

This funding was a good start to alleviate five consecutive years of budget reductions. Additional funding will be required if the intent is to increase, restore or maintain services to the public considering the ongoing reduction of \$261 million on top of rising operational costs.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

The actions taken are only for the 2013-14 fiscal year. With the elimination of reserves and the 1% fund balance limit taking effect in the 2014-15 fiscal year this court will be forced to reduce staffing and services to the public in order to balance the budget unless additional funding is allocated.

- What are your projected revenues and expenditures for NEXT fiscal year (2014-15)?

EXPENDITURES: \$45,634,100
REVENUE: \$(42,350,200)
STRUCTURAL DEFICIT: \$3,283,900

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AS WE PREPARE THIS SURVEY. AS A REMINDER, PLEASE SUBMIT THIS COMPLETED FORM TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov ON OR BEFORE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 22. PLEASE CALL ANDI AT 916-323-3121 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

**Superior Court of California,
County of YOLO
FY 2013-14**

Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$296,038

There are a number of ways to maintain or increase public access to justice. Check all that are appropriate AND please provide as detailed an explanation for each as you can:

**PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TYPING DIRECTLY INTO THIS TEMPLATE.
TRANSMIT YOUR COMPLETED WORD DOCUMENT TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov BY/BEFORE
CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 22ND.**

X **We will avoid (or limit) previously planned staffing reductions.**

- Please explain how many positions you will avoid reducing.

Yolo court will avoid eliminating 6 limited term staff.

- Please describe the kinds of positions you will avoid reducing.

Legal process clerks.

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice in applicable divisions of your court or courthouse(s).

The new money will allow Yolo Court to retain 6 legal process clerks and maintain its level of service to the public. However, the Court will still be operating with a 22% vacancy rate.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

The limited term legal process clerks will be funded only for the period of time funding is available.

 We will avoid (or limit) previously planned courtroom closures.

- Please explain what types of hearings will be maintained.

Type your response here

- Please describe the impact on the public by keeping open a courtroom planned for closure.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

 We will avoid previously planned courthouse closures.

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you are able to avoid closing.

Type your response here

- Please explain the impact on the public by keeping open this/these courthouse(s).

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

 X **We will maintain, increase or restore public telephone hours.**

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Once the limited staff are fully training Yolo Court will review the restoration of one hour to the public telephone hours. This should reduce the long wait times in the phone queue and decrease the number of abandoned calls.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

The limited term legal process clerks will be funded only for the period of time funding is available.

 X **We will maintain, increase or restore court clerk hours.**

- Please explain what kinds of court clerk duties will be maintained, increased or restored.

Once the limited staff are fully training Yolo Court will review the restoration of one hour to the court clerk hours.

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

While the lines will remain long, this should help reduce the wait time and fewer people should be turned away when the counter closes.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

The limited term legal process clerks will be funded only for the period of time funding is available.

___ **We will devote resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.**

- Please explain the areas of backlog that will be addressed.

Type your response here

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We will suspend employee furloughs.**

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We will maintain, increase or restore services in our self-help center.**

- Please explain the details of this proposed increase.

Type your response here

- Please explain how the increase in self-help services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ We will maintain, increase or restore court reporting services.

- Please explain how increased court reporting services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ We will maintain, increase or restore specialty court(s).

- Please describe the specialty court(s) to be maintained, increased or restored.

Type your response here

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

Using as much additional space as you need, answer the following questions:

- Explain any other ways Yolo intends to restore, maintain, or increase public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

Type your response here

- What additional information would you like to add about the use of your court's share of the \$60 million augmentation?

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

- What are your projected revenues and expenditures for NEXT fiscal year (2014-15)?

Although this new money will help increase public access it does not address the on-going reductions that have been sustained since 2008. For the Court to operate at a sustainable level full restoration of the budget is imperative.

Yolo Court expenditures will exceed revenues by \$198,961. Project revenues for FY 14/15 are \$11,485,672 and expenditures are \$11,684,633.

**Superior Court of California,
County of YUBA
FY 2013-14**

Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$108,126

There are a number of ways to maintain or increase public access to justice. Check all that are appropriate AND please provide as detailed an explanation for each as you can:

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CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 22ND.**

___ We will avoid (or limit) previously planned staffing reductions.

- Please explain how many positions you will avoid reducing.

Type your response here

- Please describe the kinds of positions you will avoid reducing.

Type your response here

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice in applicable divisions of your court or courthouse(s).

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ We will avoid (or limit) previously planned courtroom closures.

