



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

April 25, 2014

Hon. Mark Leno, Chair
Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
State Capitol, Room 5100
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 2082
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. Hannah-Beth Jackson, Chair
Senate Judiciary Committee
State Capitol, Room 2032
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 Jackson, 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 (Stats. 2013, ch. 20), 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.

April 25, 2014

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

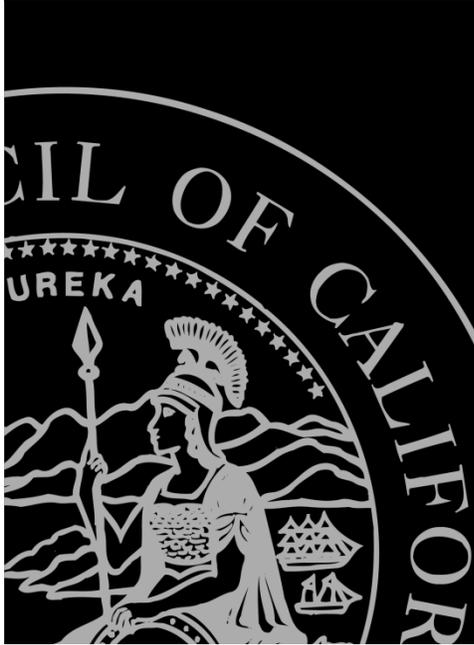
Very truly yours,



Steven Jahr
Administrative Director of the Courts

SJ/LES/lmb
Attachment

cc: Hon. Jim Nielsen, 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. Frank Bigelow, Vice-Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Hon. Don Wagner, Vice-Chair, Assembly Judiciary Committee
Ms. Diane F. Boyer-Vine, Legislative Counsel, Office of the 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
Ms. Julie Salley-Gray, 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, Deputy Chief of Staff/General Counsel, Office of Assembly Speaker John A. 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)

MAY 1, 2014



JUDICIAL COUNCIL
OF CALIFORNIA

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
OF THE COURTS

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County of Santa Clara

**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**

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COURT LEADERSHIP SERVICES DIVISION**

Cory T. Jaspersen
Director, Judicial Council's Office of Governmental Affairs

**Individual Court Plans
of Activities that Maintained or Increased 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**

May 1, 2014

Introduction

The Administrative Office of the Courts is providing this final 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. This report, like the preliminary report dated September 1, 2013, 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 used their respective shares of the augmentation, and a compilation of the individual court plans. As with the plans submitted in September, the courts again were asked to provide their local plans utilizing a template in order to present the Legislature with a consistent format for all 58 trial courts. There is significant consistency between these follow-up reports and those submitted to the Legislature in September in terms of the courts' anticipated uses for their respective shares of the augmentation.

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:

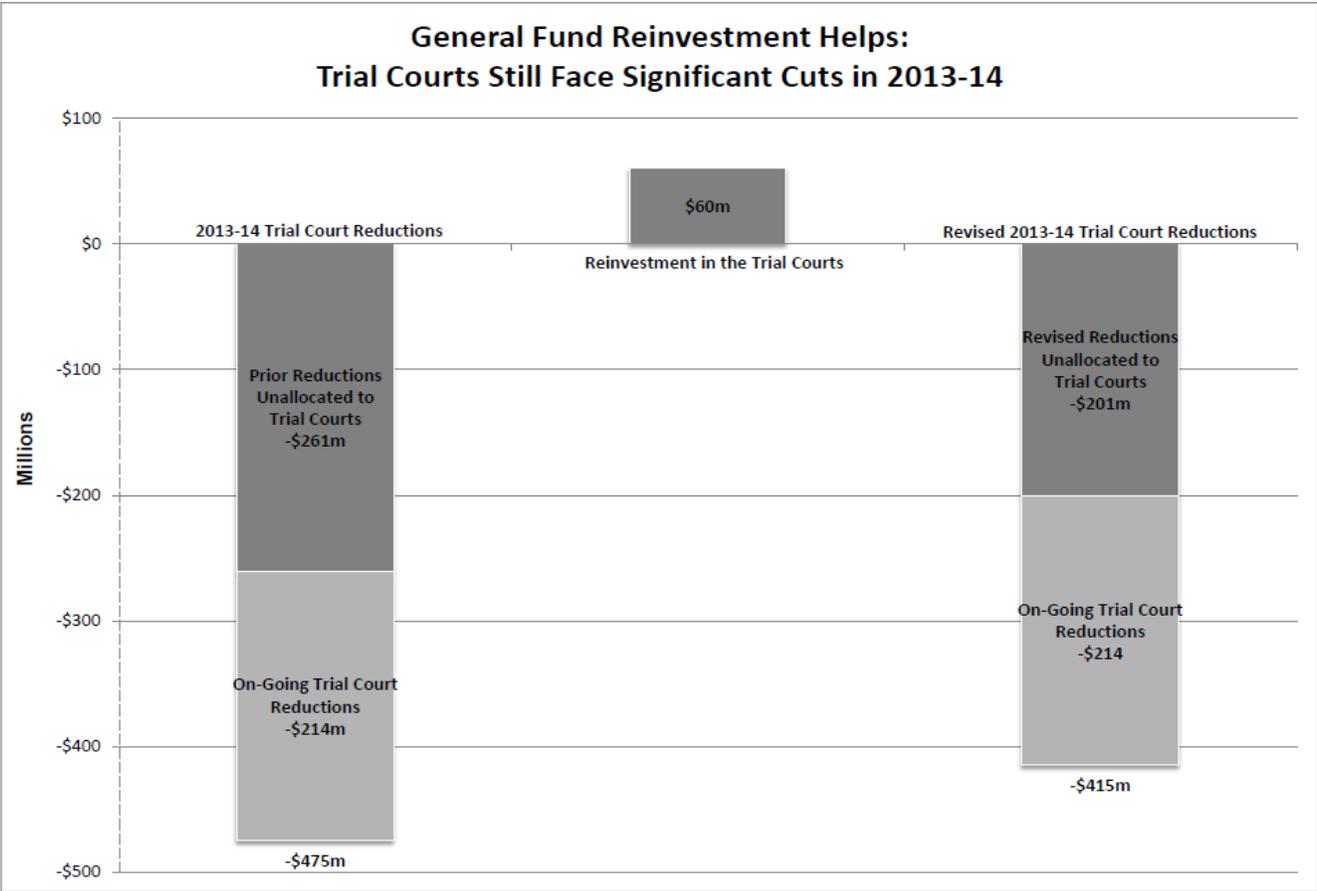
- (a) An individual court plan shall be submitted by the Administrative Office of the Courts to each fiscal and policy committee in each house of the Legislature responsible for court issues on or before September 1, 2013.
- (b) An individual court plan shall only include activities intended to maintain 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 FY 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 FY 2008-09, to just 20% last year (FY 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 reductions in court operations, filing fees and criminal assessments were increased, local court fund balances were spent down to offset General Fund reductions, and statewide infrastructure project funds as well as nearly \$1 billion in courthouse construction funds were diverted to court operations.

As illustrated in the chart below, local trial courts found themselves starting FY 2013-14 facing structural deficits and cash flow problems, all of which manifested in eliminations of court services, reductions in staff, closures of courtrooms and courthouses, and other cost-cutting measures that negatively impacted the public’s access to justice.



Although the courts continue to absorb unfunded expenses such as increased court employee health benefit and retirement costs, the \$60 million allocation to the trial courts for FY 2013-14 was an important first step that has enabled courts to begin to address existing or impending service reductions. Unfortunately, the \$60 million in new funds this year, while a significant improvement from previous year reductions, was mathematically far less than the unfunded benefits costs coupled with more than \$1 billion in cuts from the previous five years.

Historic New Funding Allocation Methodology for the Trial Courts

Concerns about the distribution of General Fund money 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 process by which the Judicial Council allocates to the 58 trial courts the state appropriation for general trial court operations. To that end, presiding judges and court executive officers developed a new Workload Allocation and Funding Methodology (WAFM), adopted by the Judicial Council in April 2013, 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. It is significant to note that the Budget Act of 2013 directed 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.

How WAFM Works

The WAFM formula, based on case filings weighted by case type and other criteria that speak directly to the workloads and filings experienced by California's 58 courts, is being phased in over a five-year period. The amount of funds each court receives under WAFM requires a multi-part equation that includes the following components/steps:

- Step 1 - All *new* money for general court operations (for example, the \$60 million augmentation in the current year) is allocated using ONLY the WAFM formula;
- Step 2 - A like amount of base funding, meaning dollars within the FY 2012-13 Budget Act allocation (for example, \$60 million in the current year) is also allocated using ONLY the WAFM formula;
- Step 3 - A specified percentage of baseline funds, to be phased in over five years, will also be distributed to the courts ONLY using WAFM, (in the current year it is 10%);
- Step 4 – All remaining amounts not distributed via WAFM are allocated according to the historical pro rata formula previously used.

WAFM further provides that in year two of the phase-in, all new money plus a like amount of base funding, and 15% of the remaining baseline will be distributed by the WAFM formula. The redistribution of baseline funds will continue to increase, 30% in year three, 40% in year four, and 50% in year five. This phased approach is designed to result in a progressive shift in the distribution of funds in order to provide relief to the traditionally underfunded courts, while acknowledging that the courts that will lose the greatest percentage of their allocations need time to adjust to the reduction in funds they will receive.

In the current year, WAFM’s redistribution of baseline funding resulted in a total positive adjustment of \$14.4 million for 22 courts, and a total negative adjustment of \$14.4 million for 21 courts. The 15 remaining courts are the branch’s smallest courts, which were excluded from the first year of the WAFM reallocation. If they had not been excluded, their small size and relative low numbers of filings would have resulted in a distorted outcome, imposing an inequitable financial burden on them. Earlier this fiscal year, the Judicial Council adopted an adjustment to the WAFM calculation to accommodate the lack of economies of scale experienced by the state’s small courts that will go into effect in 2014-15 (budget year).

Stated another way, WAFM has the benefit of providing traditionally underfunded courts – e.g., those that have experienced population growth and a resultant increase in court filings, with the appropriate percentage of funds they need. To do so, however, WAFM must necessarily take funds away from other courts, since absent a significant ongoing reinvestment in trial court funding, there are no options but to take funds away from some courts to better serve others. WAFM is ultimately an equitable way to rebalance funding among the trial 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 \$60 million budget augmentation, only, is spread as represented in the graph below.

Distribution of \$60 million Augmentation Under WAFM (step 1)

| 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 application of the WAFM formula is, however, a four-step process, as noted above. What follows is an explanation of the WAFM outcomes for the current year as the additional components of the formula are applied.

Two WAFM Examples

The result of phasing in the WAFM formula is that the net funding courts receive is different from the amounts listed above. Complicating the calculation is this: until the trial courts receive sufficient funds to overcome their structural deficits, the increases in allocations to some courts are necessarily offset by reductions in allocations to others. Two examples clarify this concept.

Contra Costa. The share of the new \$60 million augmentation to the Superior Court of California in the County of Contra Costa was \$1,418,488. Taking into account both the like amount of base funding and the 10% redistribution of base funding, Contra Costa saw a net gain of \$144,223, producing an overall augmentation in the current year of \$1,562,711.

San Luis Obispo. The share of the new \$60 million augmentation to the Superior Court of California in the County of San Luis Obispo was \$432,381. Taking into account both the like amount of base funding and the 10% redistribution of base funding, San Luis Obispo saw a net loss of \$37,783, producing an overall augmentation in the current year of \$394,598.

Overall WAFM Augmentation to Each Trial Court (steps 2 and 3)

The following chart, showing the overall augmentations from the \$60 million in current year General Funds for each court is included here. As stated previously, the WAFM formula was not applied to the smallest courts, so there is no net change in their allocations.

| Court | Net Share of Augmentation/Change | Court | Net Share of Augmentation/Change |
|--------------|---|----------------|---|
| Alameda | \$526,359 (net WAFM loss of \$1,842,284) | Orange | \$1,673,988 (net WAFM loss of \$2,681,111) |
| Alpine | \$7,226 (no change) | Placer | \$781,216 (net WAFM gain of 244,566) |
| Amador | \$61,365 (no change) | Plumas | \$33,256 (no change) |
| Butte | \$338,963 (net WAFM gain of \$26,430) | Riverside | \$5,203,028 (net WAFM gain of \$2,174,470) |
| Calaveras | \$62,926 (no change) | Sacramento | \$2,796,763 (net WAFM gain of \$171,633) |
| Colusa | \$41,323 (no change) | San Benito | \$85,264 (no change) |
| Contra Costa | \$1,562,711 (net WAFM gain of \$144,223) | San Bernardino | \$6,578,924 (net WAFM gain of \$3,102,287) |

| | | | |
|-------------|--|-----------------|---|
| Del Norte | \$79,107 (no change) | San Diego | \$1,564,111 (net WAFM loss of \$2,758,053) |
| El Dorado | \$218,211 (net WAFM loss of \$21,424) | San Francisco | (\$470,569) (net WAFM loss of \$2,076,295) |
| Fresno | \$1,869,222 (net WAFM gain of \$331,027) | San Joaquin | \$1,753,890 (net WAFM gain of \$591,499) |
| Glenn | \$49,328 (no change) | San Luis Obispo | \$394,598 (net WAFM loss of \$37,783) |
| Humboldt | \$56,321 (net WAFM loss of \$118,266) | San Mateo | \$665,146 (net WAFM loss of \$448,111) |
| Imperial | \$348,882 (net WAFM gain of \$66,207) | Santa Barbara | \$183,622 (net WAFM loss of \$451,660) |
| Inyo | \$50,201 (no change) | Santa Clara | \$159,598 (net WAFM loss of \$2,277,014) |
| Kern | \$2,935,905 (net WAFM gain of \$1,338,838) | Santa Cruz | \$206,121 (net WAFM loss of \$161,004) |
| Kings | \$272,294 (net WAFM gain of \$56,425) | Shasta | \$368,180 (net WAFM gain of \$45,090) |
| Lake | (\$18,682) (net WAFM loss of \$108,289) | Sierra | \$7,615 (no change) |
| Lassen | \$68,479 (no change) | Siskiyou | (\$154,342) (net WAFM loss of \$224,478) |
| Los Angeles | \$21,058,983 (net WAFM gain of \$3,590,684) | Solano | \$1,105,054 (net WAFM gain of \$346,499) |
| Madera | \$205,243 (net WAFM loss of \$33,785) | Sonoma | \$1,035,962 (net WAFM gain of \$191,558) |
| Marin | (\$400,098) (net WAFM loss of \$740,342) | Stanislaus | \$1,490,666 (net WAFM gain of \$651,198) |
| Mariposa | \$32,895 (no change) | Sutter | \$245,954 (net WAFM gain of \$80,103) |
| Mendocino | \$111,040 (net WAFM loss of \$55,714) | Tehama | \$104,199 (net WAFM loss of \$13,433) |
| Merced | \$787,510 (net WAFM gain of \$316,682) | Trinity | \$43,420 (no change) |
| Modoc | \$16,977 (no change) | Tulare | \$711,629 (net WAFM gain of \$152,682) |
| Mono | \$45,169 (no change) | Tuolumne | \$37,097 (net WAFM loss of \$55,033) |
| Monterey | \$802,017 (net WAFM gain of \$199,395) | Ventura | \$1,660,216 (net WAFM gain of \$495,587) |
| Napa | \$53,947 (net WAFM loss of \$155,105) | Yolo | \$377,852 (net WAFM gain of \$81,814) |
| Nevada | \$96,592 (net WAFM loss of \$48,721) | Yuba | \$17,128 (net WAFM loss of \$90,998) |

It becomes apparent in reading all of the individual court plans that the courts' efforts related to public access to justice in the current year are overshadowed by the possibility of significant cuts to services, programs and personnel in the budget year. That's because in the budget year, the courts' fund balances, upon which the courts have relied to subsidize their operations, will be all but eliminated.

Plan Synopsis and Individual Court Plans

All 58 courts submitted reports on the use of their respective shares of the \$60 million augmentation. To the extent possible, courts used their augmentations to address staffing, darkened courthouses and courtrooms, public service availability, and backlogs in case and document management.

Importantly, and with only minor exceptions, courts accurately anticipated in September how they would be able to use their respective shares of the \$60 million augmentation as reported here.

Staffing. Almost half of the courts (27) avoided further staffing reductions, while nine added staff. And, while 21 courts stated unequivocally that furloughs are likely in the budget year without a significant budget augmentation, this year 14 courts eliminated, suspended, or partially reduced furloughs, and three others avoided implementing them.

Courtroom and courthouse closures. Twelve courts avoided closing courtrooms, and 10 avoided closing courthouses. Three courts were able to reopen closed courtrooms.

Self-help services. A total of 14 courts stated that they improved their self-help services in the current year, and another 20 courts said they maintained their same level of services; they also stated that with the elimination of fund balances and in the absence of robust augmentations to their trial court operations budgets, there will be significant cuts to self-help services in the budget year.

Window and phone services. 31 courts maintained some phone and window services; nine courts were actually able to increase phone services, and 11 increased window services.

Backlogs. Over half of the courts (33) dedicated significant funds toward the reduction of case and document management backlogs. They stated, however, that they relied in large measure on their fund balances because their respective shares of the \$60 million budget augmentation were not sufficient to absorb the full costs of this effort. The courts reported that they anticipate there will be increased delays in paperwork and court dates in the budget year absent a significant budget augmentation for the trial courts.

Collaborative courts. A total of 23 courts stated that they maintained their collaborative courts, but supported in whole or in part with funds other than the courts' respective shares of the \$60 million augmentation, including fund balances. Another three courts expanded their collaborative courts, also using funds other than their share of the augmentation. Many courts expressed concern that their collaborative courts are at risk in the budget year if significant trial court funding is not available.

For details, please refer to the attached individual court plans.

Conclusion

As required by the Budget Act of 2013, this report is submitted to provide detailed, court-specific information about the breadth as well as limitations of the \$60 million budget augmentation in the current year.

While the \$60 million didn't erase the budget cuts from previous years, it reversed the trend of yearly allocation reductions, and enabled courts to address the gaps that had been widening for half a decade.

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 FY 2008-09 as well as unfunded increases in employee health benefits and retirement costs. Without additional funding to erase existing structural deficits, Californians should assume there will be significant additional service reductions in the budget year.

The individual court plans attached with this report were prepared during the period of March 11 through March 27, 2014. 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 reports from each of the 58 local trial courts.

FOLLOW-UP REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

Superior Court of California,

County of ALAMEDA

FY 2013-14

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

Net Allocation After WAFM: \$526,359

There are a number of ways to have used your share of the \$60 million budget augmentation 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, MARCH 27TH.

___ We avoided (or limited) previously planned staffing reductions.

- Please explain how many positions you avoided reducing.

Type your response here

- Please describe the kinds of positions you avoided reducing.

Type your response here

- Please explain how this action allowed 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ We avoided (or limited) previously planned courtroom closures.

- Please explain what types of hearings have been 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 any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

We avoided previously planned courthouse closures.

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you were 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 any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

We maintained, increased or restored public telephone hours.

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

We maintained, increased or restored court clerk hours.

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

Type your response here

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

We devoted resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.

- Backlogs in Civil, Probate, Criminal and Family Law have been addressed. In addition, Records destruction initiatives have been undertaken.
- Please explain how decreasing the backlog maintained or increased public access to justice.

Backlogged case processing generates hardship and frustration for the public and our justice partners. As a result of the investment in backlog reduction, judgments are being processed more timely, and thus litigants are able to enforce orders more quickly. Mailed documents are imaged more quickly, so that the public and attorneys can view them on the Court's case management system before, rather than after, relevant hearings. As another example of improved access, prior to the investment in backlog reduction, the Court was experiencing a 4 month delay in satisfying requests for certification of prior convictions; the current turnaround time is less than 2 weeks.

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

The Court will attempt to sustain limited investments in backlog reduction beyond the current fiscal year.

___ **We suspended/avoided employee furloughs.**

- Please explain how this action allowed you to 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We maintained, increased or restored services in our self-help center.**

- Please explain the details of maintaining, increasing or restoring self-help center services.

New funding was 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 maintained or increased 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. This discontinuation resulted in many litigants having to go to the public library to print forms, or showing up

in Court without the necessary forms. A resumption of Court form distribution has eliminated this particular access barrier.

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

The answer is dependent on budget year Court funding level.

___ **We maintained, increased or restored court reporting services.**

- Please explain how increased court reporting services maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We maintained, increased or restored specialty court(s).**

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

Type your response here

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services maintained or increased 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) and which are 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 restored, maintained, or increased public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

Type your response here

- Explain the impact of the WAFM calculation and your court's net allocation on your court's ability to maintain, increase or restore access to justice.

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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

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.

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

Revenues: \$86.8M (includes estimated \$1.8M share of Governor's proposed \$100M and \$5.7M estimated in local revenue)

Expenditures: \$87.4M

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AS WE PREPARE THIS FOLLOW-UP SURVEY. SUBMIT THIS COMPLETED FORM TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov ON OR BEFORE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, MARCH 27TH. PLEASE CALL ANDI AT 916-323-3121 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

FOLLOW-UP REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

Superior Court of California,

County of ALPINE

FY 2013-14

Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$7,226

Net Allocation After WAFM: \$7,226 (no change)

There are a number of ways to have used your share of the \$60 million budget augmentation 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, MARCH 27TH.

___ We avoided (or limited) previously planned staffing reductions.

- Please explain how many positions you avoided reducing.

Type your response here

- Please describe the kinds of positions you avoided reducing.

Type your response here

- Please explain how this action allowed 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ We avoided (or limited) previously planned courtroom closures.

- Please explain what types of hearings have been 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 any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

 We avoided previously planned courthouse closures.

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you were 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 any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

 X **We maintained, increased or restored public telephone hours.**

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours maintained or increased public access to justice.

Alpine Superior Court will use our share of the \$60M, the grand sum of \$7226, to avoid or minimize reducing counter and telephone hours – which we have been able to do so far but which has always been a possibility with the diminution of funding.

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

Type your response here

 X **We maintained, increased or restored court clerk hours.**

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

See above.

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We devoted resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.**

- Please explain the areas of backlog that were addressed.

Type your response here

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We suspended/avoided employee furloughs.**

- Please explain how this action allowed you to 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We maintained, increased or restored services in our self-help center.**

- Please explain the details of maintaining, increasing or restoring self-help center services.

Type your response here

- Please explain how the increase in self-help services maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We maintained, increased or restored court reporting services.**

- Please explain how increased court reporting services maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ We maintained, increased or restored specialty court(s).

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

Type your response here

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services maintained or increased 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) and which are 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 restored, maintained, or increased public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

Type your response here

- Explain the impact of the WAFM calculation and your court's net allocation on your court's ability to maintain, increase or restore access to justice.

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 plan for the next fiscal year is to replace a deficient finance system and inefficient case management system, and the new funding formula and this modest sum will assist with those projects.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are 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 FOLLOW-UP SURVEY. SUBMIT THIS COMPLETED FORM TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov ON OR BEFORE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, MARCH 27TH. PLEASE CALL ANDI AT 916-323-3121 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

FOLLOW-UP REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

Superior Court of California,

County of AMADOR

FY 2013-14

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

Net Allocation After WAFM: \$61,365 (no change)

There are a number of ways to have used your share of the \$60 million budget augmentation 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, MARCH 27TH.

___ **We avoided (or limited) previously planned staffing reductions.**

- Please explain how many positions you avoided reducing.

We avoided layoffs, but (3) positions will be reduced to a .83; a .5 and .6 position respectively, before FY 14-15.

- Please describe the kinds of positions you avoided reducing.

We avoided laying off the Court's HR Analyst; Court Reporter and Custodian, however, notices are going out to these employees April 15 that their positions will be reduced to a .83; a .5 and .6 position effective June 2, 2014.

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

This Court's priority was to ensure it maintained public access to justice at the current level. Although we could not increase our staffing levels due to budget restraints, we did not lay off, which would had even a bigger impact on public access.

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

The need for additional staffing is particularly critical in the area of mediation, court investigations and legal processing, and the cuts in these areas will be on-going absent additional funding. Unfortunately not having funding to hire a FCS mediator, a Court Investigator, and legal processing clerks is more than a temporary condition, it is this Court's new reality even moving forward into 2015, 2016. There is absolutely no way this court can take advantage of the technological advances that are out there because our funding is inadequate. Our inability to provide timely and efficient access to the court, court records and documents will not.

___ **We avoided (or limited) previously planned courtroom closures.**

- Please explain what types of hearings have been 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 any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Not applicable.

___ **We avoided previously planned courthouse closures.**

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you were 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 any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Not applicable.

___ **We maintained, increased or restored public telephone hours.**

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours maintained or increased public access to justice.

We maintained the same service level for public telephone hours. We do not have enough staff to answer phone calls at the same level prior to the reduction in workforce, and many calls go unanswered, however, we have made some reinvestments in other areas, such as providing a little more information on our website for court users. The Court's goal is to eventually invest in the IVR system,

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

It is not temporary absent restoration of funding to this Court. Amador is a Cluster 1 Court and could possibly not receive the full restoration we need under WAFM to improve access and efficiencies.

___ **We maintained, increased or restored court clerk hours.**

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

The Court Clerk hours were not further reduced, it remains unchanged.

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours maintained or increased public access to justice.

The Court Clerk hours were not further reduced, it remained 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 unavoidable. This small court had to reduce its workforce by three (3) FTEs. We do not have the staff to restore counter hours and telephone services. We are certain the technological advances we make upon receipt of additional funding will provide the needed access to justice in this area our community needs.

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

There will be no change before the end of the fiscal year. It is not temporary absent restoration of funding to this Court.

___ **We devoted resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.**

- Although still backlogged, increased the backlog of traffic citations only.

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog maintained or increased public access to justice.

Litigants would call in seeking information about their ticket and/or hearing date and the information was in the case management system. This was of benefit to our justice partners as litigants were calling CHP and local agencies as well.

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

Increasing the service in this area is temporary absent restoration of funding to this Court, as we are a Cluster one Court and could potentially see additional funding impacts, resulting further reduction to Court staff.

___ **We suspended/avoided employee furloughs.**

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

Furlough ends effectively June 30, 2014.

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

Furlough will not extend beyond June 30, 2014.

___ **We maintained, increased or restored services in our self-help center.**

We were only able to fund less than a ½ time FCS mediator and a ½ time court investigator, essentially, status quo from 2012-2013.

- Please explain how the increase in self-help services maintained or increased public access to justice

We were not able to increase services.

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

Absent restoration of funding to this Court, we will never be able to fill this critical need position(s).

___ **We maintained, increased or restored court reporting services.**

- Please explain how increased court reporting services maintained or increased public access to justice.

As stated above, we avoided lay-offs of a Court Reporter; however, notices are going out that this position will be reduced to a .6 position effective June 2, 2014.

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

Permanent unless there is additional restoration.

___ **We maintained, increased or restored specialty court(s).**

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

Not applicable to this Court.

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services maintained or increased public access to justice.

Not applicable to this Court.

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

Not applicable to this Court.

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

- Explain any other ways your court restored, maintained, or increased public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

Type your response here

- Explain the impact of the WAFM calculation and your court's net allocation on your court's ability to maintain, increase or restore access to justice.

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) and which are 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 expenditure for FY 2014-2015 is \$2,868,079

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AS WE PREPARE THIS FOLLOW-UP SURVEY. SUBMIT THIS COMPLETED FORM TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov ON OR BEFORE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, MARCH 27TH. PLEASE CALL ANDI AT 916-323-3121 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

FOLLOW-UP REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

Superior Court of California,

County of BUTTE

FY 2013-14

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

Net Allocation After WAFM: \$338,963

There are a number of ways to have used your share of the \$60 million budget augmentation 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, MARCH 27TH.

We avoided (or limited) previously planned staffing reductions.

- Please explain how many positions you avoided reducing.

Our Court avoided eliminating up to six positions from operations and other core areas with the augmentation monies.

- Please describe the kinds of positions you avoided reducing.

Our Court avoided reducing operations staff, including Court Clerk positions.

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

By maintaining current staffing levels we did not reduce public service hours as indicated below. We maintained 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

We anticipate maintaining the positions assuming that the augmentation funding monies are ongoing.

We avoided (or limited) previously planned courtroom closures.

- Please explain what types of hearings have been 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 any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

N/A

___ We avoided previously planned courthouse closures.

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you were 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 any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

N/A

__✓__ We maintained, increased or restored public telephone hours.

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours maintained or increased public access to justice.

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

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

Assuming that augmentation monies are ongoing, our Court will be able to maintain our current level of public telephone hours.

__✓__ We maintained, increased or restored court clerk hours.

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

Our Court was 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 maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Assuming that augmentation monies are ongoing, our Court will be able to maintain our current level of services.

✓ We devoted resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.

- Please explain the areas of backlog that were addressed.

Our Court continues to devote existing resources to our criminal division, including addressing the backlogs for criminal prison packets and criminal case processing. However, to fully mitigate backlogs, additional funding will be necessary.

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Without additional funding, the backlogs will continue to worsen.

✓ We suspended/avoided employee furloughs.

- Please explain how this action allowed 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 any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Furlough options are currently set for the Court's current labor contract period. Furloughs are still in effect through September 2015. Our Court did not seek additional concessions during the labor contract period due to the increased funding.

We maintained, increased or restored services in our self-help center.

- Please explain the details of maintaining, increasing or restoring self-help center services.

N/A

- Please explain how the increase in self-help services maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

N/A

___ We maintained, increased or restored court reporting services.

- Please explain how increased court reporting services maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

N/A

___✓_ We maintained, increased or restored specialty court(s).

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

Our Court did 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 maintained or increased 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) and which are 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 your court restored, maintained, or increased public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

Our Court used the augmentation monies to maintain our status quo in terms of staffing levels. Assuming that the augmentation monies will be ongoing, we will be able to maintain our existing level of service hours to the public.

- Explain the impact of the WAFM calculation and your court's net allocation on your court's ability to maintain, increase or restore access to justice.

The WAFM model brings us closer to fulfilling our workload requirements but it is still woefully insufficient to fully address our operational needs.

- 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

N/A

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

Revenues: \$11,543,000

Expenses: \$11,710,000

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

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AS WE PREPARE THIS FOLLOW-UP SURVEY. SUBMIT THIS COMPLETED FORM TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov ON OR BEFORE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, MARCH 27TH. PLEASE CALL ANDI AT 916-323-3121 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

FOLLOW-UP REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

Superior Court of California,

County of CALAVERAS

FY 2013-14

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

Net Allocation After WAFM: \$62,926 (no change)

There are a number of ways to have used your share of the \$60 million budget augmentation 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, MARCH 27TH.

X We avoided (or limited) previously planned staffing reductions.

- Please explain how many positions you avoided reducing.

1 FTE with Benefits was saved with Calaveras' share of the \$60M.

- Please describe the kinds of positions you avoided reducing.

Court Clerk II - who primary function is to assist the public via the counter or the phone.

- Please explain how this action allowed 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

The Court is projecting an operating deficit of approximately \$400,000 in 13-14, using one-time fund balance to maintain services. Unless there is a significant restoration of funding in 14-15, staffing levels will be reduced.

We avoided (or limited) previously planned courtroom closures.

- Please explain what types of hearings have been 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 any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ We avoided previously planned courthouse closures.

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you were 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 any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

__X_ We maintained, increased or restored public telephone hours.

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours maintained or increased public access to justice.

In FY 13-14 we increase public access hours from 8:30 – 3 to 8:15 to 4.

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

The Court is projecting an operating deficit of approximately \$400,000 in 13-14, using one-time fund balance to maintain services. Unless there is a significant restoration of funding in 14-15, public service hours will be reduced.

__X_ We maintained, increased or restored court clerk hours.

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

Clerks were able to file and process court documents, accept payment of fines and fees, make referrals to the self-help center, and answer questions about case status and upcoming hearings.

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ We devoted resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.

- Please explain the areas of backlog that were addressed.

Type your response here

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

X We suspended/avoided employee furloughs.

- Please explain how this action allowed 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 any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are 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 \$400,000. 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, furloughs may be used in conjunction with other costs savings measures, such as a reduction in force.

___ We maintained, increased or restored services in our self-help center.

- Please explain the details of maintaining, increasing or restoring self-help center services.

FY 13-14 we increase public access hours from 8:30 – 3 to 8:15 to 4.

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

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

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

Type your response here

___ **We maintained, increased or restored court reporting services.**

- Please explain how increased court reporting services maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We maintained, increased or restored specialty court(s).**

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

Type your response here

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services maintained or increased 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) and which are 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 restored, maintained, or increased public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

Type your response here

- Explain the impact of the WAFM calculation and your court's net allocation on your court's ability to maintain, increase or restore access to justice.

As a small court the WAFM calculations have hurt the court's net allocation.

- 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

It is unknown at this time. . The Court faces a budget deficit of \$400,000. . It will be very difficult for the Court to provide even a minimal level of service without additional funding

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

Revenues - \$2,721,000

Expenditures - \$2,916,000 using encumbered funds of \$200,000 for a CMS.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AS WE PREPARE THIS FOLLOW-UP SURVEY. SUBMIT THIS COMPLETED FORM TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov ON OR BEFORE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, MARCH 27TH. PLEASE CALL ANDI AT 916-323-3121 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

FOLLOW-UP REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

Superior Court of California,

County of COLUSA

FY 2013-14

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

Net Allocation After WAFM: \$41,323 (no change)

There are a number of ways to have used your share of the \$60 million budget augmentation 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, MARCH 27TH.

We avoided (or limited) previously planned staffing reductions.

- Please explain how many positions you avoided reducing.

Type your response here

- Please describe the kinds of positions you avoided reducing.

Type your response here

- Please explain how this action allowed 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

In FY13-14 Colusa Superior Court is utilizing 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 avoided (or limited) previously planned courtroom closures.

- Please explain what types of hearings have been 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 any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

 We avoided previously planned courthouse closures.

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you were 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 any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

 x **We maintained, increased or restored public telephone hours.**

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

In FY13-14 Colusa Superior Court is utilizing 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.

 x **We maintained, increased or restored court clerk hours.**

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

Type your response here

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

In FY13-14 Colusa Superior Court is utilizing 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.

x We devoted resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.

- Please explain the areas of backlog that were addressed.

Type your response here

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

In FY13-14 Colusa Superior Court is utilizing 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.

x We suspended/avoided employee furloughs.

- Please explain how this action allowed you to 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

In FY13-14 Colusa Superior Court is utilizing 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.

x We maintained, increased or restored services in our self-help center.

- Please explain the details of maintaining, increasing or restoring self-help center services.

Type your response here

- Please explain how the increase in self-help services maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

In FY13-14 Colusa Superior Court is utilizing 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.

x We maintained, increased or restored court reporting services.

- Please explain how increased court reporting services maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

In FY13-14 Colusa Superior Court is utilizing 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.

x We maintained, increased or restored specialty court(s).

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

Type your response here

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

In FY13-14 Colusa Superior Court is utilizing 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 your court restored, maintained, or increased public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

Type your response here

- Explain the impact of the WAFM calculation and your court's net allocation on your court's ability to maintain, increase or restore access to justice.

There have been many recent changes to the WAFM with regard to the smaller (cluster 1) courts. The extent to which the WAFM will impact funding to Colusa Superior Court is largely dependent upon the total dollar amount allocated to the judicial branch by the legislature. Any and all additional funds are a step in the right direction on the court's ability to maintain and increase access to justice.

- 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

In FY13-14 Colusa Superior Court is utilizing 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)?

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

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AS WE PREPARE THIS FOLLOW-UP SURVEY. SUBMIT THIS COMPLETED FORM TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov ON OR BEFORE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, MARCH 27TH. PLEASE CALL ANDI AT 916-323-3121 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

FOLLOW-UP REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

Superior Court of California,

County of CONTRA COSTA

FY 2013-14

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

Net Allocation After WAFM: \$1,562,711

There are a number of ways to have used your share of the \$60 million budget augmentation 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, MARCH 27TH.

___ We avoided (or limited) previously planned staffing reductions.

- Please explain how many positions you avoided reducing.

Type your response here

- Please describe the kinds of positions you avoided reducing.

Type your response here

- Please explain how this action allowed 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ We avoided (or limited) previously planned courtroom closures.

- Please explain what types of hearings have been 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 any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

 We avoided previously planned courthouse closures.

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you were 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 any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

 X **We maintained, increased or restored public telephone hours.**

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours maintained or increased public access to justice.

The Court restored an additional hour of telephone access to the family law and Domestic Violence information lines on January 13, 2014. A copy of the press release announcing the expansion of services is attached. The Court also adjusted staffing to ensure that increased time on the telephone would not create backlogs in processing filings.

This adjustment in family law hours increased access to justice because most family law litigants are self-represented. Many are lacking in education or economic resources and almost all are overwhelmed by the complexity of the system they are required to navigate. Domestic Violence victims can call with questions about restraining orders.

By extending telephone hours, litigants who do not have access to an automobile do not need to make expensive and time-consuming arrangements to travel to the courthouse. There is also an additional hour each day when clerks can answer questions such as “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?” Increasing telephone hours also helped to minimize hold times and the frequency with which members of the public are kept on hold.

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

The Court has committed to maintaining this increase in services and is actively seeking resources to further increase hours in all areas of the Court.

X We maintained, increased or restored court clerk hours.

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

On January 13, 2014, the Court restored one additional hour a day of service to the public at the family law filing windows as well as at the Domestic Violence filing window in the central courthouse in Martinez.

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours maintained or increased public access to justice.

Increasing hours enhances the Court's capacity for providing assistance to litigants, provides additional opportunities for domestic violence victims to obtain assistance and reduces wait times for those in line at clerks' filing windows in the Martinez Family Law building.

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

The Court has committed to maintaining this increase in services and is actively seeking resources to further increase hours in all areas of the Court.

X We devoted resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.

- Please explain the areas of backlog that were addressed.

In August of 2013, the Court reported backlogs in final judgments of divorce, criminal and civil cases. These have been addressed as follows:

| Type of Backlog | Backlog as of August 2013 | Backlog as of March 2014 |
|-----------------|---|---|
| FL judgments | 1,032 | 495 |
| Criminal | 431 new complaints 238 plea & sentencing 50 transfer in/out 3,000 gen filing | Eliminated in all categories |
| Limited Civil | 880 complaints 2,025 defaults 1,409 writs/abstracts | Eliminated 512 defaults 1,559 writs/abstracts |

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog maintained or increased public access to justice.

FAMILY LAW

Families have benefitted from reaching final resolution of an acrimonious dispute, and those who wish to move on with their lives by remarrying, are now able to do so in a more timely fashion. Litigants who required proof of the dissolution, such as employers, health care providers, creditors and others received this documentation in 6 – 8 weeks, rather than in the previous 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

With the clearing of criminal backlogs, justice partners and defendants were made aware of their case status timely and without delay. Clearing backlog was a significant impact to case flow and calendar management for all parties involved. Disposition of criminal cases were brought to almost a current status for the Pittsburg, Richmond and Martinez locations. Documents were made available to all parties quickly and accurately. In decreasing the backlog, the Court was able to assess the workflow process and re-engineer many areas of the criminal clerk's office at all locations to gain better public access to justice. We will continue to do so as opportunities arise.

Eliminating or reducing backlogs in Limited Civil cases allowed small businesses, banks, credit card companies and plaintiffs in "small" personal injury or motor vehicle cases to get their cases filed and heard, and their judgments processed, much more expeditiously. As a result, claims did not get "stale", meaning that debtors could still be located, businesses got their money in time to pay their bills and evidence is fresh in everyone's mind. Plaintiffs in personal injury and motor vehicle cases were able to timely receive needed treatment and compensation for their losses.

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

The Court has committed to continuing to re-engineer to provide services as efficiently as possible. However, without sufficient funding the Court is unable to maintain minimal staffing and so must make difficult choices about which subject areas will be allocated fewer resources with the accompanying backlogs and delays in obtaining justice.

X **We suspended/avoided employee furloughs.**

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

Eliminating furloughs allowed the Court to keep filing windows, telephone lines and Self Help Services functioning. They also avoided the inevitable delays in processing documents that are caused when employees are not available at work.

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

As of this writing, based on the proposed Governor's Budget, the Court anticipates that it will be forced to impose 9 days of furloughs in FY '14 – '15.

___ **We maintained, increased or restored services in our self-help center.**

- Please explain the details of maintaining, increasing or restoring self-help center services.

Type your response here

- Please explain how the increase in self-help services maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We maintained, increased or restored court reporting services.**

- Please explain how increased court reporting services maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We maintained, increased or restored specialty court(s).**

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

Type your response here

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services maintained or increased 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) and which are 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 restored, maintained, or increased public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

Type your response here

- Explain the impact of the WAFM calculation and your court's net allocation on your court's ability to maintain, increase or restore access to justice.

See answers above

- 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 \$60m, with the net allocation after WAFM, resulted in an allocation for Contra Costa of \$1,562,711. This enabled the Court to convert 18 existing limited term positions to permanent positions. This included hiring permanently a number of critical positions including clerk's office staff, a legal research attorney, a probate investigator, a child custody recommending counselor, and a facilitator. The Court still has over 25 limited term positions that are funded from court reserves. These positions work in all areas of the court and provide essential services to the public. Once the reserves are eliminated effective July 1, 2014, the Court will have to consider eliminating these remaining limited term positions and reducing services accordingly unless additional funds are provided to the trial courts in FY 2014-15. In addition, with the potential loss of funding for employee benefit and retirement cost increases provided from the Trial Court Trust Fund, the Court may have to look at reducing further, absent additional allocations being provided.

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

Type your response here

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

The projected revenue for FY 14-15 is \$54,540,535 and the projected expenditures are \$54,839,740. These projected revenues and expenditures include one-time solutions that reduce the deficit in FY 2014-15 to \$299,305. The projected ongoing deficit without the one-time solutions is \$1,922,070.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AS WE PREPARE THIS FOLLOW-UP SURVEY. SUBMIT THIS COMPLETED FORM TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov ON OR BEFORE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, MARCH 27TH. PLEASE CALL ANDI AT 916-323-3121 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.



SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF CONTRA COSTA
Public Information Office

mediainfo@contracosta.courts.ca.gov

925-957-5663

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Mimi Lyster Zimmelman, Public Information Officer
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

01/08/2014

► **CORRECTED NOTICE**

MORE HOURS FOR FAMILY LAW CLERK'S OFFICE AND TELEPHONE ASSISTANCE

The Contra Costa Superior Court is pleased to announce that by restoring \$60 million to the Judicial Branch budget this fiscal year, Governor Brown and the State Legislature have made it possible for us to extend telephone and filing window assistance at the Spinetta Family Law Center in Martinez one additional hour each day.

Beginning January 13, 2014, the Martinez family law clerk's office will accept filings from 8:00 am until 2:00 pm, Monday through Friday except holidays. The clerk's office is located at 751 Pine Street in Martinez, and the telephone number is 925-646-4099. All other clerk's offices remain open from 8:00 am until 1:00 pm each weekday except holidays.

SUMMARY OF COURT CLERKS OFFICE HOURS:

1. The clerk's office in the Spinetta Family Law Courthouse will answer telephones, accept filings and process family law Ex Parte applications from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm.
2. Ex Parte applications for civil harassment restraining orders will continue to be processed between 10:00 am and 11:30 am in Dept. 9 (Room 301) of the Wakefield Taylor Courthouse at 725 Court Street, Martinez.
3. Ex Parte applications for temporary guardianships and conservatorships will continue to be processed between 9:30 am and 11:00 am in Room 210 of the Wakefield Taylor Courthouse at 725 Court Street, Martinez.

4. Ex Parte applications for domestic violence restraining orders will continue to be processed between 8:00 am and 3:00 pm in the Spinetta Family Law Center at 751 Pine Street, Martinez, and for East County Cases only, at the Arnason Justice Center, 1000 Center Avenue, Pittsburg.
5. The Jury Services Office will remain open to jurors in all locations between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm. Telephones in the jury office will be answered until 2:00 p.m.
6. The public can find case information, court forms, and self help assistance 24 hours a day at www.cc-courts.org.