- Please explain what types of hearings will be maintained.

Type your response here

- Please describe the impact on the public by keeping open a courtroom planned for closure.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

We will avoid previously planned courthouse closures.

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you are able to avoid closing.

Type your response here

- Please explain the impact on the public by keeping open this/these courthouse(s).

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

 X **We will maintain, increase or restore public telephone hours.**

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

With the anticipated reduction in furloughs (the targeted use for our restoration funds) staffing hours will be increased, which in turn will help to increase the numbers of hours available for clerks to answer phones. Our public hours have remained the same; however, there are fewer clerks to answer phones and longer waits for assistance. We are a small, rural county and many of our court users are from remote locations that cannot easily come to the courthouse in person.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

With no changes to our FY2014-2015 budget, this may be a temporary relief from future furloughs with a resulting decrease in public telephone hours, or in our case, availability.

 X **We will maintain, increase or restore court clerk hours.**

- Please explain what kinds of court clerk duties will be maintained, increased or restored.

The following clerk functions will be maintained and/or increased: Answering phones, assisting customers at the clerk's office, processing paperwork and timely reporting of dispositions to DMV/DOJ, processing of bail bonds.

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours will maintain or increase public access to justice.

With the anticipated reduction in furloughs (the targeted use for our restoration funds), staffing hours will be increased. With new restoration of those production hours, there will be more staff available to answer phones, assist customers at the clerk's office, and process paperwork such as bail bonds, and report dispositions to DMV/DOJ.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

With no changes to our FY2014-2015 budget, this may be a temporary relief from future furloughs with a resulting decrease in court clerk hours.

X We will devote resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.

- Please explain the areas of backlog that will be addressed.

We plan to shorten the delay in processing bail bond forfeitures, reporting dispositions to DMV/DOJ, reporting JBSIS stats to the AOC, as a direct result of a reduction in furloughs and the resulting increase in employee hours worked.

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Processing bail bonds more timely will help bail bond companies in their outstanding liabilities and help preserve appropriate revenue for court costs and forfeiture money for our county.

Reporting dispositions to both DMV and DOJ, timely and correctly, is critical to law enforcement officer safety, prospective hiring authorities, such as schools and day care licensing agencies. Correct arrest records and DMV records are important for prosecuting agencies and corrections facilities. Accurate records are crucial for public safety.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

With no changes to our FY2014-2015 budget, this may be a temporary relief from future furloughs with a resulting increase in backlogs.

X We will suspend/avoid employee furloughs.

- Please explain how this action will allow you to maintain or increase public access to justice.

The court has an MOU (term December 1, 2012 through November 30, 2013) requiring all employees to take 12 unpaid furlough days. This money will be utilized so that the court will hopefully avoid further furloughs. Our furlough program saves the court approximately \$12,500 monthly, so the money would be reinvested in our employees. Our furlough program cost the court 4,896 hours of employee production time. With the new restoration of those production hours, there will be more staff available to answer phones, assist customers at the clerk's office, process paperwork report dispositions to DMV/DOJ.

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

With no changes to our FY2014-2015 budget, this may be a temporary relief from future furloughs.

X We will maintain, increase or restore services in our self-help center.

- Please explain the details of this proposed increase.

We have not reduced our services in our self-help center, but often the lines are increasing long wait times. The court will maintain this level of service.

- Please explain how the increase in self-help services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

With the restoration of the work hours, the lines would be shorter, thereby providing quicker public access to justice.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

With no changes to our FY2014-2015 budget, this may be a temporary relief from future furloughs resulting in cuts to the self-help center.

We will maintain, increase or restore court reporting services.

- Please explain how increased court reporting services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

We will maintain, increase or restore specialty court(s).

- Please describe the specialty court(s) to be maintained, increased or restored.

Type your response here

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services will maintain or increase public access to justice.

Type your response here

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

Using as much additional space as you need, answer the following questions:

- Explain any other ways Yuba intends to restore, maintain, or increase public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

Type your response here

- What additional information would you like to add about the use of your court's share of the \$60 million augmentation?

Our court received .18% of the \$60 million restoration funds – far short of even 1% of the total augmentation money. This will severely limit our ability to provide any increases in service, but will have a marginal effect in helping to reduce the escalation in backlogged work by enabling the employees to work more hours.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) or likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

With no changes to our FY2014-2015 budget, this may be a temporary relief from future furloughs.

- What are your projected revenues and expenditures for NEXT fiscal year (2014-15)?

Revenue: 4,954,349

Expenditures: 5,505,042

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