#####

FOLLOW-UP REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

Superior Court of California,

County of DEL NORTE

FY 2013-14

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

Net Allocation After WAFM: \$79,107 (no change)

There are a number of ways to have used your share of the \$60 million budget augmentation 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, MARCH 27TH.

XX We avoided (or limited) previously planned staffing reductions.

- Please explain how many positions you avoided reducing.

Del Norte Superior Court avoided any staff reductions. With limited resources any FTE reduction greatly impacts the workload of the remaining staff. With the avoided reduction, the Court eased the increased workload on the current staff.

- Please describe the kinds of positions you avoided reducing.

The only positions the Court could reduce would be processing and court clerks. This would have greatly impacted processing times and access to justice.

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

While maintaining current staffing levels the Court did not experience an impact of case processing and adjudication times. This maintained the level of customer service and processing times the public currently accustom to receiving.

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

There is no promise that the above practices can be maintained with the reductions of reserves and constraints pending.

___ We avoided (or limited) previously planned courtroom closures.

- Please explain what types of hearings have been 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 any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We avoided previously planned courthouse closures.**

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you were 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 any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We maintained, increased or restored public telephone hours.**

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We maintained, increased or restored court clerk hours.**

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

Type your response here

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We devoted resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.**

- Please explain the areas of backlog that were addressed.

Type your response here

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We suspended/avoided employee furloughs.**

- Please explain how this action allowed you to 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We maintained, increased or restored services in our self-help center.**

- Please explain the details of maintaining, increasing or restoring self-help center services.

Type your response here

- Please explain how the increase in self-help services maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We maintained, increased or restored court reporting services.**

- Please explain how increased court reporting services maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ We maintained, increased or restored specialty court(s).

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

Type your response here

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services maintained or increased 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) and which are 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 restored, maintained, or increased public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

Del Norte has historically placed public services and access to justice as it's top priority. This priority has been balanced by good fiscal judgment and limited growth in programs that detract from the basic functions of the court. However, good fiscal planning now places Del Norte on the forefront of drastic reserve reductions and limited growth potential. The impact of this may not be apparently for years to come.

- Explain the impact of the WAFM calculation and your court's net allocation on your court's ability to maintain, increase or restore access to justice.

Del Norte has made difficult fiscal decisions in the past years that have not reduced, nor jeopardized, the public's access to justice. However, other areas of the Court has experiences limited growth and it is anticipated as funding increases those opportunities will increase, also.

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

Del Norte will judiciously monitor the augmentation and utilize it as appropriate without over-extending future obligations until it is apparent these increases are permanent.

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

Any increases or improvements are based solely on the dependability of funding.

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

To be determined.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AS WE PREPARE THIS FOLLOW-UP SURVEY. SUBMIT THIS COMPLETED FORM TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov ON OR BEFORE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, MARCH 27TH. PLEASE CALL ANDI AT 916-323-3121 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

FOLLOW-UP REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

Superior Court of California,

County of EL DORADO

FY 2013-14

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

Net Allocation After WAFM: \$218,211

There are a number of ways to have used your share of the \$60 million budget augmentation 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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___ **We avoided (or limited) previously planned staffing reductions.**

- Please explain how many positions you avoided reducing.

Type your response here

- Please describe the kinds of positions you avoided reducing.

Type your response here

- Please explain how this action allowed 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We avoided (or limited) previously planned courtroom closures.**

- Please explain what types of hearings have been 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 any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We avoided previously planned courthouse closures.**

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you were 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 any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We maintained, increased or restored public telephone hours.**

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We maintained, increased or restored court clerk hours.**

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

Type your response here

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

__XX__ **We devoted resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.**

- Please explain the areas of backlog that were addressed.

Three floating holidays worked to reduce backlogs, court closed to public for holiday with staff working without interruption. October 14, 2013, February 12, 2014, and March 31, 2104 were designated work days for court staff to reduce backlogs in processing. This included staff assignments and travel to other branches. Planned furloughs on these three designated floating holidays were suspended for FY13/14.

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog maintained or increased public access to justice.

Reduction in backlogs in processing ensures public access for individuals to have their matters filed, scheduled for hearing, and orders and/or dispositions processed.

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

At this time, working on scheduled floating holidays is temporary for FY 13/14 as the court has no guarantee of funding into the coming FY 14/15. Floating holidays may be scheduled as furlough days in FY 14/15.

XX We suspended/avoided employee furloughs.

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

Twelve furlough days scheduled for FY 13/14 were suspended. Planned furlough days with limited operations scheduled for three days the Thanksgiving holiday week and four days the Christmas holiday week were suspended and full operations were maintained during these weeks. This allowed the public access to the court during current business hours. The planned furlough days on the three designated floating holidays were suspended allowing staff to work on backlogs as indicated above. Two furlough days for each staff person to be scheduled at a time convenient to court operations were suspended which allowed for work to be processed and not adding to existing backlogs. The Court's Commissioner is subject to the furlough as well, and suspending the furlough as to her also provided increased access, as the Commissioner handles calendars of largely self represented litigants, and court calendar backlog was reduced without the furlough.

Total cost for suspension of twelve furlough days \$274,198.51.

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

Suspension of employee furloughs is temporary for FY 13/14 as the court has no guarantee of funding into FY 14/15.

We maintained, increased or restored services in our self-help center.

- Please explain the details of maintaining, increasing or restoring self-help center services.

Type your response here

- Please explain how the increase in self-help services maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We maintained, increased or restored court reporting services.**

- Please explain how increased court reporting services maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We maintained, increased or restored specialty court(s).**

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

Type your response here

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services maintained or increased 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) and which are 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 restored, maintained, or increased public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

Type your response here

- Explain the impact of the WAFM calculation and your court's net allocation on your court's ability to maintain, increase or restore access to justice.

The WAFM calculation has a 10% negative impact on our court's net allocation. In addition to the negative impact with the WAFM calculation, the reduction of our fund balance to 1% will have an impact on access and services we provide in FY 14/15.

Use of fund balance to maintain/increase access to public in FY 13/14 includes:

- 1. We maintained services and access to the public with our self-help centers and family law facilitator services. \$110,456 for self-help centers/services in excess of our grant funding and \$74,700 for family law facilitator services in excess of our grant funding.*
- 2. We've also increased access to the public by implementation of the Family Centered Case Resolution program.*
- 3. We increased access to the public with the purchase of phone/computer software system to reduce telephone wait times, calls placed in the wait queue are monitored through computer program and are redirected to available staff for handling. The cost for the phone/computer software system was \$4,381.65.*
- 4. Staff were reassigned to various branches to reduce backlogs with a cost for staff to travel and assist at other branches of \$4,091.*
- 5. Suspension of furloughs in excess of the \$60 million augmentation. The cost for the suspension of furloughs in excess of the \$60 million augmentation was \$55,987.*

Without a fund balance or restoration of funding levels the self help and facilitator services will likely be reduced to grant funding levels, the Family Centered Case Resolution program may be suspended and staff assignments to address backlogs will be discontinued. Employee furlough may still be needed as our court's budget deficit for FY 13/14 is \$640,368. Also, clerk office public counter hours and telephone hours may also be reduced based on staffing levels.

- 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

All actions listed above are temporary and may not extend beyond this fiscal year if funding is not restored.

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

| | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|---|
| <i>Revenues</i> | <i>\$7,853,181</i> | <i>(Includes FY 14/15 \$100M Augmentation Allocation)</i> |
| <i>Expenses</i> | <i>\$8,281,605</i> | |
| <i>Deficit</i> | <i>\$ (428,424)</i> | |

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AS WE PREPARE THIS FOLLOW-UP SURVEY. SUBMIT THIS COMPLETED FORM TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov ON OR BEFORE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, MARCH 27TH. PLEASE CALL ANDI AT 916-323-3121 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

FOLLOW-UP REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

Superior Court of California,

County of FRESNO

FY 2013-14

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

Net Allocation After WAFM: \$1,869,222

There are a number of ways to have used your share of the \$60 million budget augmentation 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, MARCH 27TH.

We avoided (or limited) previously planned staffing reductions.

- Please explain how many positions you avoided reducing.

The court avoided further reduction of our workforce by at least 15 additional positions. Based on our current vacancy rate of 26%, this would have been catastrophic if we would have had to eliminate an additional 15 positions. At this time we are barely able to keep our courtrooms open daily because of staff vacancies.

- Please describe the kinds of positions you avoided reducing.

We were able to avoid further reductions in our Self Help Center, courtrooms and Clerks Offices beyond the current vacancy rate of 26%. If we had to further reduce staff, this would have also caused us to further reduce Clerks Office hours and courtroom functions.

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

***Self-help** – To comply with the law requiring FL Case Management Conferences (CMC) we must use staff from our Self-help Center forcing us to then close our self-help center one day a week. In addition, when reduced hours are in place, staff uses that time to address backlogs. This augmentation prevented us from having to further reduce office hours, and kept backlogs at the current level instead of increasing.*

***Access (backlogs)** – We have attempted to keep backlogs to a minimum in all departments, in an effort to maintain an adequate level of access to justice. For example, if documents are not processed timely, the parties must wait to move forward with their case causing a delay in the 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, medication hearings and SARB cases are heard daily. Without the additional funds, we would have had to decide lay off 15 employees or close this Courthouse which has multi-hearing courtrooms.

Summary – The additional money allowed 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, staff was able to process documents timely (keeping backlogs to a minimum); and providing the public to access court services. Additionally, the money allowed the Court to keep the M Street, a five courtroom Courthouse open. This has allowed the public access to justice by providing an efficient facility to resolve traffic disputes, small claims, medication hearings, and SARB matters. Without this facility we would have had to at a minimum discontinue small claims and SARB cases.

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

Our goal is to maintain, if possible, the previously noted actions as long as the augmentation remains on-going.

___ We avoided (or limited) previously planned courtroom closures.

- Please explain what types of hearings have been maintained.

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

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

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

If we would have had to close the M Street Courthouse – five courtrooms, it would have been devastating to the residents of Fresno County. Because we were able to keep this Courthouse open we are able to continue to hear small claims matters and SARB cases which would have otherwise had to be eliminated.

The M Street Courthouse is where mentally unstable people are transported for medication hearings. If we would have had to close M Street, those defendants would have to be brought to the main criminal Courthouse which would have placed unreasonable physical demands. Also, this would have caused a severe staffing challenge for the Court Security Unit. The M Street Courthouse is a smaller facility, one level and easier to contain the defendants that require more security supervision.

Additionally, by not closing the M Street Courthouse we have eliminated the need to move all traffic matters and the medication hearings back to our main criminal Courthouse where there are already extremely long lines to get into the facility and extremely long wait times to get an elevator to get to a courtroom. The public is already extremely frustrated and any additional closures would have significantly increased the number of people entering the main Courthouse, making it unsafe for all of our court users.

Lastly, closing the M Street court would have decreased public access, increased security threats, and caused people to take more time off work to plan for delays due to congestion. We simply do not have the proper facilities to bring all of the cases currently heard at the M Street Courthouse to the main criminal Courthouse.

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

If we do not receive sufficient new money 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 a different court location to be served. We have no other court facility that can absorb these cases.

We avoided previously planned courthouse closures.

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

The M Street location serves as our traffic Courthouse. We were able to avoid closing this location because of the \$60 million augmentation in the FY 13/14 budget. Closing this would have decreased public access, increased security threats, and caused 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).

If we would have had to close the M Street Courthouse, thousands more people would have to be redirected through security at our main criminal Courthouse. Currently, almost 4,500 people access the M Street facility on a weekly basis. This would have overloaded the main criminal Courthouse which is already under great pressure. The main Courthouse 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, that remodel has been placed on indefinite hold due to reduced funding or redirection of court facilities funds. In addition, there are hearings at the current M Street Courthouse where mentally unstable people are present for medication hearings. If this facility would have been closed, those defendants would have to be brought to the main criminal Courthouse and would have placed more demands on security.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are 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) may have to be closed in the FY 14/15.

___ **We maintained, increased or restored public telephone hours.**

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours maintained or increased public access to justice.

The additional money kept current reduced telephone hours from being reduced even further. Our Clerk's Offices are closed at 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 1 -5 p.m. on Friday. Staff currently does not answer the public telephone calls after the Clerk's Office is closed to allow staff to work on paperwork backlog, thereby helping to move cases along within the court system. It is a delicate balance to keep backlogs under control and provide access to our court users. However, by keeping paperwork moving, cases get on calendar earlier and in the long run provides the public access to the court.

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

If the Court does not receive additional and ongoing funding in FY 14/15 the telephone hours will be reduced further because we will be forced to maintain vacant positions – fewer bodies means backlogs will increase. At the very least, the current reduced telephone hours will continue throughout FY 14/15.

___ **We maintained, increased or restored court clerk hours.**

- Please explain what kinds of **court clerk duties** were maintained, increased or restored.

Courtroom clerk duties have been maintained. However, because of our current 26% vacancy rate we have been barely able to cover courtrooms.

- Please explain how the restoration of **court clerk hours** maintained or increased public access to justice.

Court clerk hours were maintained. However, because of our current 26% vacancy rate we have been barely able to cover courtrooms.

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

Without additional and ongoing 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 be restored depending on the amount of money and whether or not it is one time or ongoing.

___ We devoted resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.

- Please explain the areas of backlog that were addressed.

Criminal – copy work, background checks, JUS 8715, filing loose documents and probation warrants.

Civil – writs, opening new cases, filing loose documents, 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 – Family Law 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 achieving access to justice.

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog maintained or increased public access to justice.

Cases have been processed timely and within the statutory timelines, and therefore proving access to justice, but more importantly, building 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) and which are 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 and ongoing money in FY 14/15, then services, hours, and access would potentially increase depending on the amount of money and whether or not it is ongoing.

___ We suspended/avoided employee furloughs.

- Please explain how this action allowed 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 in public access. Staff had to take 96 hours of mandatory furlough over the past few years which equates to a 4.62% pay decrease. Although there was relief in this area, we still had to maintain a 26% vacancy rate to reach our goal of a balanced budget.

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

We do not anticipate implementing mandatory furlough in FY 14/15.

— We maintained, increased or restored services in our self-help center.

- Please explain the details of maintaining, increasing or restoring self-help center services.

The money helped 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. Staff was 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. However, we are still put in the undesirable position of turning away 250-350 customers per week.

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

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 number of people we are able to serve. The additional money prevented us from having to further reduce public hours in the self-help center. By maintaining current reduced office hour's paperwork at least some of our customers are able to receive assistance completing their paperwork. This assistance helps avoid 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. Unfortunately we still have to turn away more than 250-350 customers per week.

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

Without additional money in FY 14/15, all of the services listed above will continue at the reduced level. If the court receives additional and ongoing money in FY 14/15, then services, hours, and access would potentially increase depending on the amount of money and whether or not it is one time or ongoing.

___ **We maintained, increased or restored court reporting services.**

- Please explain how increased court reporting services maintained or increased public access to justice.

We have maintained our current court reporter 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 any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

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

___ **We maintained, increased or restored specialty court(s).**

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

Maintained current specialty courts at the current level including:

1. *Domestic Violence*
2. *Drug Court*
3. *Behavioral (Mental) Health*
4. *Elder Abuse*
5. *Juvenile Youth/Drug Court*
6. *Family Dependency Treatment Court*

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services maintained or increased 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 some of our most vulnerable court users. Any reduction or elimination of these specialty courts would affect the people we serve and our community. These courts help needy participants find necessary services such as programs, employment, and counseling.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are 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 your court restored, maintained, or increased public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

With our share of the \$60 million our goal was to balance our budget, and NOT cut further staffing or services to the court users of Fresno County. With the additional \$1.5 million dollars we were able to reach our goal of a balanced budget for FY 13/14. We have hopefully positioned our court to be successful as we move into the FY 14/15.

- Explain the impact of the WAFM calculation and your court's net allocation on your court's ability to maintain, increase or restore access to justice.

Since Fresno is an under resourced court, in FY 13/14 we received a small increase in the percentage of the WAFM allocation. This starts us on the right path to rebuilding our staffing rate and hopefully restoring services in an effort to provide adequate access to justice for the public.

- 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 FTE (salary and benefits) court positions. With our fund balance being swept, we will not be able to operate at any deficit in FY 14/15 and beyond.

Additionally, the funding of increased benefits costs 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 which we are not in control of.

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 \$510,000. Since the courts do not receive their monthly allocation until the middle of the month, one can see that if there is a payroll before the middle of the month, the court will not have sufficient cash on hand 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. Lastly, limiting the court to a 1% reserve severely restricts our ability to plan for one-time expenditures and/or emergency items.

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

We are currently working within a balanced budget and waiting to see the effect of future court funding - be it increased funding, one-time funding, or ongoing funding. We are in a holding pattern and until there is certainty regarding funding, we face a number of unknown risks such as unfunded increased benefit costs and COLA's for court employees.

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

Revenues - \$57,300,000

Expenditures - \$56,305,000

Assumption is made that Fresno receives \$2.5 million from the \$100 million.

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FOLLOW-UP REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

Superior Court of California,

County of GLENN

FY 2013-14

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

Net Allocation After WAFM: \$49,328 (no change)

There are a number of ways to have used your share of the \$60 million budget augmentation 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, MARCH 27TH.

___ We avoided (or limited) previously planned staffing reductions.

- Please explain how many positions you avoided reducing.

N/A

- Please describe the kinds of positions you avoided reducing.

N/A

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

Glenn Superior Court purchased (through the RFP process) a VOIP Shortel phone system. The system allows clerks to monitor calls from their PC. Eight calls can come in at once and all clerks will be able to see which calls were first in que and answer accordingly. Calls can be transferred from their PC. If a clerk is away from her desk the call automatically goes to voice mail. Voicemail is shown and can be listened to using their PC; with a click of their mouse they can return the call. The system is user friendly, and has many more features that assist the court in providing improved public access.

From an Administrative perspective all calls can be monitored. Administration can monitor the amount of outgoing calls, length of calls, long distance, as well as, incoming calls. The system has an excellent reporting module to assist in determining trends in public access both for Spanish and English callers.

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

Type your response here

___ **We avoided (or limited) previously planned courtroom closures.**

- Please explain what types of hearings have been 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 any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We avoided previously planned courthouse closures.**

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you were 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 any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We maintained, increased or restored public telephone hours.**

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We maintained, increased or restored court clerk hours.**

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

Type your response here

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We devoted resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.**

- Please explain the areas of backlog that were addressed.

Type your response here

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We suspended/avoided employee furloughs.**

- Please explain how this action allowed you to 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We maintained, increased or restored services in our self-help center.**

- Please explain the details of maintaining, increasing or restoring self-help center services.

Type your response here

- Please explain how the increase in self-help services maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We maintained, increased or restored court reporting services.**

- Please explain how increased court reporting services maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We maintained, increased or restored specialty court(s).**

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

Type your response here

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services maintained or increased 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) and which are 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 restored, maintained, or increased public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

Type your response here

- Explain the impact of the WAFM calculation and your court's net allocation on your court's ability to maintain, increase or restore access to justice.

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) and which are 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 FOLLOW-UP SURVEY. SUBMIT THIS COMPLETED FORM TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov ON OR BEFORE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, MARCH 27TH. PLEASE CALL ANDI AT 916-323-3121 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

FOLLOW-UP REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

Superior Court of California,

County of HUMBOLDT

FY 2013-14

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

Net Allocation After WAFM: \$ 56,322

There are a number of ways to have used your share of the \$60 million budget augmentation 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, MARCH 27TH.

___ We avoided (or limited) previously planned staffing reductions.

- Please explain how many positions you avoided reducing.

Type your response here

- Please describe the kinds of positions you avoided reducing.

Type your response here

- Please explain how this action allowed 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ We avoided (or limited) previously planned courtroom closures.

- Please explain what types of hearings have been 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 any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

 We avoided previously planned courthouse closures.

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you were 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 any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

 √ **We maintained, increased or restored public telephone hours.**

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours maintained or increased public access to justice.

In November 2010 the Court had to reduce hours of operation to the public by two hours every day. Even though the Court is still running a deficit, since we were compelled to use the “access to justice” money for a specific purpose, we restored these two hours in February 2014 to increase access for the public.

Note: Hours were reduced from 9 am – 4 pm to 9 am – 2 pm. The hours of operation have been restored to 4 pm.

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

If funding remains the same as this year, we are facing a FY 14-15 budget deficit of approximately \$1,000,000 or approximately more than 15% of our total revenues. Again, the additional net funding of \$56,322 is minimal compared to the ongoing reduction of \$899,000 for Humboldt Superior Court. Unless the Governor and Legislature restore funding, or eliminate ongoing reductions to the judicial branch, this court will most definitely have to reduce hours of operation by two hours, or possibly more than two hours, in FY 14-15.

 √ **We maintained, increased or restored court clerk hours.**

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

In addition to restoring hours of operation for the public the Court worked with our union partners to increase the work hours of most of our represented employees. Most of

the represented employees were working 37.5 hours per week (not as a result of the fiscal crisis; this had been in place for many years in Humboldt Superior Court). The hours were expanded to 40 hours per week at a total increased cost of \$166,210 annually. Adding 2.5 hours to the majority of the represented employees work day (excluding court reporters who always had a 40 hour per week schedule) has increased our ability to restore hours of operation and process more case work.

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours maintained or increased public access to justice.

Expanding hours of operation to the public increases the public's ability to access the Court.

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

All current actions are temporary until the Governor and Legislature restore all funding, or eliminate ongoing reductions, to the judicial branch. Again, this court is still deficit spending in spite of the "access to justice" funding. In fact, spending this money may actually hurt the Court more in FY 14-15 because we (as others) had to use this money for specific purposes with no regard to the ongoing reduction of \$899,000. The only alternatives going forward are to implement another reduction to hours of operation and staff layoffs.

√ **We devoted resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.**

- Please explain the areas of backlog that were addressed.

Expanding represented employees hours has enabled the Court to reduce the backlog in the Traffic and Criminal Divisions.

Please explain how decreasing the backlog maintained or increased public access to justice.

The significant area of backlog was dispositions. By reducing this backlog the public benefits because their case information is being updated in a timely manner. This is important when there are DMV holds on drivers licenses, active warrants, etc.

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

All actions are temporary until the Governor and Legislature restore funding, or eliminate ongoing reductions, to the judicial branch.

 We suspended/avoided employee furloughs.

- Please explain how this action allowed you to 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We maintained, increased or restored services in our self-help center.**

- Please explain the details of maintaining, increasing or restoring self-help center services.

Type your response here

- Please explain how the increase in self-help services maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We maintained, increased or restored court reporting services.**

- Please explain how increased court reporting services maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We maintained, increased or restored specialty court(s).**

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

Type your response here

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services maintained or increased 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) and which are 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 restored, maintained, or increased public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

Expenditures for “access to justice” far exceeded the net revenue of \$56,322. And, this places the Court in a much more financially uncertain place in FY 14-15 than where we started in FY 13-14.

- Explain the impact of the WAFM calculation and your court’s net allocation on your court’s ability to maintain, increase or restore access to justice.

The Court supports the WAFM model but we are not as underfunded as other courts so we end up being a “donor” court. Before WAFM, our “access to justice” allocation was \$174,587 and after WAFM it is \$56,322. The ongoing reduction, which became fully effective in FY 13-14 is \$899,000. In some ways, the “access to justice” funding didn’t help this court. It forced us to spend money we didn’t have, and now, we might have to turn around in FY 14-15 and reduce services again and possibly implement layoffs. Please note, we have not had to layoff employees or implement mandatory furloughs since the beginning of the fiscal crisis. So, it is very discouraging that now we may have to.

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

The Court is still deficit spending and may be in a worse position in FY 14-15 as a result of being forced to spend new money in a manner which is not consistent with our long term financial plan.

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

All actions are temporary until the Governor and Legislature restore funding, or eliminates the ongoing reductions, to the judicial branch.

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

*Estimated Total Revenue = \$6,803,205
Estimated Total Expenses = \$7,835,069*

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AS WE PREPARE THIS FOLLOW-UP SURVEY. SUBMIT THIS COMPLETED FORM TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov ON OR BEFORE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, MARCH 27TH. PLEASE CALL ANDI AT 916-323-3121 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

FOLLOW-UP REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

Superior Court of California,

County of IMPERIAL

FY 2013-14

Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$282,675

Net Allocation After WAFM: \$348,882

There are a number of ways to have used your share of the \$60 million budget augmentation 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, MARCH 27TH.

___ **We avoided (or limited) previously planned staffing reductions.**

- Please explain how many positions you avoided reducing.

Through a combination of the new funding and closing three locations, we were able to re-hire ten positions.

- Please describe the kinds of positions you avoided reducing.

Clerical positions that provide direct public services and document processing to include accepting filings, calendaring cases, reporting outcomes to DMV and DOJ, creating the fine/fees owed, processing and monitoring warrants, completion of minutes, and filing.

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

This action allowed 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) and which are 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 avoided (or limited) previously planned courtroom closures.**

- Please explain what types of hearings have been maintained.

Imperial did not reduce any hearings.

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

Not applicable

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year. *Not applicable*

___ **We avoided previously planned courthouse closures.**

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

We did not re-open closed courthouses. It was not efficient to maintain the three, single courtroom locations that were closed. The courthouses that were closed were all within 13 miles of the main courthouse.

- Please explain the impact on the public by keeping open this/these courthouse(s). *Not applicable*
- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year. *Not applicable*

___ **We maintained, increased or restored public telephone hours.**

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours maintained or increased public access to justice.

The additional funding has allowed us to increase staff in the Phone center, which has shortened the waiting time and has resulted in improved customer service. Staffing levels were as low as 6 staff and have been increased to 9 staff.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are 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 maintained, increased or restored court clerk hours.**

- Please explain what kinds of court clerk duties were maintained, increased or restored.
Imperial has maintained the three-day schedule implemented 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.

Additionally, we were able to restore the prior budget reduced classification to 5 staff.

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours maintained or increased public access to justice.

We were able to restore the prior budget reduced classification to 5 staff allowing us to retain trained staff for higher level work. The majority of these staff were returned to work in the courtroom and process minute orders, schedule future court dates, report findings to DMV and DOJ, provide notice to parties, process and maintain warrants and ensure the court file is complete. This will allow the Court to improve backlogs.

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

It is likely that we will continue with these actions beyond the current fiscal year as the service level provided matches the public service need.

— **We devoted resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.**

- Please explain the areas of backlog that were addressed.

The Court addressed file completion for all case types. Resources were dedicated to 1) complete cases and report dispositions on a timely basis and 2) process and report cases where the party did not comply on a timely basis, 3) audit and review cases that were not complete, 4) calendar cases for due (completion) process, and 5) address pending items.

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog maintained or increased 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. These positions 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) and which are 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 suspended/avoided employee furloughs.**

- Please explain how this action allowed 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 any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year. *Not Applicable*

___ **We maintained, increased or restored services in our self-help center.**

- Please explain the details of maintaining, increasing or restoring self-help center services.

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

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

Because of the staff reduction, we had days when the Access Center was closed for public service as the self-help staff were serving the family courtroom. The additional funding 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) and which are 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 maintained, increased or restored court reporting services.**

- Please explain how increased court reporting services maintained or increased public access to justice.

The Court will maintain reporting the proceedings that are required by law.

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

It is likely that the Court will maintain the current level of service beyond the fiscal year.

___ We maintained, increased or restored specialty court(s).

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

Imperial does not have specialty courts.

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services maintained or increased 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) and which are 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 your court restored, maintained, or increased public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

Of all the measures the court took to increase public access to justice, augmenting staff was the most vital measure. The Court also made the following technology improvements 1) updated its website design to provide the public more accurate and timely calendar information, 2) invested in an electronic records retention system that provides more timely access to saved records, 3) implemented a major server replacement and upgrade to the technology infrastructure, and 4) updated the fiber optic communication system.

- Explain the impact of the WAFM calculation and your court's net allocation on your court's ability to maintain, increase or restore access to justice.

Imperial received a positive WAFM adjustment that is allowing the court to invest in staff and technology. The net positive allocation resulted in improved workflows that improve customer service. The court still has considerable backlog and is not able to complete work in a timely manner. Further, the tension caused by inadequate staffing increase the re-work that must be done. Justice requires that we complete the work timely and accurately. Additional funding restoration is needed to continue to provide the required case processing services for the public and the Court.

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

Imperial continues to look to technology to provide additional service to the customer. Technology improvements rely upon the public's access to the internet, and their ability to digest the information or processes provided. Technology improvements help a portion of the

population, but not the entire population. The Court will continue to use funding to make these types of improvements.

Technology also provides methods for the Court to streamline processes. This work takes project management resources that are currently allocated to the challenge of backlogs and customer service (without needed staff). Additional augmentation is needed to meet these challenges and to make additional improvements.

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

Actions to improve customer service are dependent upon continued funding to maintain staff levels. We expect the closure of three single courtroom courthouses to be permanent as they were not efficient to manage. We would like to report that actions listed above are 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)?

Based on receiving a \$100M augmentation to the trial courts, we expect revenues to be \$11,790,000. The Court will use reserves for contracts that will be completed in 2014/15 and 2015/16. Expenses will be managed to stay within budget restraints.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AS WE PREPARE THIS FOLLOW-UP SURVEY. SUBMIT THIS COMPLETED FORM TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov ON OR BEFORE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, MARCH 27TH. PLEASE CALL ANDI AT 916-323-3121 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

FOLLOW-UP REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

Superior Court of California,

County of INYO

FY 2013-14

Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$50,201

Net Allocation After WAFM: \$50,201 (no change)

There are a number of ways to have used your share of the \$60 million budget augmentation 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, MARCH 27TH.

___ We avoided (or limited) previously planned staffing reductions.

- Please explain how many positions you avoided reducing.

Type your response here

- Please describe the kinds of positions you avoided reducing.

Type your response here

- Please explain how this action allowed 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ We avoided (or limited) previously planned courtroom closures.

- Please explain what types of hearings have been 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 any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We avoided previously planned courthouse closures.**

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you were 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 any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We maintained, increased or restored public telephone hours.**

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We maintained, increased or restored court clerk hours.**

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

Type your response here

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

X **We devoted resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.**

- Please explain the areas of backlog that were 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 expanse County in California, we receive numerous traffic tickets, especially since the Highway 395 corridor runs North/South through our County.

With 5.75 unfilled staff positions at present- and with 4.75 being clerk/clerical- the backlog that we were facing for entering tickets and citations were overwhelming. Previously, we had a .75 clerical staff position that 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. Before the additional reinvestment funding and the ability to maintain a temporary clerk to help with tickets/citations, we were looking at the 2-4 day backlog of ticket entry to become closer to 2-4 weeks before entry could occur. This was because Court Clerk staff was down 28% in staffing, while workload and calendars remaining constant- if not more busy.

With the \$50,201 of additional reinvestment funding, we were able to hire a temporary 25-hour-a-week Office Assistant to assist the clerks in the citation and data entry so that courtesy notices could be sent out to court users in a more timely manner, which has remained consistently at a rate of 2-4 days after receipt by the Superior Court of California, County of Inyo. This limited term position will last until June 30, 2014, when the position will be terminated unless additional reinvestment funding is granted to us again. Unfortunately, the loss of this position means that the backlog of entering tickets/citations will occur again as of July 1, 2014, unless the funding is somehow continued.

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog maintained or increased 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 decreased to a manageable 2-4 days from the date of receipt of the ticket by the Court. This allowed us to be able to competently and effectively answer questions of Court users 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

The Court must terminate the Temporary Office Clerk who enters tickets/citations on June 30, 2014. Her position has solely been funded with reinvestment monies. Without additional funding, this position cannot continue. 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 suspended/avoided employee furloughs.

- Please explain how this action allowed you to 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

 X **We maintained, increased or restored services in our self-help center.**

- Please explain the details of maintaining, increasing or restoring self-help center services.

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 a portion of the \$50,201 reinvestment money (with the remainder being spent on a part-time traffic/citation entry clerk), we were able to keep this underfunded grant program whole through June 30, 2014.

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 by a minimum of \$25,612.66.

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 we had to reduce the program because the reinvestment money was not available to us in future years.

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

By using the reinvestment funds to keep the self-help services whole, Inyo County's Self-Help Services were maintained at the level that they had been at the past (one attorney and one clerical staff person), and there were no reduction or additions to the program. The reinvest money allowed us to keep the self-help center at status quo through June 30, 2014. 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.

The self-help center/family law facilitator assists 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 and Proceedings. 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

With the \$50,201 reinvestment money, the Superior Court of California, County of Inyo funded (1) a part-time ticket/citation entry clerk and (2) the deficit of \$25,612.66 that the Self-Help Center needs to minimally operate, but which has historically come out of the Court's baseline funding. The reinvestment money allowed us to keep the self-help center at status quo without impacting the community through June 30, 2014. However, 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 and the Court does not have an extra \$25,612.66 in baseline to fund the monies that they need to keep their doors open after their self-help grant is expended.

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 maintained, increased or restored court reporting services.**

- Please explain how increased court reporting services maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We maintained, increased or restored specialty court(s).**

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

Type your response here

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services maintained or increased 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) and which are 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 restored, maintained, or increased public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

With the \$50,201 reinvestment money, the Superior Court of California, County of Inyo funded (1) a part-time ticket/citation entry clerk and (2) the deficit of \$25,612.66 that the Self-Help Center needs to minimally operate, but which has historically come out of the Court's baseline funding. These two items took the entire \$50,201 in reinvestment monies. The ways that these two expenditures increased public access to justice have been described, above.

- Explain the impact of the WAFM calculation and your court's net allocation on your court's ability to maintain, increase or restore access to justice.

As a small Cluster 1 Court, the net allocation and original WAFM number was the same as the Budget Working Group voted to not impact small courts in year 1. Therefore, there was no impact of the WAFM adjustment to our Court.

- 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) and which are 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 FOLLOW-UP SURVEY. SUBMIT THIS COMPLETED FORM TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov ON OR BEFORE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, MARCH 27TH. PLEASE CALL ANDI AT 916-323-3121 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

FOLLOW-UP REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

Superior Court of California,

County of KERN

FY 2013-14

Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$1,597,067

Net Allocation After WAFM: \$2,935,905

There are a number of ways to have used your share of the \$60 million budget augmentation 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, MARCH 27TH.

___ We avoided (or limited) previously planned staffing reductions.

- Please explain how many positions you avoided reducing.

Position Reduction Avoided: The Superior Court, County of Kern, anticipated that the 2013-2014 fiscal problems would require the increase of vacancy rates, unfilled and deleted position divided by total authorized positions, to an estimated 26% to 30%. The Court, utilizing the access funding portion of the \$60 Million allocated to Kern, has since filled 19 total positions. These positions effectively reduced overall vacant positions to 72, coupled with 44 deleted positions due to budget shortfalls, for a total current vacancy rate of 23% from the 2008-2009 authorized positions.

- Please describe the kinds of positions you avoided reducing.

Positions Retained: The Court was able to hire the following positions:

- Legal Research Attorney (1): Needed for fast-track civil support;*
- Court Reporter (1): Utilized to maintain reporting services for abandonments, contempt and adoptions in Family Law;*
- Legal Assistants (2): Needed to restore services in the Family Law and Self Help Services;*
- Court Services Specialists (15): Operations staffing allowing for modest restoration in service hours for all departments.*

- Please explain how this action allowed you to maintain or increase public access to justice in applicable divisions of your court or courthouse(s).
 - Fast Track Civil Unlimited Court: The addition of the Legal Research Attorney enabled the court to maintain three (3) fast track courtrooms which stopped the growing time to disposition for these cases which had begun to exceed the historical 18 to 24 months;*
 - Court Reporting (Family Law): The Court previously terminated court provided reporting services in Civil and Family Law. The court reestablished court reporting services for the following key areas in Family Law: abandonments, adoptions and contempt matters;*

- c) *Legal Assistant: An additional Legal Assistant was allocated to the Family Law Facilitator that helped reduce the wait times for litigants needing FLF Services and reduce backlogs in email requests for information;*
- d) *Court Services Specialists: The Court will increase operating hours for all court locations from 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM Monday thru Thursday effective April 7, 2014.*

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

As the cost of labor and other operating expenses increase in future years due to inflationary pressures, the Court's lack of SAL (State Appropriations Limits) or specific funding for the Court's increased cost for pension and health care liabilities (as accrues to other Branches of California State Government) will make it difficult to maintain the access improvements realized with the Kern Superior Court share of the \$60 Million access allocation.

___ **We avoided (or limited) previously planned courtroom closures.**

- Please explain what types of hearings have been maintained.

The Court was able to restore the services of a third, fast-track civil courtroom. This courtroom hears unlimited civil matters including med-mal, property and major injury cases. The elimination of the third fast-track court due to budget reductions had resulted in the immediate delay of filing-to-disposition rates that were climbing to well over two years. With return of the third fast-track courtroom, which still hears 10% to 15% criminal jury trials annually, the court will be able to maintain 24-month disposition rates in the majority of these cases.

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

Civil court cases are managed by the assigned judges using time standards and regular status conferences to ensure the parties are complying with statutory timeliness guidelines. Restoring the third fast-track courtroom ensured there were sufficient judicial and legal research resources to keep the cases on track for their timely resolution.

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

As the cost of labor and other operating expenses increase in future years due to inflationary pressures, the Court's lack of SAL (State Appropriations Limits) or specific funding for the Court's increased cost for pension and health care liabilities (as accrues to other Branches of California State Government) will make it difficult to maintain the access improvements realized with the Kern Superior Court share of the \$60 Million access allocation.

___ **We avoided previously planned courthouse closures.**

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

- a) Courthouses Closed: The Court was **not able** to restore services for the closed courtrooms/courthouses resulting from the cumulative years of budget reductions. As such, the Lake Isabella Regional Court Facility which included a single courtroom remains closed indefinitely. Additionally, the Taft Regional Court Facility remains closed except for one day per week.
- b) Service Hours: The Court reduced service hours to enable the remaining operational staff to ensure processing backlogs do not increase over current levels. Clerical counters and phone hours **will remain closed** on Monday - Thursday from 4:00 to 5:00 PM and Fridays from Noon to 5:00 PM.

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

- a) *Lake Isabella: Court users from this area must now commute for criminal matters to the Bakersfield court locations requiring approximately 42-mile, one-way commute. Civil and Family Law matters have been transferred to the Ridgecrest facility that is a 63-mile, one-way commute for court services.*
- b) *Taft: In-custody inmates are transported by the Sheriff from Taft to the Lamont Regional Court location, approximately 35 miles away. Out-of-custody litigants without transportation must catch a bus that goes through Bakersfield and then to Lamont. This is estimated to take approximately 1.5 to 2.0 hours due to connection requirements. The transfer of criminal cases to Lamont due to the closure of Taft has increased the failure-to-appear rates, warrants, and other problems for courts/court users to comply with court orders.*
- c) *Reduced Operating Hours: Court users have realized a loss of eight (8) hours, effectively a full business day, of cumulative service access due to the reduction in counter and phone hours at all court locations in Kern.*

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

As the cost of labor increases in future years due to inflationary pressures, the Court's lack of SAL (State Appropriations Limits) or specific funding for the Court's increased cost for pension and health care liabilities (as accrues to other Branches of California State Government) will make it difficult to maintain the access improvements realized with the Kern Superior Court share of the \$60 Million access allocation.

— **We maintained, increased or restored public telephone hours.**

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours maintained or increased public access to justice.

Telephone hours: Telephone hours at all court locations will be increased from 3:00 to 4:00 PM Monday through Thursday due to the addition of staffing in the Court's operational staff effective April 7, 2014.

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

As the cost of labor increases in future years due to inflationary pressures, the Court's lack of SAL (State Appropriations Limits) or specific funding for the Court's increased cost for pension and health care liabilities (as accrues to other Branches of California State Government) will make it difficult to maintain the access improvements realized with the Kern Superior Court share of the \$60 Million access allocation.

— We maintained, increased or restored court clerk hours.

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

Counter Hours: Service hours at all court locations will be increased from 3:00 to 4:00 PM Monday through Thursday due to the addition of staffing in the Court's operational staff effective April 7, 2014.

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours maintained or increased public access to justice.

The increased counter hours effectively improves access to clerical services by 4-hours per week or approximately a 10% increase in available service time. This enables litigants to file initial papers, responses, and other requirements necessary to transact court business and timely move their cases through the system.

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

As the cost of labor and operating expenses increase in future years due to inflationary pressures, the Court's lack of SAL (State Appropriations Limits) or specific funding for the Court's increased cost for pension and health care liabilities (as accrues to other Branches of California State Government) will make it difficult to maintain the access improvements realized with the Kern Superior Court share of the \$60 Million access allocation.

— We devoted resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.

- Please explain the areas of backlog that were addressed.

Backlogs: The Court hired 29 extra help staff to help operational/clerical units address increased backlogs in critical areas including: civil judgments, Family Law ex-parte matters, harassments, unlawful detainer removal orders, new suit setups (civil), motions, file backs, calendar preparation, cashiering, traffic citation data entry, writs and abstracts. The majority of these part-time, extra help positions will be terminated in June of 2014, as the costs for the full time personnel hired to address access issues are fully realized in 2014-2015.

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog maintained or increased public access to justice.

Delays in case processing due to staffing shortages have a lot of adverse impacts on access to court services. Backlogs impact the ability of the court user to anticipate the return of filed paper work, the timely scheduling of hearings, and the anticipated disposition of the cases.

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

As the cost of labor and other operating expenses increase in future years due to inflationary pressures, the Court's lack of SAL (State Appropriations Limits) or specific funding for the Court's increased cost for pension and health care liabilities (as accrues to other Branches of California State Government) will make it difficult to maintain the access improvements realized with the Kern Superior Court share of the \$60 Million access allocation.

— **We suspended/avoided employee furloughs.**

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

*Layoffs: It was anticipated that the court would have achieved its projected 26% to 30% vacancy rate via attrition or Voluntary Incentive Programs. If these programs were not successful in achieving necessary staffing reductions, involuntary layoffs may have been required. None of these **additional** force reductions were required due to Kern's share of the \$60 Million allocation and other WAFM allocations.*

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

As the cost of labor and other operating expenses increase in future years due to inflationary pressures, the Court's lack of SAL (State Appropriations Limits) or specific funding for the Court's increased cost for pension and health care liabilities (as accrues to other Branches of California State Government) will make it difficult to maintain the access improvements realized with the Kern Superior Court share of the \$60 Million access allocation.

— **We maintained, increased or restored services in our self-help center.**

- Please explain the details of maintaining, increasing or restoring self-help center services.

a) Self-Help Center Operations: The court did not utilize any of the \$60 Million in access funds for the Self-Help Center. The Court has utilized grant money for cooperatively establishing a Shriver Center with Greater Bakersfield Legal Assistance, Inc. to provide self-help service for court users facing housing and tenancy issues. The Court has also developed a working relationship with the Kern County Law Library to augment civil and guardianship self-help services to mitigate some of the budget related service impacts due to state budget reductions.

b) Family Law Facilitator (FLF): The addition of a legal assistant has enabled the FLF to forestall problems resulting from normal absences and other issues related to resources management. As such, additional staff has helped to ensure that an absence does not further

exacerbate existing access issues. However, the lack of FLF staff results in telephones going unanswered, mail and email response being delayed, long lines and wait times in excess of two hours during peak hours, reduction of FLF available hours in the regional courts, and other similar diminishment of the services available.

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

The increase in the percentage of court users that do not have benefit of counsel has been dramatic over the last fifteen years, particularly in Family Law. Lack of knowledge of the process, limited experience with the judicial system, and the inability to understand outcomes, frustrates pro-per litigants, delays cases, and increases the perception of unfairness. Self-help and FLF services help ensure these litigants understand the legal and case processing requirements of their cases helping to reduce continuances and other potential delays.

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

As the cost of labor and other operating expenses increase in future years due to inflationary pressures, the Court's lack of SAL (State Appropriations Limits) or specific funding for the Court's increased cost for pension and health care liabilities (as accrues to other Branches of California State Government) will make it difficult to maintain the access improvements realized with the Kern Superior Court share of the \$60 Million access allocation.

___ We maintained, increased or restored court reporting services.

- Please explain how increased court reporting services maintained or increased public access to justice.

Court Reporting Services: Court provided reporting services were terminated in June 2013 for Unlimited Civil and Family Law cases in the Metro Division. The Court restored services for Family Law abandonments, contempt and adoption cases with the filling of one court reporter vacancy.

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

As the cost of labor and other operating expenses increase in future years due to inflationary pressures, the Court's lack of SAL (State Appropriations Limits) or specific funding for the Court's increased cost for pension and health care liabilities (as accrues to other Branches of California State Government) will make it difficult to maintain the access improvements realized with the Kern Superior Court share of the \$60 Million access allocation.

___ We maintained, increased or restored specialty court(s).

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

Specialty Courts: The court was unable to increase or restore any Specialty Courts with the \$60 million allocation. As such, a Veteran's Court and Homeless Court are maintained on a part-time basis with a minimum of funding and volunteer help. The addition of a Mental Health Court/Calendar is under consideration but is stymied due to funding requirements. The Prop 36/Drug Court remains intact, albeit with a significantly reduced effectiveness due to budget cuts. Reductions in Prop 36 funding have adversely impacted the probationer's access to drug abuse treatment programs, health services, and mental health treatment needed to address the problems that resulted in their arrests. Further, the courts ability to monitor progress and successful compliance with court orders has been severely curtailed. The degree of funding reductions has impacted the effectiveness of the Prop 36 Court and its ability to minimize recidivism due to drug or other substance abuse.

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services maintained or increased public access to justice.

The lack of specialty courts minimizes the ability of the courts to facilitate the delivery of necessary services that address the underlying symptoms that cause defendants to reoffend and return to the justice system. These symptoms include mental health problems, homelessness, drug and other substance abuse, and other factors like the lack of job search skills.

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

As the cost of labor and other operating expenses increase in future years due to inflationary pressures, the Court's lack of SAL (State Appropriations Limits) or specific funding for the Court's increased cost for pension and health care liabilities (as accrues to other Branches of California State Government) will make it difficult to maintain the access improvements realized with the Kern Superior Court share of the \$60 Million access allocation.

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

- Explain any other ways your court restored, maintained, or increased public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

Not applicable.

- Explain the impact of the WAFM calculation and your court's net allocation on your court's ability to maintain, increase or restore access to justice.

Not Applicable.

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

Not Applicable.

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

As the cost of labor and other operating expenses increase in future years due to inflationary pressures, the Court's lack of SAL (State Appropriations Limits) or specific funding for the Court's increased cost for pension and health care liabilities (as accrues to other Branches of California State Government) will make it difficult to maintain the access improvements realized with the Kern Superior Court share of the \$60 Million access allocation.

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

| Kern Superior Court | Estimated 2014-2015 |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Baseline | \$29,574,341 |
| Baseline Adjustments | \$4,031,209 |
| Local and Other Revenues | \$16,824,379 |
| Holdback -- 2% | -\$766,302 |
| Total Revenues | \$49,663,627 |
| Salaries | \$22,388,660 |
| Health Care Costs | \$5,789,183 |
| Pension | \$10,370,494 |
| Other Personnel Costs | \$2,833,955 |
| Subtotal Salary and Benefits | \$41,382,292 |
| Operating Expenses | \$7,920,574 |
| Information Technology Expenses | \$1,080,213 |
| Jury Costs | \$463,964 |
| Subtotal Operational Expenses | \$9,464,751 |
| Total Expenses | \$50,847,043 |
| Net Revenue - Expenses | -\$1,183,416 |

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FOLLOW-UP REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

Superior Court of California,

County of KINGS

FY 2013-14

Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$215,869

Net Allocation After WAFM: \$272,294

There are a number of ways to have used your share of the \$60 million budget augmentation 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, MARCH 27TH.

YES - We avoided (or limited) previously planned staffing reductions.

- Please explain how many positions you avoided reducing.

With our share of the \$60M budget augmentation in FY 2013-14, we were able to avoid any additional reductions in staffing.

- Please describe the kinds of positions you avoided reducing.

2 FTE from management/supervisory positions were retained.

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

The Court was able to maintain its level of service to the public in each of its divisions and courthouse(s) without any further degradation.

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

All actions taken in FY 2013-14 are considered temporary and none are confirmed to extend beyond this fiscal year. Any actions taken 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 avoided (or limited) previously planned courtroom closures.

- Please explain what types of hearings have been 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.

N/A

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

N/A

YES - We avoided previously planned courthouse closures.

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

We had evaluated and planned for the possible closure of the Avenal Courthouse in FY 2013-14 if we did not receive any additional funding.

The Court continued to maintain operations in the Avenal Courthouse at its current service level for FY 2013-14. The Court will continue to monitor the financial impact of operating this facility. Without funding restoration, 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 appearance in Hanford. If we were to close this facility, we would not be able to provide immediate services to over 7000 individuals in that area. This area has received over \$600,000 in revenues from criminal/misdemeanor and traffic violations. The courthouse is available to those individuals who travel and speed on Interstate 5 and cited by the California Highway Patrol, the Avenal Police and the Kings County Sheriff.

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

All actions taken in FY 2013-14 are considered temporary and none are confirmed to extend beyond this fiscal year. Any actions taken in FY 2014-15 will be determined by future funding restoration and whether the 1% limitation on future fund balances is eased.

YES - We maintained, increased or restored public telephone hours.

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours maintained or increased public access to justice.

The funding received precluded further reductions in this service level component.

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

All actions taken in FY 2013-14 are considered temporary and none are confirmed to extend beyond this fiscal year. Any actions taken in FY 2014-15 will be determined by future funding restoration and whether the 1% limitation on future fund balances is eased.

YES - We maintained, increased or restored court clerk hours.

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

The Court maintained its current operational hours for front counter functions and back-end case processing due to the augmentation received.

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours maintained or increased public access to justice.

N/A as lobby hours for the front counter and lobbies have not been restored to full-day status.

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

All actions taken in FY 2013-14 are considered temporary and none are confirmed to extend beyond this fiscal year. Any actions taken in FY 2014-15 will be determined by future funding restoration and whether the 1% limitation on future fund balances is eased.

YES - We devoted resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.

- Please explain the areas of backlog that were addressed.

In FY 2013-14 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 were more readily available to staff public windows and to work on decreasing the mounting backlog in case processing.

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

All actions taken in FY 2013-14 are considered temporary and none are confirmed to extend beyond this fiscal year. Any actions taken in FY 2014-15 will be determined by future funding restoration and whether the 1% limitation on future fund balances is eased.

NO - We suspended/avoided employee furloughs.

- Please explain how this action allowed 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 any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

All actions taken in FY 2013-14 are considered temporary and none are confirmed to extend beyond this fiscal year. Any actions taken 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 maintained, increased or restored services in our self-help center.

- Please explain the details of maintaining, increasing or restoring self-help center services.

N/A – The Court maintained its services in FY 2013-14.

- Please explain how the increase in self-help services maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here – N/A

N/A - We maintained, increased or restored court-reporting services.

- Please explain how increased court reporting services maintained or increased public access to justice.

N/A – Court reporting services are contracted and there was no reduction in service levels.

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

Type your response here

N/A - We maintained, increased or restored specialty court(s).

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

Type your response here – N/A

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services maintained or increased 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) and which are 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 your court restored, maintained, or increased 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 \$60M, as identified herein.

- Explain the impact of the WAFM calculation and your court's net allocation on your court's ability to maintain, increase or restore access to justice.

The additional funding received as a result of the WAFM played a significant role in the decision to retain an FTE.

- 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 \$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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

All actions taken in FY 2013-14 are considered temporary and none are confirmed to extend beyond this fiscal year. Any actions taken 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)?

Assuming funding from the \$60M augmentation received in FY 2013-14 will continue, it is projected that Kings revenue for FY 2014-15 will be approximately \$8.43M, while projected

expenditures will be \$9.M. Allowing for a maximum 1% fund balance carried forward from FY 2013-14 will still result in a structural deficit of (\$556,263).

The Court will continue to monitor the financial impact of operating the Avenal courthouse. Without additional funding, the Court may still be forced to close this facility and consolidate operations in Hanford in FY 2014-15.

In the past 5 years, Kings has taken drastic measures to balance the budget by imposing an average of 16 mandatory furlough days per year. Through layoffs and unfilled vacancies, we have experienced a 19% reduction in the workforce. The impact of the furlough days and staffing reduction has taken its toll on the employees and the public's access to justice. It is important to note that should there be no funding restoration to the Trial Court Trust Fund, Kings, as a last resort, will again be faced with the imposition of up to 21 furlough days and an unknown number of layoffs, yielding a salary and benefit savings estimated at (\$403,000). We have reached a critical point in our staffing levels and are now utilizing volunteers, Job Training placements, adult school interns and contract (CTSI and GC Services) individuals to perform court clerk responsibilities. Despite these creative staffing measures and other severe cost savings measures in past years, Kings Superior Court still anticipates a deficit of (\$153,263) by FY 2014-15 year-end.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AS WE PREPARE THIS FOLLOW-UP SURVEY. SUBMIT THIS COMPLETED FORM TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov ON OR BEFORE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, MARCH 27TH. PLEASE CALL ANDI AT 916-323-3121 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

FOLLOW-UP REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

Superior Court of California,

County of LAKE

FY 2013-14

Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$89,607

Net Allocation After WAFM: (\$18,682)

There are a number of ways to have used your share of the \$60 million budget augmentation 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, MARCH 27TH.

___ We avoided (or limited) previously planned staffing reductions.

- Please explain how many positions you avoided reducing.

Type your response here

- Please describe the kinds of positions you avoided reducing.

Type your response here

- Please explain how this action allowed 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ We avoided (or limited) previously planned courtroom closures.

- Please explain what types of hearings have been 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 any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

 We avoided previously planned courthouse closures.

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you were 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 any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

 X **We maintained, increased or restored public telephone hours.**

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours maintained or increased public access to justice.

See response below.

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

Type your response here

 X **We maintained, increased or restored court clerk hours.**

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

In Fiscal Year 13/14 the Lake Superior Court was able to eliminate 16 court closure days.

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours maintained or increased public access to justice.

Eliminating the 16 closure days allowed 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

As a result of the shift to the new WAFM funding model, the court actually saw a reduction in the total base allocation for FY2013/14 despite the new \$60 million. The court used reserves (fund balance) to cover the cost of eliminating the 16 court closures. As you know, reserves are one-time funds. Therefore, without significant funding restoration to the branch (above the \$100 million in the Governor's budget), it is extremely likely that these closures and/or other cost saving measures that will directly impact the public's access to justice, will be implemented in FY2014/15.

___ **We devoted resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.**

- Please explain the areas of backlog that were addressed.

Type your response here

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

X **We suspended/avoided employee furloughs.**

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

See responses above. The 16 court closure days were employee furlough days.

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

See responses above.

___ **We maintained, increased or restored services in our self-help center.**

- Please explain the details of maintaining, increasing or restoring self-help center services.

Type your response here

- Please explain how the increase in self-help services maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We maintained, increased or restored court reporting services.**

- Please explain how increased court reporting services maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We maintained, increased or restored specialty court(s).**

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

Type your response here

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services maintained or increased 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) and which are 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 restored, maintained, or increased public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

Type your response here

- Explain the impact of the WAFM calculation and your court's net allocation on your court's ability to maintain, increase or restore access to justice.

As mentioned above, as a result of the WAFM funding methodology Lake Superior Court lost \$18,682 in Fiscal Year 14/15 and will continue to lose money over the next 5 years as the historical base funding continues to shift to the WAFM funding method. Despite having reduced our overall expenditures by \$1.4 million (over 25%) and reduced our staffing levels by 30%, the Lake Superior Court is still facing a structural deficit of approximately, \$300,000. Without significant restoration over the Governor's budget, 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.

- 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

See response above. Without significant funding restoration, these actions are likely temporary.

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

Estimated revenues, based on the Governor's January budget, are \$3.6 million with expenditures estimated at \$4 million.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AS WE PREPARE THIS FOLLOW-UP SURVEY. SUBMIT THIS COMPLETED FORM TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov ON OR BEFORE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, MARCH 27TH. PLEASE CALL ANDI AT 916-323-3121 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

FOLLOW-UP REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

Superior Court of California,

County of LASSEN

FY 2013-14

Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$68,479

Net Allocation After WAFM: \$68,479 (no change)

There are a number of ways to have used your share of the \$60 million budget augmentation 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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___ We avoided (or limited) previously planned staffing reductions.

- Please explain how many positions you avoided reducing.

n/a

- Please describe the kinds of positions you avoided reducing.

n/a

- Please explain how this action allowed 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

n/a

___ We avoided (or limited) previously planned courtroom closures.

- Please explain what types of hearings have been 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 any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

n/a

___ **We avoided previously planned courthouse closures.**

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you were 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 any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

n/a

___ **We maintained, increased or restored public telephone hours.**

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours maintained or increased public access to justice.

The court has been able to avoid further reduction of telephone and filing window service hours during this fiscal year of 2013/14 allowing the public to file important documents related to their family law, probate, guardianship or other cases wherein immediate action is necessary. Additionally, telephone service was available for the public in our large rural county allowing litigants to receive valuable information over the telephone avoiding costly and potentially lengthy trips in inclement weather to the one courthouse location in our county.

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

Given the limitations imposed on court fund balances and reserves as well as the one-time funding and on-going budget reductions, it is unlikely that the court will be able to continue to keep the necessary and appropriate filing window public service and telephone hours available.

___ **We maintained, increased or restored court clerk hours.**

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

n/a

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

n/a

— **We devoted resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.**

- Please explain the areas of backlog that were addressed.

n/a

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

n/a

— **We suspended/avoided employee furloughs.**

- Please explain how this action allowed you to 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

n/a

— **We maintained, increased or restored services in our self-help center.**

- Please explain the details of maintaining, increasing or restoring self-help center services.

n/a

- Please explain how the increase in self-help services maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

n/a

___ **We maintained, increased or restored court reporting services.**

- Please explain how increased court reporting services maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

n/a

___ **We maintained, increased or restored specialty court(s).**

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

n/a

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services maintained or increased 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) and which are 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 your court restored, maintained, or increased public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

n/a

- Explain the impact of the WAFM calculation and your court's net allocation on your court's ability to maintain, increase or restore access to justice.

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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

n/a

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

Projected revenues \$2.6M

Projected expenditures \$2.6M

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AS WE PREPARE THIS FOLLOW-UP SURVEY. SUBMIT THIS COMPLETED FORM TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov ON OR BEFORE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, MARCH 27TH. PLEASE CALL ANDI AT 916-323-3121 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

FOLLOW-UP REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

Superior Court of California,

County of LOS ANGELES

FY 2013-14

Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$17,468,299

Net Allocation After WAFM: \$21,058,983

There are a number of ways to have used your share of the \$60 million budget augmentation 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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___ We avoided (or limited) previously planned staffing reductions.

- Please explain how many positions you avoided reducing.

Type your response here

- Please describe the kinds of positions you avoided reducing.

Type your response here

- Please explain how this action allowed 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ We avoided (or limited) previously planned courtroom closures.

- Please explain what types of hearings have been 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 any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We avoided previously planned courthouse closures.**

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you were 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 any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We maintained, increased or restored public telephone hours.**

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We maintained, increased or restored court clerk hours.**

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

Type your response here

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We devoted resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.**

- Please explain the areas of backlog that were addressed.

Type your response here

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

X We suspended/avoided employee furloughs.

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

Prior to passage of the Budget Act of 2013, the Los Angeles Superior Court (the "Court") achieved sustainable cost reductions totaling over \$159 million. These efforts, however, did not fully offset the impact of reduced state funding and unfunded local cost increases.

The Court's historical share of the \$60 million was \$17.5 million. Along with the Consolidation Plan, as discussed below, this incremental baseline funding allowed the Court to resolve the remainder of its annual operating shortfall and fully absorb both pending state funding reductions and local cost increases.

If that additional funding had not been provided, the Court would have been forced to implement between 12 - 17 furlough days beginning in July, 2013 while it sought permanent solutions to a continuing funding shortfall.

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

-

Type your response here

We maintained, increased or restored services in our self-help center.

- Please explain the details of maintaining, increasing or restoring self-help center services.
- Please explain how the increase in self-help services maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We maintained, increased or restored court reporting services.**

- Please explain how increased court reporting services maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We maintained, increased or restored specialty court(s).**

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

Type your response here

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services maintained or increased 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) and which are 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 restored, maintained, or increased public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

Last year, in response to the projected budgetary shortfall, the Court developed a blueprint, the Consolidation Plan, to achieve sustainable cost reductions while guided by certain principles, including meeting constitutional requirements and statutory obligations and maintaining access to justice in all case types. Under the Consolidation Plan, which was put into place as of June 30, 2013, specialized case-processing hubs were created to handle certain case types (e.g. small claims, unlawful detainers, personal injury, limited civil, and limited civil collection cases) at select courthouses throughout the county.

The \$17.5 million provided baseline funding that balanced the Court's budget and thus supported the Consolidation Plan; it also provided permanent support for some of the Consolidation Plan's key elements including: court-employed court reporters in family law and probate courts; clerical staff necessary to operate a second collections hub; and courtroom and clerical staff necessary to

operate the consolidated court locations. The Consolidation Plan resulted in over \$56 million in permanent savings. These sustainable savings could not have been achieved without the receipt of the additional funds.

The Court continues to reassess the assumptions underlying of Consolidation Plan and, where necessary, make adjustments to best meet the public's needs. Importantly, local bar associations support many aspects of the Consolidation Plan. Limited civil collection cases, for example, were divided between two courthouses in order to provide the greatest possible judicial and staff efficiencies. Recognizing the Court's limited resources, attorneys specializing in this type of litigation have recently expressed the view that the two collection hubs are successful and effective.

The funds provided under the Budget Act of 2013, along with the Court's internal reorganization and staff reductions, brought much needed stability to the Court. The Court has its first balanced budget in five years and, consequently, is now in the position to further evaluate and improve its business processes in order to continue to fulfill its obligation of access to justice.

- Explain the impact of the WAFM calculation and your court's net allocation on your court's ability to maintain, increase or restore access to justice.

The Judicial Council's implementation of the WAFM allocation formula provides an additional \$3.6 million for FY 2013-14. This funding, which is one-half of one per cent of the Court's budget, allowed the Court to add positions in crucial areas and otherwise stabilize the Consolidation Plan.

- 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) and which are 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 FOLLOW-UP SURVEY. SUBMIT THIS COMPLETED FORM TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov ON OR BEFORE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, MARCH 27TH. PLEASE CALL ANDI AT 916-323-3121 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

FOLLOW-UP REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

Superior Court of California,

County of MADERA

FY 2013-14

Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$239,028

Net Allocation After WAFM: \$205,243

There are a number of ways to have used your share of the \$60 million budget augmentation 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, MARCH 27TH.

___ We avoided (or limited) previously planned staffing reductions.

- Please explain how many positions you avoided reducing.

Type your response here

- Please describe the kinds of positions you avoided reducing.

Type your response here

- Please explain how this action allowed 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ We avoided (or limited) previously planned courtroom closures.

- Please explain what types of hearings have been 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 any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We avoided previously planned courthouse closures.**

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

We did not close our Sierra Courthouse which is located 50 miles from the City of Madera.

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

By not closing the Sierra Courthouse, the public has not had to drive the 50 miles to the City of Madera to seek justice.

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

With no reserves moving forward in 2014 – 2015, and no significant increase in funding, we will be forced to revisit closing the Sierra Courthouse. Our reserves will no longer be available to offset the large reductions imposed on the court.

___ **We maintained, increased or restored public telephone hours.**

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We maintained, increased or restored court clerk hours.**

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

Type your response here

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We devoted resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.**

- Please explain the areas of backlog that were addressed.

Type your response here

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We suspended/avoided employee furloughs.**

- Please explain how this action allowed you to 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We maintained, increased or restored services in our self-help center.**

- Please explain the details of maintaining, increasing or restoring self-help center services.

Type your response here

- Please explain how the increase in self-help services maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We maintained, increased or restored court reporting services.**

- Please explain how increased court reporting services maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ We maintained, increased or restored specialty court(s).

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

Type your response here

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services maintained or increased 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) and which are 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 restored, maintained, or increased public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

Type your response here

- Explain the impact of the WAFM calculation and your court's net allocation on your court's ability to maintain, increase or restore access to justice.

With the new WAFM and the revised WAFM allocation methodology, our court will continue to receive a smaller portion of the court-wide allocation. This is even with our court having been historically underfunded for years. Since we will receive a smaller portion, we will need to continue to reduce services provided to the public. As one of the smaller courts in the state, we have reduced expenditures to the lowest level possible. All that is left is to reduce services. Our staffing levels are reduced as far as they can be and still get the most time sensitive work completed with our backlog of work growing.

- 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

The ability to keep our Sierra Courthouse open through 2013-2014 is based largely on using reserves during this fiscal year. In 2014-2015 without reserves, we have to revisit keeping this courthouse open to the public.

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

Revenue = \$8,991,999

Expenditures = \$9,356,457

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AS WE PREPARE THIS FOLLOW-UP SURVEY. SUBMIT THIS COMPLETED FORM TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov ON OR BEFORE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, MARCH 27TH. PLEASE CALL ANDI AT 916-323-3121 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

FOLLOW-UP REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

Superior Court of California,

County of MARIN

FY 2013-14

Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$340,244

Net Allocation After WAFM: \$(400,098)

There are a number of ways to have used your share of the \$60 million budget augmentation 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, MARCH 27TH.

___ **We avoided (or limited) previously planned staffing reductions.**

- Please explain how many positions you avoided reducing.

None. The Court has already reduced staffing by nearly 30% and has only hired four entry level clerical positions since 2009. No recruitments for regular-hire, permanent staff 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 avoided reducing.

Type your response here

- Please explain how this action allowed 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We avoided (or limited) previously planned courtroom closures.**

- Please explain what types of hearings have been 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 were 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 any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We avoided previously planned courthouse closures.**

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you were 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 any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We maintained, increased or restored public telephone hours.**

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours maintained or increased public access to justice.

The Court reduced public 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 any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We maintained, increased or restored court clerk hours.**

- Please explain what kinds of court clerk duties were maintained, increased or restored.
- *The Court reduced the public 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 maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We devoted resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.**

- Please explain the areas of backlog that were addressed.

The Court has minimal backlogs, due to significant reengineering of case flow processes in the clerk's offices over the past several years.

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We suspended/avoided employee furloughs.**

- Please explain how this action allowed 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 any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We maintained, increased or restored services in our self-help center.**

- Please explain the details of maintaining, increasing or restoring self-help center services.

The Court 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 brought the staffing level to 4.5 FTEs and began 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 maintained or increased public access to justice.

This increase in staffing ensures that litigants with critical, often ‘safety-net’, filings can be done efficiently. Many of the litigants who 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) and which are 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 maintained, increased or restored court reporting services.**

- Please explain how increased court reporting services maintained or increased public access to

The Court does not plan to restore court reporting in non-mandated areas at this time.

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

Type your response here

___ **We maintained, increased or restored specialty court(s).**

- Please describe the specialty court(s) 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 they 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 maintained or increased 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) and which are 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 restored, maintained, or increased public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

There are no funds for additional measures to increase public access. Please see below.

- Explain the impact of the WAFM calculation and your court's net allocation on your court's ability to maintain, increase or restore access to justice.

The Court has a net funding loss of \$400,098 after 65% of its \$340,244 share of the \$60 million allocation (negative \$220,078) and 10% of historical funding (negative \$520,264) are factored in. Net new funding, before subtracting \$520,264 for reallocation of historical funding, is \$120,166. As a result, the Court continues to be challenged to address significantly diminished service levels resulting from five consecutive years of budget reduction. The Court is unable to embark on even moderate restoration of service levels, as very little of the inflow of restored funding to the court system 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.

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

The \$60 million augmentation, targeted at public access services, was critical to avoid further diminishment of services. However, under the new WAFM funding formula, this Court did not experience the level of funding/service restoration that was seen by a majority of the courts in California. The Court's share of the \$60 million was less than one-tenth of one percent of the Court's annual budget, so the funding, while critical in the self-help area, did not result in visible gains for the public in other areas of the Court.

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

The Court has attempted to take a strategic approach to operationalizing the new funding. Since the Court received only \$120,166, the amount of the new funding limits the Court's ability

to restore many public access services. While some of it was 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 only 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.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AS WE PREPARE THIS FOLLOW-UP SURVEY. SUBMIT THIS COMPLETED FORM TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov ON OR BEFORE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, MARCH 27TH. PLEASE CALL ANDI AT 916-323-3121 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

FOLLOW-UP REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

Superior Court of California,

County of MARIPOSA

FY 2013-14

Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$32,895

Net Allocation After WAFM: \$32,895 (no change)

There are a number of ways to have used your share of the \$60 million budget augmentation 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, MARCH 27TH.

___ We avoided (or limited) previously planned staffing reductions.

- Please explain how many positions you avoided reducing.

Type your response here

- Please describe the kinds of positions you avoided reducing.

Type your response here

- Please explain how this action allowed 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ We avoided (or limited) previously planned courtroom closures.

- Please explain what types of hearings have been 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 any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We avoided previously planned courthouse closures.**

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you were 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 any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We maintained, increased or restored public telephone hours.**

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We maintained, increased or restored court clerk hours.**

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

Type your response here

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

X **We devoted resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.**

- Please explain the areas of backlog that were addressed.

- A. *Criminal backlogs consisting of DOJ reporting; Minute Order entry and processing; Transfers; partial DA orders during 2Q FY 2013-2014.*
- B. *Additional criminal backlogs during 3Q/4Q FY 2013-2014 again consisting of DOJ reporting; DMV Abstracting; Minute Order entry and processing; Transfers and finishing off DA Orders; as well as, Bench Warrants to be issued; Searches; Subsequent Filings.*
- C. *Civil/Family Law backlogs during 3Q/4Q FY 2013-2014 consisting of over the counter and mail filings; Minute Order entry and processing.*

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog maintained or increased public access to justice.
 - A. *Brought calendar year 2013 current, allowing matters to proceed and the public to receive timelier filings. (2Q Criminal backlogs)*
 - B. *Timelier filing, proceeding and reporting turnarounds to the public and justice partners enabling cases to move forward. (3Q/4Q Criminal backlogs)*
 - C. *Timelier filing and proceeding turnarounds to the public and justice partners enabling cases to move forward. (3Q/4Q Civil/Family Law backlogs)*
- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Overtime limited to current fiscal year.

___ **We suspended/avoided employee furloughs.**

- Please explain how this action allowed you to 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We maintained, increased or restored services in our self-help center.**

- Please explain the details of maintaining, increasing or restoring self-help center services.

Type your response here

- Please explain how the increase in self-help services maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We maintained, increased or restored court reporting services.**

- Please explain how increased court reporting services maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We maintained, increased or restored specialty court(s).**

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

Type your response here

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services maintained or increased 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) and which are 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 restored, maintained, or increased public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

FY 2012-2013, the court eliminated one court clerk position held vacant for a number of years. Additionally, the court created an enhanced collections division and reassigned two clerks from operations to collections thereby reducing the operations positions from 9.0 FTE to 6.0 FTE. A retirement further reduced the operations staffing force to 5.0 FTE for the remainder of the fiscal year and into FY 2013-2014. These staffing reductions required the court to process its operations workload with fewer staff and created backlogs across all case types. In addition, the court continues to experience coverage issues when jury trials, court trials, multi-day hearings, planned and unplanned time off is factored in. This augment enabled the court to hire one court clerk and partially restore the staffing positions in its operations division during third quarter FY

2013-2014, thereby increasing the court's ability to focus on court clerk coverage issues and workflow turnarounds and decreasing wait times to the public.

- Explain the impact of the WAFM calculation and your court's net allocation on your court's ability to maintain, increase or restore access to justice.

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?

Mariposa has identified additional approaches to increase access and service, as well as decrease delays to the public which include automation of manual processes and cross training court clerks in additional case types. Training opportunities will be utilized to provide the staff with the necessary tools and resources to incorporate new and updated processes, as well as specific case type training. Because our operations staffing force is so small, this will directly benefit the public and our justice partners and broaden our ability to provide good, quality service, especially during planned/unplanned absences. For example, when the solo civil clerk is out of the office, a cross trained clerk will be able to step in thereby decreasing delays to our court users.

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

Even with the initial restoration of one court clerk to our operations staffing force, we will continue to see service delivery impacts linger on due to the overall staffing reduction/reassignments. The augment is a beginning step to move forward in addressing these issues and needs. We will continue to monitor and review to determine our options beyond this fiscal year.

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

Revenue: \$1,432,000

Expenditures: \$1,582,000

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AS WE PREPARE THIS FOLLOW-UP SURVEY. SUBMIT THIS COMPLETED FORM TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov ON OR BEFORE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, MARCH 27TH. PLEASE CALL ANDI AT 916-323-3121 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

FOLLOW-UP REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

Superior Court of California,

County of MENDOCINO

FY 2013-14

Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$166,754

Net Allocation After WAFM: \$111,040

There are a number of ways to have used your share of the \$60 million budget augmentation 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, MARCH 27TH.

___ **We avoided (or limited) previously planned staffing reductions.**

- Please explain how many positions you avoided reducing.

Mendocino did not plan to reduce staffing for FY 2013-2014

- Please describe the kinds of positions you avoided reducing.

NA

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

Mendocino did not reduce staffing as we have eliminated or laid off 23 positions previously. By not reducing staff the court was able to maintain access to justice in all divisions. We have hired two limited term positions to assist in back log.

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

If funding is projected based on WAFM amounts, the Mendocino County courts allocation does not meet expected expenditures and staff layoffs may be a reality.

___ **We avoided (or limited) previously planned courtroom closures.**

- Please explain what types of hearings have been maintained.

Mendocino had no planned courtroom closures. We have maintained the hearings we had previously.

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

NA

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

Mendocino does not plan to close courtrooms.

___ **We avoided previously planned courthouse closures.**

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

Mendocino kept Ukiah and Fort Bragg courts open.

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

The court continued access to the public.

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

If funding levels do not increase, staff levels and court closure days are possible for Fiscal Year 2014-2015.

___ **We maintained, increased or restored public telephone hours.**

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours maintained or increased public access to justice.

Public telephone hours remained the same from 8:30am to 1:00 pm. The courts telephone tree system is available 24/7.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are 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 with increased funding.

___ **We maintained, increased or restored court clerk hours.**

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

The court was able to fill 3vacant positions and 1 limited term clerk position.

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours maintained or increased public access to justice.

The court did not increase court clerk hours to the public due to backlog.

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

The limited term positions will remain temporary unless the courts budget improves and we are able to maintain these positions.

___ **We devoted resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.**

- Please explain the areas of backlog that were addressed.

We were not able to address backlog. Our backlog has increased.

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

The limited term positions that we hired using our fund balance, are working on the courts backlog issues. If the courts budget is not increased, the backlog will continue.

___ **We suspended/avoided employee furloughs.**

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

The court was unable to suspend/avoid previously negotiated employee furloughs that were scheduled in this fiscal year.

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

The employee furloughs were limited to FY 2013-2014. However the Court will continue to review its financial situation for future fiscal years.

___ **We maintained, increased or restored services in our self-help center.**

- Please explain the details of maintaining, increasing or restoring self-help center services.

The Court increased the Self Help Center hours by 1 hour per day, four days per week. We were open from 1:00pm-4:00pm four days a week. We are currently open from 12:00pm to 4:00 pm. With the increase to the Self Help Center hours, the Court increased our staffed paralegals working hours by 1 hour per day, four days a week.

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

The increased hour allowed the public an additional hour to conduct court business.

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

The above action is likely to extend beyond this fiscal year if there are no further reductions to the Judicial Branch.

___ **We maintained, increased or restored court reporting services.**

- Please explain how increased court reporting services maintained or increased public access to justice.

The Court did not make any changes to the current level of court reporting services.

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

The action listed above is likely to extend beyond this fiscal year if there are no further reductions to the Judicial Branch.

___ **We maintained, increased or restored specialty court(s).**

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

The Court maintained Family Dependency Drug Court and Adult Drug Court as they are grant funded positions.

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services maintained or increased public access to justice.

These specialty courts provide needed drug programs for adults, juveniles and families.

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

Both programs are grant funded with matching funds from the Court. The Court would not be able to maintain these specialty courts without grant funding. At this time the grant funding runs beyond fiscal year 2013-2014.

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

- Explain any other ways your court restored, maintained, or increased public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

The Court hired a Limited Term IT Tech I position and will be hiring a contracted Part Time mediator as we only have one mediator for ALL of Mendocino County.

- Explain the impact of the WAFM calculation and your court's net allocation on your court's ability to maintain, increase or restore access to justice.

With the \$60 million WAFM allocation, Mendocino Court is still severely underfunded and ACCESS is restricted as indicated above.

- 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Based on current funding expected, Mendocino Court will be limited on providing more access to the public.

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

| | |
|---|-----------------------|
| <i>FY 2013-2014 Projected Ending Fund Balance</i> | <i>\$ 59,616.53</i> |
| <i>FY 2014-2015 Projected Revenue</i> | <i>\$6,063,648.00</i> |
| <i>FY 2014-2015 PROJECTED EXPENDITURES</i> | <i>\$6,459,284.64</i> |

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FOLLOW-UP REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

Superior Court of California,

County of MERCED

FY 2013-14

Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$470,828

Net Allocation after WAFM: \$787,510

There are a number of ways to have used your share of the \$60 million budget augmentation 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, MARCH 27TH.

___ **We avoided (or limited) previously planned staffing reductions.**

- Please explain how many positions you avoided reducing.

Our court continues to have a 21% vacancy rate court wide, which equates to a total of 28 vacant positions. This funding prevented us from having to make further staffing reductions and stabilized the workforce. In FY 12/13 the court offered a Voluntary Separation Incentive Program (VSIP) in lieu of having to lay off positions, which resulted in a total of nine employees' who took advantage of this program.

- Please describe the kinds of positions you avoided reducing.

The court avoided having to reduce two additional clerical positions and two court reporter positions.

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

This funding allowed our court to maintain our hours of operation without having to reduce the hours further. We have been closing at 3 pm. since 2011 and prior to 2011 we were open until 4 p.m. With the number of vacant positions, the court was contemplating reducing our hours of operation to a more permanent reduction that would have included closing at noon on Fridays, court wide. Reinstating furloughs was also something the court would have had to consider.

Our Traffic, Criminal, Family Law, Civil and branch court facilities still continue to experience long lines of court customers waiting to be assisted 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 remote areas in our County have already been impacted as we no longer hear matters in the cities of Gustine and Dos Palos.

Although, the court has Drop boxes located outside of all court facilities to assist the public, many citizens continue to 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. However with the additional \$60M funding, the court has been able to increase the service hours based on our portion of the additional funding. To serve as a reminder, 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. With the additional funding the Self Help/FLF attorneys are now working a total of 36 hours a week assisting the public with this much needed service.

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

With the uncertainty of future funding and the 1% fund balance (FB) reserve policy that becomes effective July 1, 2014, the court will find it necessary to review possible reductions in staffing and services to the public in FY 14/15.

— **We avoided (or limited) previously planned courtroom closures.**

- Please explain what types of hearings have been maintained.

Courtroom closures were not an option for our court as we have already ceased hearing cases in two cities. We changed our calendar scheduling from a master to direct on January 1, 2013 as part of our reengineering efforts and to help with our case flow management. Our court has experienced one judicial vacancy that has been vacant for almost an entire year as a result of a retirement. The vacancy will be filled on April 18, 2014. It is important to note that 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 funding.

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

Our court was able to maintain our existing service level.

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

At this point in time, the court does not plan to close courtrooms. However, with the uncertainty of future funding and the 1% fund balance (FB) reserve policy that becomes effective July 1, 2014, the court will find it necessary to review possible reductions in staffing and services to the public in FY 14/15.

— **We avoided previously planned courthouse closures.**

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

Our court had exhausted all possibilities of courthouse closures in the previous years when the courts budget was significantly reduced. At one point we had considered reviewing our Los Banos Branch Court however due to the population that comprises the west side of the county and already ceasing court hearings in two other cities, the court did not pursue this further. Also 32% of criminal case filings are generated from that area.

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

Our court was able to maintain our existing service level and not affect the public further.

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

Our court had exhausted all possibilities of courthouse closures in the previous years when the courts budget was significantly reduced.

— **We maintained, increased or restored public telephone hours.**

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours maintained or increased public access to justice.

By not closing our Clerical offices to the public at noon on Fridays, we were able to maintain our public telephone hours. This allowed us to assist the public (both English and Spanish speaking) with any questions and provide the essential information.

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

With the uncertainty of future funding, the court will need to review these services in FY 14/15.

— **We maintained, increased or restored court clerk hours.**

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

Our Clerical offices remained open to the public 7-7 ½ hours per day. Some of our divisions open to the public at 7:30 a.m. while others open at 8:00 a.m. We were contemplating reducing our public hours one day a week to four hours; however, we've been able to maintain these public hours five days per week.

Court staff has been able to process most of the clerical duties from filing and processing all court documents to assisting the public in person and via telephone. We continue to experience backlogs with our current staffing levels.

With dedicated court staff assigned and the increased service hours in the Self Help Center, the Self Help/Family Law Facilitator office was able to extend their services and assistance to the public.

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours maintained or increased public access to justice.

Our Court maintained our current office hours including expanding our service hours for the Self Help and Family Law Facilitator office. It is the Courts continuous goal 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Maintaining our current hours of operation without reducing them further continues to be a temporary measure. Funding was not only essential for this fiscal year but will also be necessary in FY 14/15 in order to continue to assist the public.

— **We devoted resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.**

- Please explain the areas of backlog that were addressed.

We continue to experience 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 six to eight 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. With our existing staffing level, we continue to maintain 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 will enable us to become more efficient and thus minimize backlogs. We are

approximately 50% completed in the development stage and our scheduled go-live date is mid-October 2014. However, with the uncertainty of the FY14/15 funding and the 1% FB policy which takes effect July 1, 2014, the court fears this could possibly jeopardize our staffing levels which in turn would affect our project. This would cripple the court from its modernization efforts that are meant to not only help the court become current, but affect the public's access to justice. If the court is unable to complete this project of implementing a new case management system, the public will continue to experience delays in their case processing and will not be able to access their case information electronically nor e-file court documents.

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog maintained or increased public access to justice.

It is the Courts continuous goal to process all filed documents timely, including expediting data entry which will allow all court users the ability to access these documents online. This would provide the public with more access to justice.

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

With the current staffing shortages, 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 that has been made, which will result an additional increase to our backlogs in case processing and access to justice.

___ **We suspended/avoided employee furloughs.**

- Please explain how this action allowed 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. With the additional funding our court received, we did not have to implement furloughs in FY 13/14. However, should the courts not receive additional funding in FY14/15 and further budget cuts are materialized, we will have to review not only furloughs but additional layoffs.

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

The court did not find it necessary to implement furloughs in FY 13/14. Due to the uncertainty of future funding, a decrease in revenues and the anticipated 1% FB that takes effect July 1, 2014, the court will need to review furloughs, layoffs, VSIP and other cuts in FY 14/15.

___ **We maintained, increased or restored services in our self-help center.**

- Please explain the details of maintaining, increasing or restoring self-help center services.

The court was able to maintain two clerks in the Self Help/Family Law Facilitator office including the two part-time attorneys. The court was also able to increase its hours to assist the public an additional 24 hours per month.

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

Continuing to have increased service 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Due to the uncertainty of future funding and the 1% FB that becomes effective July1, 2014, the court will find it necessary to review possible reductions in staffing and services to the public in FY 14/15.

___ **We maintained, increased or restored court reporting services.**

- Please explain how increased court reporting services maintained or increased public access to justice.

We have maintained our current level of court reporting services.

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

At this time, action listed above is limited to FY 13/14.

___ **We maintained, increased or restored specialty court(s).**

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

We have maintained our specialty courts in FY 13/14.

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services maintained or increased public access to justice.

Currently the court offers specialty court services where there is specific funding to support them as the court cannot utilize Trial Court Trust Funds to extend the services further.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are 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 your court restored, maintained, or increased public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

We continue to strive to implement website updates, on-line self-help forms and improve our telecommunications for better communication and access to justice. However with the \$60M, our focus has been on stabilizing our current staffing levels, reducing our existing backlogs and implementing and developing a new case management system.

- Explain the impact of the WAFM calculation and your court's net allocation on your court's ability to maintain, increase or restore access to justice.

The WAFM funding did assist our court in maintaining our existing public service level and work towards improving the public's access to justice. Our Court also had to utilize part of the WAFM funding to offset our increased benefit costs that have not been fully funded. The court has been advised that our retirement costs will increase an additional 5.90% in FY 14/15 and this does not include the cost of health benefits. In addition, our retirement costs have increased 3.55% from FY 12/13 to FY 13/14. With the WAFM funding, we were able to maintain our existing staffing levels so that our ability to maintain access to justice does not diminish even further.

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

With the \$60M, our focus has been on stabilizing and maintaining our current staffing levels, reducing our existing backlogs and implementing and developing a new case management system.

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

Due to the uncertainty of future funding and the 1% FB that becomes effective July 1, 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)?

Estimated Beginning Fund Balance: \$2,873,707

Estimate of Revenues: \$14,982,652

Projected Expenditures: (\$14,702,645)

Less Restricted Fund Balance: (\$3,348,303)

Budget deficit: (\$194,589)

Since the allocation reduction to the Trial Courts in FY 08/09, 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 \$1.8M per year) and continued reductions in operating expenses, the court is still projecting a deficit of \$194,589. In addition, with the new 1% FB policy effective July 1, 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 every possible reduction to staff including additional services to the public.

Since a portion of the benefit cost increases to cover FY 12/13 was not 100% funded from the General Fund but was funded as a one-time offset from the Trial Court Trust Fund in our current FY, this will result in additional unfunded expenses in FY 14/15. This will be a significant problem for our court as we no longer can use reserves to cover these anticipated expenses.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AS WE PREPARE THIS FOLLOW-UP SURVEY. SUBMIT THIS COMPLETED FORM TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov ON OR BEFORE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, MARCH 27TH. PLEASE CALL ANDI AT 916-323-3121 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

FOLLOW-UP REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

Superior Court of California,

County of MODOC

FY 2013-14

Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$16,977

Net Allocation After WAFM: \$16,977 (no change)

There are a number of ways to have used your share of the \$60 million budget augmentation 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, MARCH 27TH.

X **We avoided (or limited) previously planned staffing reductions.**

- Please explain how many positions you avoided reducing.

Modoc had no planned staffing reductions.

- Please describe the kinds of positions you avoided reducing.

N/A

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

By avoiding staffing reductions and by using most of the funds received, Modoc County was able to staff our criminal intake position thereby increasing public accessibility to the justice system. Court customers are able to call our criminal department and have their questions and concerns answered immediately rather than leaving a message and getting a response up to three days later. Criminal and juvenile documents are handled and processed much quicker, which ultimately results in greater public safety. In addition, having this position filled has increased the efficiency of our operations by alleviating some of the back log experienced by remaining staff members and reduced the incidents of incomplete files reaching the courtroom for the scheduled hearings.

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

It is our desire that this is a permanent change however; Modoc's allocation does not fully fund this position and with the new funding methodology we will experience a further budget reduction. Our current budget together with this allocation was how we were able to afford

filling this vacant position. That being said, this will be a temporary change limited to the current 2013-14 fiscal year.

___ We avoided (or limited) previously planned courtroom closures.

- Please explain what types of hearings have been maintained.

Modoc County uses only one courtroom for the majority of all our hearings. The historical courtroom is rarely used, so there is no need to close it. Our calendar is such that our judges are able to alternate their calendars on a weekly basis enabling us to use just one courtroom. In addition, all types of hearings are being maintained.

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

N/A

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

There are no indications that our current practice will change therefore we expect this action to extend beyond the current fiscal year.

___ We avoided previously planned courthouse closures.

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

Modoc County has only one courthouse.

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

By keeping the one and only courthouse in Modoc County open, Modoc County citizens will continue to have local access to their justice system.

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

This action will extend beyond this fiscal year. Every county must have a Superior Court.

X We maintained, increased or restored public telephone hours.

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours maintained or increased public access to justice.

Modoc has restored public telephone access by one hour every day. This restoration has increased public access most significantly in the traffic and collections divisions by allowing people to make telephone payments for that extra hour each day. The public has been able to have issues resolved or questions answered at times that are more convenient to them rather than having to fit inside our smaller window of operations.

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

Modoc County's plan is to continue this action as far into the future as possible.

X We maintained, increased or restored court clerk hours.

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

Modoc was able to restore court clerk hours in every department. Now our hours of operation are 8:30-5:00, Monday through Friday.

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours maintained or increased public access to justice.

The area most affected by the restoration of hours is in domestic violence restraining orders. Being able to process even just one more restraining order a day ensures greater public safety by the courts being able to distribute needed protective orders. In other court divisions, the public has increased access for the simple fact that the doors are open longer and staff is available to answer questions, provide assistance, and process paperwork.

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

Modoc County's plan is to continue this action as far into the future as possible.

We devoted resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.

- Please explain the areas of backlog that were addressed.

At this time, Modoc is not experiencing backlogs.

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

N/A

We suspended/avoided employee furloughs.

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

Modoc currently has not implemented employee furloughs.

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

Not having employee furloughs may be temporary. It is possible that in order to avoid lay-offs, staff may elect to furlough and this could occur as early as July 2014.

X We maintained, increased or restored services in our self-help center.

- Please explain the details of maintaining, increasing or restoring self-help center services.

The location of our self-help center is located in the lobby of the courthouse so increasing clerk hours increased access to our self-help center.

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

Litigants are granted greater access to resources available to them.

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

Modoc County's plan is to continue this action as far into the future as possible.

We maintained, increased or restored court reporting services.

- Please explain how increased court reporting services maintained or increased public access to justice.

No response.

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

This action is planned to extend into the future.

We maintained, increased or restored specialty court(s).

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

All specialty courts have been maintained.

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services maintained or increased public access to justice.

Defendants participating in programs such as Drug Court are learning ways to avoid those situations that encourage disrespect for the law and to avoid substance abuse. By

maintaining services such as this, the court is encouraging and assisting in developing law-abiding citizens to the benefit of the entire community.

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

Modoc County's plan is to continue this action as far into the future as possible.

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

- Explain any other ways your court restored, maintained, or increased public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

We were able to update our website and hire a new webmaster to further public access. With court staff able to work closely with our webmaster, we are able to have updates done within hours of our requests and are working to continue development on accessibility and self-help functions. This is an ongoing process and our allocation is focused on funding these activities. Our website is becoming more and more user-friendly and helpful to all visitors, and we will continue down this avenue. With continually reduced budgets, it is becoming imperative that courts develop ways to assist litigants to be self-sufficient in court processes. We, like every other court in California, must learn to do more with less and to become much more proficient in how everyday activities are performed.

We were able to update our desktop computers which allow us to process paperwork and data entry quicker thereby enhancing public access. Computer replacement was needed because support for the operating system we were using was reaching its end, and because our computers ranged from 5-7 years old. Next year, we will be looking into printer replacements and e-filing options.

- Explain the impact of the WAFM calculation and your court's net allocation on your court's ability to maintain, increase or restore access to justice.

The WAFM calculation is generally not favorable to small courts. The main problem with the WAFM calculation and our court's net allocation is that the funding we receive doesn't allow us to develop from our current position. We receive only enough to maintain but not enough to grow. We are limited in our ability to increase access to justice and focus only on being able to maintain that which is currently in practice.

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

We have nothing else to add at this time.

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

As long as we continue to receive our allocation, we will continue to provide the above actions.

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

We anticipate revenues at around \$300,000.00 and expenditures to be very close to that number as well.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AS WE PREPARE THIS FOLLOW-UP SURVEY. SUBMIT THIS COMPLETED FORM TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov ON OR BEFORE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, MARCH 27TH. PLEASE CALL ANDI AT 916-323-3121 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

FOLLOW-UP REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

Superior Court of California,

County of MONO

FY 2013-14

Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$45,169

Net Allocation After WAFM: \$45,169

There are a number of ways to have used your share of the \$60 million budget augmentation 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, MARCH 27TH.

___ We avoided (or limited) previously planned staffing reductions.

- Please explain how many positions you avoided reducing.

Our court did use the augmentation funding to fill one vacant entry level deputy clerk position

- Please describe the kinds of positions you avoided reducing.

One entry level deputy clerk position

- Please explain how this action allowed 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. Backlog of traffic citations needing to be entered into our court case management system was significantly reduced to less than a two week backlog.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are 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 intend to maintain the recently filled deputy clerk position into the next fiscal year.

___ We avoided (or limited) previously planned courtroom closures.

- Please explain what types of hearings have been maintained.

No courtroom closures occurred in in our court this fiscal year.

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

Not applicable

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

Not applicable

___ **We avoided previously planned courthouse closures.**

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

Not applicable

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

Not applicable

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

Not applicable

___ **We maintained, increased or restored public telephone hours.**

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours maintained or increased public access to justice.

We were able to meet our current level of public telephone hours and reduced waiting time by the addition of deputy clerk position available to answer customer calls

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are 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 intend to maintain the recently filled deputy clerk position into the next fiscal year which will maintain the current level of staff available to answer public telephone calls

___ **We maintained, increased or restored court clerk hours.**

- Please explain what kinds of court clerk duties were 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 maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Not applicable

— **We devoted resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.**

- Please explain the areas of backlog that were addressed.

The addition of a deputy clerk position allowed for more staff time to be devoted to reducing traffic citation data entry backlog to less than two weeks.

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog maintained or increased public access to justice.

Timely entry of traffic citations into our case management system permits our case management system to generate a courtesy notice that provides a reminder of the date and time of their traffic appearance for persons receiving traffic citations. This prevents numerous phone calls from members of the public who have lost their citations and seek information regarding the date and time of their appearance. In addition, the courtesy notice provides information regarding how to pay your ticket without having to appear through our E-Pay-it website system or by mail, thereby saving members of the public the unnecessary time and expense of appearing personally in traffic court if they choose not to contest their traffic citation.

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

As stated previously, as long as we are able to maintain our current baseline funding we can continue the Deputy clerk position filled with the augmentation funding.

— **We suspended/avoided employee furloughs.**

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

Augmentation funding was not needed to avoid furloughs

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

Not applicable

— **We maintained, increased or restored services in our self-help center.**

- Please explain the details of maintaining, increasing or restoring self-help center services.

Self-help center services were unaffected and did not need augmentation funding

- Please explain how the increase in self-help services maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Not applicable

___ **We maintained, increased or restored court reporting services.**

- Please explain how increased court reporting services maintained or increased public access to justice.

Our court reporting services had not been affected by the augmentation funding

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

Not applicable

___ **We maintained, increased or restored specialty court(s).**

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

Our only specialty court, juvenile court, has not been affected by the funding

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services maintained or increased 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) and which are 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 your court restored, maintained, or increased public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

Given the low amount of our share of the funding, all that we were able to do was to add a deputy clerk position. There wasn't sufficient funding to implement any other means of increasing public access.

- Explain the impact of the WAFM calculation and your court's net allocation on your court's ability to maintain, increase or restore access to justice.

Our WAFM calculation and are net allocation are exactly the same. Consequently, even under the new calculation and allocation we should still be able to continue to fill one deputy clerk position funded by our courts share of the augmentation funding

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

As was stated in our previous report, our court very much appreciates whatever additional funding is provided to us. The augmentation we received, though a relatively small amount, made a significant difference in our ability to restore service to the public. Obviously, our court and surely every other court in California would prefer to have baseline funding that would meet our operational needs without having to resort to augmentation funds. Having baseline funding that meets our minimal operational needs provides financial stability to trial courts and thereby provides stability in the level of customer service available to the public.

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

Not applicable

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

Our projected revenues and expenditures are unchanged from the last report we submitted concerning the augmentation funds. 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 project 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.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AS WE PREPARE THIS FOLLOW-UP SURVEY. SUBMIT THIS COMPLETED FORM TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov ON OR BEFORE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, MARCH 27TH. PLEASE CALL ANDI AT 916-323-3121 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

FOLLOW-UP REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

Superior Court of California,

County of MONTEREY

FY 2013-14

Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$602,622

Net Allocation After WAFM: \$802,017

There are a number of ways to have used your share of the \$60 million budget augmentation 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, MARCH 27TH.

X We avoided (or limited) previously planned staffing reductions.

- Please explain how many positions you avoided reducing.
 - *The Court avoided an additional workforce reduction of approximately 7-11 positions.*
- Please describe the kinds of positions you avoided reducing.
 - *Depending on the reduction measure(s) the Court would have needed to employ, 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 allowed you to maintain or increase public access to justice in applicable divisions of your court or courthouse(s).
 - *This augmentation avoided layoffs or voluntary separations. 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, \$802,017, assisted with closing the Court's structural budget deficit and was used exclusively for that purpose.*
 - *The Court was able to maintain most services to three branches, by using the funding augmentation of \$802,017, by closing the King City branch and reallocating resources.*
 - *The funding augmentation, \$802,017, was not adequate for the Court to start restoring court services and public access. Furthermore, the \$802,017 was 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 positions by 22% 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 as it leads to employee burnout, and is definitely not sustainable for the Court's budget. Additionally, the Court has not margin to provide back-up support to sustain long-term employee absences which exacerbates the day to day and long term backlog situations.*
- *The Court has recently reduced the civil viewing room hours from 5 days a week to 3 days a week.*

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

The current reduced level of services for the public will be restored when additional funding is available to provide services.

___ **We avoided (or limited) previously planned courtroom closures.**

- Please explain what types of hearings have been 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 any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We avoided previously planned courthouse closures.**

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you were 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 any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

X_ We maintained, increased or restored public telephone hours.

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours maintained or increased public access to justice.
- *By using the funding augmentation of \$802,017, by closing the King City branch and reallocating resources the Court was able to maintain current public telephone hours.*
- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

X_ We maintained, increased or restored court clerk hours.

- Please explain what kinds of court clerk duties were maintained, increased or restored.
- *By using the funding augmentation of \$802,017, by closing the King City branch and reallocating resources the Court was able to maintain most court clerk hours. The civil public viewing room hours were reduced based on resource constraints.*
- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ We devoted resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.

- Please explain the areas of backlog that were addressed.

Type your response here

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We suspended/avoided employee furloughs.**

- Please explain how this action allowed you to 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We maintained, increased or restored services in our self-help center.**

- Please explain the details of maintaining, increasing or restoring self-help center services.

Type your response here

- Please explain how the increase in self-help services maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We maintained, increased or restored court reporting services.**

- Please explain how increased court reporting services maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We maintained, increased or restored specialty court(s).**

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

Type your response here

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services maintained or increased 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) and which are 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 restored, maintained, or increased 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.

- Explain the impact of the WAFM calculation and your court's net allocation on your court's ability to maintain, increase or restore access to justice.

As noted earlier in this survey, the Court's share of the \$60 million augmentation, \$802,017, assists with closing the structural gap; however, this augmentation is not adequate to restore court services. Monterey is a recipient Court in the WAFM model, but the allocation was not sufficient to maintain services as we closed the King City Branch and reduced the civil public viewing room hours..

- 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

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

The Court is currently planning on aligning expenditures with anticipated revenue of \$21.3M in FY 14-15. This level of anticipated funding will allow the Court to maintain and possibly restore public access.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AS WE PREPARE THIS FOLLOW-UP SURVEY. SUBMIT THIS COMPLETED FORM TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov ON OR BEFORE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, MARCH 27TH. PLEASE CALL ANDI AT 916-323-3121 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

FOLLOW-UP REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

Superior Court of California,

County of NAPA

FY 2013-14

Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$209,052

Net Allocation After WAFM: \$53,947

There are a number of ways to have used your share of the \$60 million budget augmentation 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, MARCH 27TH.

___ **We avoided (or limited) previously planned staffing reductions.**

- Please explain how many positions you avoided reducing.

Type your response here

- Please describe the kinds of positions you avoided reducing.

Type your response here

- Please explain how this action allowed 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We avoided (or limited) previously planned courtroom closures.**

- Please explain what types of hearings have been 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 any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We avoided previously planned courthouse closures.**

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you were 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 any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We maintained, increased or restored public telephone hours.**

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We maintained, increased or restored court clerk hours.**

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

Type your response here

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **XX We devoted resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.**

- Please explain the areas of backlog that were 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. These three positions have numerous other supervisory and managerial duties that compete with their responsibilities for processing appeal matters. As a result, the court chose to devote a portion of the \$60 million allocation to again filling our appeals clerk position thereby avoiding significant appeal backlogs and failure to meet mandatory deadlines. As a result, \$86,000 of the court's \$162,945 allocation has been dedicated to filling the appeals clerk position in Napa County. This action is consistent with the anticipated use of the increased court funding as stated in the report submitted last August.

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog maintained or increased public access to justice.

Case parties who require an appeal of case outcomes are assured of having their appeal reviewed and decided upon by a higher level court in a timely manner. In addition, this position is 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) and which are 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.

XX We suspended/avoided employee furloughs.

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

Last 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 continues to experience a \$500,000 structural budget deficit. The remaining balance of Napa's share of the \$60 million allocation was 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. This action is consistent with the anticipated use of the increased court funding as stated in the report submitted last August.

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

This funding along with other recent past efforts to streamline court operations allowed the court to avoid additional furloughs. Assuming that adequate additional trial court funding is forthcoming to offset increases in mandated expenditures, the court does not believe this is a temporary measure and has attempted to avoid additional employee workforce reductions.

___ **We maintained, increased or restored services in our self-help center.**

- Please explain the details of maintaining, increasing or restoring self-help center services.

Type your response here

- Please explain how the increase in self-help services maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We maintained, increased or restored court reporting services.**

- Please explain how increased court reporting services maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We maintained, increased or restored specialty court(s).**

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

Type your response here

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services maintained or increased 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) and which are 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 restored, maintained, or increased public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

Type your response here

- Explain the impact of the WAFM calculation and your court's net allocation on your court's ability to maintain, increase or restore access to justice.

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) and which are 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 FOLLOW-UP SURVEY. SUBMIT THIS COMPLETED FORM TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov ON OR BEFORE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, MARCH 27TH. PLEASE CALL ANDI AT 916-323-3121 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

FOLLOW-UP REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

Superior Court of California,

County of NEVADA

FY 2013-14

Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$145,313

Net Allocation After WAFM: \$96,592

There are a number of ways to have used your share of the \$60 million budget augmentation 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, MARCH 27TH.

___ We avoided (or limited) previously planned staffing reductions.

- Please explain how many positions you avoided reducing.

N/A

- Please describe the kinds of positions you avoided reducing.

N/A

- Please explain how this action allowed 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

N/A

___ We avoided (or limited) previously planned courtroom closures.

- Please explain what types of hearings have been 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 any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

N/A

 We avoided previously planned courthouse closures.

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you were 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 any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

N/A

 We maintained, increased or restored public telephone hours.

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

N/A

 X **We maintained, increased or restored court clerk hours.**

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

We increased our public counter hours in our clerks offices on Fridays from six to eight hours.

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours maintained or increased public access to justice.

The public has been 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Our share of the \$60M was about \$130,000 less than the savings we previously realized from furloughs. We plan to make this action permanent; however, our ability to do so is dependent on the amount of funding we receive in the future.

___ We devoted resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.

- Please explain the areas of backlog that were addressed.

N/A

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

N/A

X We suspended/avoided employee furloughs.

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

We suspended furloughs during FY 13-14. This has allowed 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 is an increase of two hours per week from the previous fiscal year.

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

Our share of the \$60M was about \$130,000 less than the savings we previously realized from furloughs. We plan to make this action permanent; however, our ability to do so is dependent on the amount of funding we receive in the future.

___ We maintained, increased or restored services in our self-help center.

- Please explain the details of maintaining, increasing or restoring self-help center services.

N/A

- Please explain how the increase in self-help services maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

N/A

___ **We maintained, increased or restored court reporting services.**

- Please explain how increased court reporting services maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

N/A

___ **We maintained, increased or restored specialty court(s).**

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

N/A

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services maintained or increased 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) and which are 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 your court restored, maintained, or increased 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.

- Explain the impact of the WAFM calculation and your court's net allocation on your court's ability to maintain, increase or restore access to justice.

The WAFM calculation has caused our court's net allocation to be reduced. We are adjusting to this change which only serves to diminish our ability to restore access to justice in this county. We will continue to do the best we can with our limited resources but it is unlikely that we will be able to increase any services or access without an increase in funding to support it.

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

Previously, our court was able to “smooth out” the effects of funding fluctuations by maintaining a reasonable reserve. We can no longer do this and it has resulted in a significant negative impact in our ability to maintain access to justice. Additionally, 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 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Answered twice above.

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

We do not have a projection for revenues for FY 14-15 as it is too early in the process and predominantly out of our control. Our projected expenses rise and fall with our revenues; therefore, we do not have an expense projection either.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AS WE PREPARE THIS FOLLOW-UP SURVEY. SUBMIT THIS COMPLETED FORM TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov ON OR BEFORE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, MARCH 27TH. PLEASE CALL ANDI AT 916-323-3121 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

FOLLOW-UP REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

Superior Court of California,

County of ORANGE

FY 2013-14

Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$4,355,099

Net Allocation After WAFM: \$1,673,988

There are a number of ways to have used your share of the \$60 million budget augmentation 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, MARCH 27TH.

Yes We avoided (or limited) previously planned staffing reductions.

- Please explain how many positions you avoided reducing.

Using the augmentation funding, the Orange County Superior Court (Court) was able to avoid reduction of self-help services. The Court was able to maintain existing staffing and service levels, and continue to provide self-help services at four full-time locations and one part-time location. For FY 2013-14, the Court will receive approximately \$800K in self-help grant funding, and will contribute an additional \$1.27M of trial court operating funds to provide self-help services.

- Please describe the kinds of positions you avoided reducing.

The positions saved included an attorney, paralegal and clerical support positions.

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

By maintaining staffing and service levels, self-help services were provided to assist self-represented litigants (SRL) in Orange County. SRLs received help in e-filing cases, document reviews and procedural assistance, and many attended various workshops. The augmentation funding directly allowed the Court to maintain public access to justice for those without legal representation.

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

These actions are temporary for FY 2013-14.

No We avoided (or limited) previously planned courtroom closures.

- Please explain what types of hearings have been 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 any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

No We avoided previously planned courthouse closures.

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you were 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 any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

No We maintained, increased or restored public telephone hours.

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

No We maintained, increased or restored court clerk hours.

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

Type your response here

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

Yes We devoted resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.

- Please explain the areas of backlog that were addressed.

Overtime was authorized and used to reduce case processing backlogs for 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 maintained or increased public access to justice.

Reduced backlog increases public access to justice by ensuring the timely resolution of cases.

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

These actions are temporary for FY 2013-14.

N/A We suspended/avoided employee furloughs.

- Please explain how this action allowed you to 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

Yes We maintained, increased or restored services in our self-help center.

- Please explain the details of maintaining, increasing or restoring self-help center services.

Using the augmentation funding, the Court was able to avoid reduction of self-help services. The Court was able to maintain existing staffing and service levels, and continue to provide self-help services at four full-time locations and one part-time location. For FY 2013-14, the Court will receive approximately \$800K in self-help grant funding, and will contribute an additional \$1.27M of trial court operating funds to provide self-help services.

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

By maintaining staffing and service levels, self-help services were provided to assist SRLs in Orange County. SRLs received help in e-filing cases, document reviews and procedural assistance, and many attended various workshops. The augmentation funding directly allowed the court to maintain public access to justice for those without legal representation.

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

These actions are temporary for FY 2013-14.

No We maintained, increased or restored court reporting services.

- Please explain how increased court reporting services maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

No We maintained, increased or restored specialty court(s).

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

Type your response here

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services maintained or increased 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) and which are 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 restored, maintained, or increased public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

Case Management System Procurement: The Court used augmentation funding to purchase a case management system (CMS) to replace its aging Family & Juvenile CMS. When deployed, the new CMS will allow the Court to implement the statutory requirements of AB 2073 as the existing system does not support e-filing in family law cases. In addition, the new CMS will substantially reduce the cost in both technology and operations area. The Court has entered into a five-year contract with Tyler Technologies and committed/encumbered \$3.94M for the new CMS through FY 2014-15.

Records Destruction/Lease Cost Avoidance: By using overtime, the Court has made significant progress in its records destruction program. Staff worked on destroying records from all case types, resulting in a reduced need for records storage. The Court is on track to reduce its storage needs to a point where termination of its storage facility lease will be feasible. The annual lease cost savings of approximate \$800K will enable the Court to avoid laying off 10 positions in FY 2014-15.

NOTE: As of 3/20/14, the Court has used approximately \$893K in overtime pay to reduce backlog and records destruction.

- Explain the impact of the WAFM calculation and your court's net allocation on your court's ability to maintain, increase or restore access to justice.

For FY 2013-14, Orange County's net allocation under WAFM was only \$1,673,988. This equates to a reduction of \$2,681,111 from the \$4,355,090 originally estimated as the Court's share of the \$60 million. The \$1,673,988 received is equivalent to 20 positions, which the Court was able to preserve due to the additional funding. The Court was challenged to keep the same level of service to the public, and the use of reserves was necessary to support the Court's ability to maintain access to justice.

- 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Both of the actions listed above are temporary for FY 2013-14.

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

The Court is projecting FY 2014-15 revenues of \$190.4 M, expenditures of \$193.6M, for an operating deficit of \$3.2M.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AS WE PREPARE THIS FOLLOW-UP SURVEY. SUBMIT THIS COMPLETED FORM TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov ON OR BEFORE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, MARCH 27TH. PLEASE CALL ANDI AT 916-323-3121 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

FOLLOW-UP REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

Superior Court of California,

County of PLACER

FY 2013-14

Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$536,650

Net Allocation After WAFM: \$781,216

There are a number of ways to have used your share of the \$60 million budget augmentation 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, MARCH 27TH.

X **We avoided (or limited) previously planned staffing reductions.**

- Please explain how many positions you avoided 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 and ½ previously frozen positions.

- Please describe the kinds of positions you avoided reducing.

Lead court clerk, courtroom clerk, court clerk, custodian, 0.5 paralegal (self help).

- Please explain how this action allowed 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) and which are 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 \$1.2 million. The court's total revenues in FY 14/15 are currently estimated to be \$15.6 million, which assumes no restoration of additional funds or funding for increasing health, retirement, or other inflationary costs. These revenues also assume the Trial Court Trust Fund is not in deficit (which would lead to a further cut to court revenues). To address this 7.5% budget deficit, which cannot be softened by the use of any prior year fund balance due to the new fund balance policies, 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 at a level potentially greater than the positions initially restored by this funding..

X We avoided (or limited) previously planned courtroom closures.

- Please explain what types of hearings have been maintained.

The court filled a previously vacant courtroom clerk position. This enabled the court to make more frequent use of assigned judges to hear 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 resulted in a backlog of civil trials, and to a lesser extent family law contested hearings. The additional position will the court to more frequently, though still not as frequently as necessary, make use of assigned judges to hear criminal, civil, and family law cases.

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. The additional funding in FY 13/14 avoided the needed for staff furloughs and turn the necessity for limited service days.

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

Civil trials, which receive lower priority than criminal matters, had a somewhat greater likelihood of being heard. Unfortunately, due to increases in criminal filings, the impact on delays in civil trials was not as great as hoped.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are 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 \$1.2 million. The court's total revenues in FY 14/15 are currently estimated to be \$15.6 million, which assumes no restoration of additional funds or funding for increasing health, retirement, or other inflationary costs. These revenues also assume the Trial Court Trust Fund is not in deficit (which would lead to a further cut to court revenues). To address this 7.5% budget deficit, which cannot be softened by the use of any prior year fund balance due to the new fund balance policies, 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

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>

reduction in staffing will impact the ability to operate courtrooms and further closures may become necessary if funds are not restored.

___ We avoided previously planned courthouse closures.

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you were 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 any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

X We maintained, increased or restored public telephone hours.

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours maintained or increased 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 assisted the court in returning to normal hours on Fridays and avoid any limited service days for FY 13/14.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are 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 \$1.2 million. The court's total revenues in FY 14/15 are currently estimated to be \$15.6 million, which assumes no restoration of additional funds or funding for increasing health, retirement, or other inflationary costs. These revenues also assume the Trial Court Trust Fund is not in deficit (which would lead to a further cut to court revenues). To address this 7.5% budget deficit, which cannot be softened by the use of any prior year fund balance due to the new fund balance policies, 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 maintained, increased or restored court clerk hours.

- Please explain what kinds of court clerk duties were 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 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 maintained or increased 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) and which are 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 \$1.2 million. The court's total revenues in FY 14/15 are currently estimated to be \$15.6 million, which assumes no restoration of additional funds or funding for increasing health, retirement, or other inflationary costs. These revenues also assume the Trial Court Trust Fund is not in deficit (which would lead to a further cut to court revenues). To address this 7.5% budget deficit, which cannot be softened by the use of any prior year fund balance due to the new fund balance policies, 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 devoted resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.

- Please explain the areas of backlog that were addressed.

The additional staffing noted above supported the court's overall efforts to reduce backlogs in civil, family law, and criminal case processing. Processing times in criminal were particularly improved where the time to respond to criminal background research requests has been reduced from taking 159 days to respond in July 2013 to a response time of 34 days in February 2014. Maximum wait times in line have been reduced by approximately 30 minutes at both the criminal and family law clerk's offices, significantly reducing the delay in accessing clerk services for the public..

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog maintained or increased public access to justice.

Delays in criminal research requests can slow down hiring as employers wait for information on prospective employees from the court. Reduced lines requires less time away from work, or paying for child care, for those accessing court services through the clerk's office.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are 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 \$1.2 million. The court's total revenues in FY 14/15 are currently estimated to be \$15.6 million, which assumes no restoration of additional funds or funding for increasing health, retirement, or other inflationary costs. These revenues also assume the Trial Court Trust Fund is not in deficit (which would lead to a further cut to court revenues). To address this 7.5% budget deficit, which cannot be softened by the use of any prior year fund balance due to the new fund balance policies, the court will need to significantly reduce expenses. 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 suspended/avoided employee furloughs.

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

Court employee furloughs were avoided in FY 13/14 due to the increased funding.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are 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 \$1.2 million. The court's total revenues in FY 14/15 are currently estimated to be \$15.6 million, which assumes no restoration of additional funds or funding for increasing health, retirement, or other inflationary costs. These revenues also assume the Trial Court Trust Fund is not in deficit (which would lead to a further cut to court revenues). To address this 7.5% budget deficit, which cannot be softened by the use of any prior year fund balance due to the new fund balance policies, 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 that this could include employee furloughs.

X We maintained, increased or restored services in our self-help center.

- Please explain the details of maintaining, increasing or restoring self-help center services.

The court restored a 0.5 paralegal FTE in the self-help center due to the additional funding via the budget act.

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

Additional self-help staffing allowed 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) and which are 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 \$1.2 million. The court's total revenues in FY 14/15 are currently estimated to be \$15.6 million, which assumes no restoration of additional funds or funding for increasing health, retirement, or other inflationary costs. These revenues also assume the Trial Court Trust Fund is not in deficit (which would lead to a further cut to court revenues). To address this 7.5% budget deficit, which cannot be softened by the use of any prior year fund balance due to the new fund balance policies, 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 maintained, increased or restored court reporting services.**

- Please explain how increased court reporting services maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We maintained, increased or restored specialty court(s).**

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

NOTE: The court operates a Proposition 36 court, drug court, juvenile drug court, mental health court, veteran's court, and homeless court.

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services maintained or increased 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) and which are 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 restored, maintained, or increased public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

Type your response here

- Explain the impact of the WAFM calculation and your court's net allocation on your court's ability to maintain, increase or restore access to justice.

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) and which are 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 in FY 12/13;*
- *Instituting limited service days – where only emergency matters are handled and all but one clerk’s office and courtroom are closed – 8 days in FY 12/13;*
- *Closing two trial courtrooms in July 2009 and severely reducing use of an additional courtroom starting in FY 12/13;*
- *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 (As of March 2014)* |
|--|--|
| Total Revenue | 15,648,000 |
| | |
| <i>Total Personal Services</i> | 12,804,000 |
| <i>Total Operating Expense & Equip</i> | <u>4,066,000</u> |
| Total Expenditures | 17,283,857 |
| | |
| FY Surplus/(Deficit) | (1,222,000) |

*DOES NOT include the court’s share of funding from the Governor’s Proposed \$100M augmentation. Also assumes the Trial Court Trust Fund is not in deficit and can’t meet the allocation obligations.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AS WE PREPARE THIS FOLLOW-UP SURVEY. SUBMIT THIS COMPLETED FORM TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov ON OR BEFORE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, MARCH 27TH. PLEASE CALL ANDI AT 916-323-3121 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

FOLLOW-UP REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

Superior Court of California,

County of PLUMAS

FY 2013-14

Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$33,256

Net Allocation After WAFM: \$33,256 (no change)

There are a number of ways to have used your share of the \$60 million budget augmentation 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, MARCH 27TH.

___ We avoided (or limited) previously planned staffing reductions.

- Please explain how many positions you avoided reducing.

N/A

- Please describe the kinds of positions you avoided reducing.
- Please explain how this action allowed 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Lack of staff reductions is temporary and limited to Fiscal Year 2013-2014. The Court had one resignation from a clerical position in December, 2013 and will not fill the position until final budget numbers are available for Fiscal year 2014-2015. If that position remains unfilled, service levels will decrease.

___ We avoided (or limited) previously planned courtroom closures.

- Please explain what types of hearings have been maintained.

N/A

- Please describe the impact on the public by keeping open a courtroom planned for closure.
- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

___ **We avoided previously planned courthouse closures.**

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

The Plumas Court did not close either the Chester or the Plumas/Sierra Regional Courthouse in Fiscal Year 2013-2014.

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

The public was able to access each courthouse for traffic and small claims cases. The Plumas Court was able to continue to process all Sierra Superior Court traffic cases up to referral to collections. The Regional Courthouse was also used by the grand juries of both Plumas and Sierra Counties for meetings and was used by an assigned judge for several days' motions in a Plumas complex civil litigation case.

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

The decision not to close two courthouses is temporary and limited to Fiscal year 2013-2014. THE Plumas Court used fund balance to support these facilities. At the current time the Plumas Court pays for all costs associated with the Plumas/Sierra Regional Courthouse. Based on the new WAFM allocation model, the Court will not be able to fund that facility.

___ **We maintained, increased or restored public telephone hours.**

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours maintained or increased public access to justice.

N/A – The Court telephone lines were continued 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 any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

___ **We maintained, increased or restored court clerk hours.**

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

N/A – The Plumas Court clerk hours will remain as 8:00a.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 maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

If the Plumas Court cannot afford to hire for the open court clerk position in Fiscal Year 2014-2015 there is a strong possibility that both counter and telephone hours may need to be reduced. At the present time, based on court scheduled and authorized time off, there is often only one clerk available between 12 noon and 2:00 p.m. to address all customers at the public counters and on the telephone.

— **We devoted resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.**

- Please explain the areas of backlog that were addressed.

N/A – The Plumas Court 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 maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

This backlog is temporary and limited to Fiscal Year 2013-2014. There is every likelihood that backlogs will increase in Fiscal Year 2014-2015. The Plumas Court is reviewing all work processes and re-engineering when possible to keep backlogs within reasonable limits.

— **We suspended/avoided employee furloughs.**

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

N/A – We did not have any furloughs in Fiscal Year 2013-2014.

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

Avoiding employee layoffs is a temporary action and limited to Fiscal Year 2013-2014 as the Plumas Court currently has fund balance that will not be allowed after this year. Staff furloughs may be one tool to address funding reductions. Staff furloughs will most likely have the adverse effect of increasing processing backlogs.

— **We maintained, increased or restored services in our self-help center.**

- Please explain the details of maintaining, increasing or restoring self-help center services.

The small augmentation for Fiscal year 2013-2014 enabled the Plumas Court not to have to cut the Court's operations contribution to the only self-help services for self-represented litigants in Plumas County.

- Please explain how the increase in self-help services maintained or increased 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 step-parent adoption cases. At the present time this contractor is available 32 hours per week. The Court was able to fund this contractor to provide 32 hours service in Fiscal Year 2013-2014.

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

This operational funding is temporary and limited to Fiscal Year 2013-2014. The Court will have to reduce funding to this contractor based on the new WAFM funding model and the projections that any additional monies given to the trial courts in Fiscal Year 2014-2015 will result in a negative to the Plumas Court overall budget. No fund balances will be available to supplement self-help services.

___ **We maintained, increased or restored court reporting services.**

- Please explain how increased court reporting services maintained or increased public access to justice.

N/A – The retirement of an official court reporter in July 2013 enabled 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 reporter services by furloughs 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 any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

The Court continued to provide court reporters in all mandated case types and for most family support and domestic violence calendars. However, in upcoming fiscal years, the Court will not be able to provide court reporting services in any but mandated case types.

___ **We maintained, increased or restored specialty court(s).**

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

N/A – The Court currently has 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 maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

This Court will 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. In addition the Court hears an informal calendar for defendants who would have qualified under the terms of Prop. 36 statutes. This is possible because of support from the County and community partners and is a part of the Plumas CCP plan.

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

- Explain any other ways your court restored, maintained, or increased public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

N/A

- Explain the impact of the WAFM calculation and your court's net allocation on your court's ability to maintain, increase or restore access to justice.

In Fiscal Years 2013-2014 Plumas Superior Court was excluded from the WAFM model as a member of the Cluster 1 courts. The Court used a portion of its fund balance and its portion of the additional \$60 million to continue its support of self-help services provided by a contractor for family support, guardianship and step-parent adoption cases.

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

The Plumas Court used 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 chose 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

All actions listed above are temporary in nature and limited to Fiscal Year 2013-2014. Filings in Plumas County are flat or decreasing in all case types. The new funding methodology and current funding deficits to all trial courts will result in further reductions to the Plumas Court

budget until there is restoration of total funding need for the judicial branch. It has been projected that any augmentations to the trial court budgets in Fiscal Year 2014-2015 will result in a negative number for the Plumas Court – that negative estimate is between \$27,00 and \$35,000.

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

It appears from preliminary projections using the WAFM model that our revenue will be slightly less than the allocation for Fiscal Year 2013-2014. (\$1.4 million) However, until final numbers are available for fillings and BLS data for inclusion in the WAFM model, there is no way to predict revenues from allocations. Based on preliminary projections the Plumas Court will not benefit from any new monies that may be provided to the trial courts; in fact, there will be a negative impact on the Plumas allocation. Plumas case filings are in steady decline in many case types. The County of Plumas, which is the Court's enhanced collections agent, continues to have reduced staff, thereby reducing their ability to focus on collection efforts, which has resulted in a reduction of revenue in Fiscal Year 2013-2014. With the current 1% fund balance in place for Fiscal Year 2014-2015 and unknown increases in health and other benefit costs, the Court has no way to predict its total expenditures. The Court will live within its means – which will mean reductions in many areas, including staff layoffs, furloughs and reduction in self-help support.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AS WE PREPARE THIS FOLLOW-UP SURVEY. SUBMIT THIS COMPLETED FORM TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov ON OR BEFORE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, MARCH 27TH. PLEASE CALL ANDI AT 916-323-3121 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

FOLLOW-UP REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

Superior Court of California,

County of RIVERSIDE

FY 2013-14

Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$3,028,558

Net Allocation After WAFM: \$5,203,028

There are a number of ways to have used your share of the \$60 million budget augmentation 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, MARCH 27TH.

X We avoided (or limited) previously planned staffing reductions.

- Please explain how many positions you avoided reducing.

As a result of the new funding, the court was able to avoid, perhaps temporarily, staff reductions of 34 full-time positions and 1 part-time position.

- Please describe the kinds of positions you avoided reducing.

The positions the court avoided reducing were as follows:

- *Court reporters – 14*
- *Court reporter (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 division) – 6*

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

By avoiding staff reductions in the above mentioned areas, the court was able to maintain a minimum level of service and public access to justice, as follows: continued to provide court reporters for civil, family law, and probate cases; maintained public services and calendars in the Blythe Court on a limited scale – three days a week, saving residents of that community from driving 98 miles one-way to the next closest courthouse; continued to perform probate investigations pursuant to the Omnibus Act; continued to provide staffing for overload assigned judge courtrooms; and continued to provide 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

While the funding allowed the court to avoid reductions in a number of job classifications, additional funding is needed in order to provide the public with increased access to justice.

X We avoided (or limited) previously planned courtroom closures.

- Please explain what types of hearings have been maintained.

As a result of the new funding, the court was able to maintain traffic, small claims, and limited civil matters in the mid county region (Southern Riverside County). The distance from the old courthouse to the new location is only five miles. This is far more convenient for customers than requiring them to travel 50 miles to downtown Riverside as previously planned.

In addition, the court was able to keep the courtroom in Blythe open three days a week instead of completely closing the facility, as had been previously planned. While the citizens in that community saw a reduction in services, keeping Blythe open was important because the city is in such a remote location at the Eastern border of the state. Had the courtroom in Blythe been closed, the citizens and law enforcement officers there would have faced hours of driving time to reach the next closest courthouse, which is 98 miles away, one-way.

While two felony pre-trial calendar courtrooms at the Southwest Justice Center were consolidated in order to accommodate the traffic, small claims, and limited civil hearings moved from the Temecula Court, the court was at least able to maintain one of these calendar departments in that facility. This benefits local law enforcement personnel, witnesses, and attorney in terms of time and resources saved.

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

The public benefited as reductions were minimized and the court continued to provide access, although on a more limited scale, for all case types in all regions of the county. This led to reduced commutes and wait times and this is critical in a county as geographically large (7,300 square miles) as Riverside.

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

The increased funding in fiscal year 2013-14 enabled the court to provide services and minimize the negative impact to the public from years of budget cuts. Increased funding could enable the court to open additional courtrooms and would greatly benefit court customers.

X We avoided previously planned courthouse closures.

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

As a result of the new funding, the court did not have to close the Temecula Court. Although traffic, small claims, and limited civil matters were moved from Temecula to the Southwest Justice Center outside the center of the city, the Temecula Court was kept open and continues to hear unlawful detainer matters. That location now also hears probate cases emanating from the mid county region.

In addition, the Blythe Court has remained open three days a week instead of completely closing, as previously planned. Closing the Blythe Court entirely would have had a very negative impact on the citizens of that community as a round-trip drive to the nearest courthouse in Indio is nearly 200 miles.

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

By keeping these courthouses open, the public has continued to have access to justice in all regions of the county. Had Temecula been closed entirely, residents from that area would have had to travel to downtown Riverside to obtain services. Had Blythe closed, residents from that city would have had to travel 90 minutes to the Larson Justice Center in Indio, a distance of 98 miles one way.

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

The funding for fiscal year 2013-14 enabled the court to keep courthouses open, if on a reduced schedule or for limited case types. Increased funding could enable the court to fully utilize the capacity of its courthouses.

X We maintained, increased or restored public telephone hours.

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours maintained or increased public access to justice.

Due to budget reductions, the court recently discontinued providing telephone customer service to the public for traffic matters. Instead, the public is directed to handle traffic matters on-line from any location, by interactive voice response (automated telephone system), by utilizing kiosks, and/or making appointments with clerks. As such, the additional funding did not enable the court to increase or restore public telephone hours. However, the funding did enable the court to maintain public telephone hours for other (non-traffic) areas of law.

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

The funding in fiscal year 2013-14 allowed the court to maintain telephone service for customers in case types other than traffic. We are evaluating our established modes of responding to traffic case inquiries. Additional funding could enable the court to resume providing telephone service to the public for traffic matters, as needed.

X We maintained, increased or restored court clerk hours.

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

The court was not able to increase 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 that 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 was able to continue to provide court clerk services in the Temecula and Blythe Courts.

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours maintained or increased public access to justice.

The funding provided to the court enabled it to maintain court clerk hours and provided the public with access to justice, although in some instances on a more limited scale, as in Blythe, where service was reduced from five to three days a week.

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

Funding in fiscal year 2013-14 enabled the court to maintain court clerk hours and preserve public access to justice to the greatest extent possible with the funding we were provided. It is anticipated that court clerk hours could be maintained beyond this fiscal year.

X We devoted resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.

- Please explain the areas of backlog that were addressed.

Due to the increased funding, the court was able to continue to staff courtrooms for assigned judges hearing trials and to maintain staffing assigned to process backlog in some locations.

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog maintained or increased public access to justice.

The court has a tremendous need for additional judges and assigned judges provide needed assistance so that backlogs in criminal matters do not develop. The court must pay for the staff for assigned judges from its budget, so the funding was effective in ensuring that cases are tried in a timely manner.

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

Without increased funding, these actions may be temporary and limited to fiscal year 2013-14 as the court may not be able to fund the necessary support staff for assigned judges. If that were the case, the court's ability to utilize assigned judges would be severely reduced and backlogs would likely develop in terms of hearings.

X We suspended/avoided employee furloughs.

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

The court was able to avoid employee furloughs and was therefore able to continue to keep courthouses, courtrooms, and clerk's offices open to the public.

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

Without increased funding the court has to consider ways to reduce expenditure to stay within a reduced budget. Employee furloughs, while not desired, are an option that has to be considered.

X We maintained, increased or restored services in our self-help center.

- Please explain the details of maintaining, increasing or restoring self-help center services.

The increase in funding did not have an impact on self-help services as the majority of funding for these services is derived from grants. Therefore, self-help services were maintained.

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

Self-help services were maintained, thereby promoting access to services for those who need assistance.

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

Were there to be a decrease in grant funding for self-help services, the impact would be: (1) The wait time for self-help services would increase; (2) Litigants may be turned away from the court's self-help centers; (3) Lines in the clerk's offices could increase if self-help services are reduced; (4) Self-help workshops could be reduced and/or eliminated; (5) There could be a significant increase in court documents being improperly prepared, leading to delays in processing; and (6) There would likely be an increase in court hearings.

X We maintained, increased or restored court reporting services.

- Please explain how increased court reporting services maintained or increased public access to justice.

Prior to the augmented funding, the court had planned to discontinue providing court reporting services for all civil cases. Staffing reductions, orders, and procedures were in place. As a result of the new funding that was provided, staff reductions were reduced and a new system of assigning reporters was implemented. All courtrooms now have a court reporter; however, court reporters are deemed available at the conclusion of a trial or hearing so that they can fill in for other reporters who are out on various types of leave. Staff reductions did occur for this employee classification; however the new funding reduced the number of positions lost. The court augments court reporter staffing needs with pro tem usage, when required.

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

Without increased funding the court may be forced to eliminate court reporting services for all non-mandated areas of law, which would result in additional court reporter layoffs. The public would then be required to pay for a court reporter on civil cases if they wish to have that service, thereby limiting access to justice for those parties least able to bear an additional court cost.

X We maintained, increased or restored specialty court(s).

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

Specialty courts have been maintained, however due to staffing reductions as a result of prior year 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 maintained or increased public access to justice.

Public access to specialty court services was maintained as the court has managed to keep them operating.

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

Without increased funding, there is the potential that specialty courts could begin to dismantle unless additional grant funding can be obtained. If the specialty courts were to be reduced in scope or eliminated, the public in need of these services would not have access to the alternatives to inevitable incarceration.

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

- Explain any other ways your court restored, maintained, or increased public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

The court utilized its portion of the \$60 million augmentation as described above to maintain, to the extent possible, core court services. This included providing minimum staffing to keep facilities open, self-help services intact, courtrooms operating without significant delays, backlogs addressed as quickly as possible and preventing reductions in service hours. These efforts maintained access to justice for the public as much as possible.

- Explain the impact of the WAFM calculation and your court's net allocation on your court's ability to maintain, increase or restore access to justice.

The WAFM calculation provided Riverside with additional funding, enabling the court to accomplish or avert the items listed in the other questions. As a historically underfunded court, Riverside was able to use the WAFM funding to make strides towards closing the gap in resources available to trial courts in different counties.

- 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 in funding was beneficial in that it was used to maintain at least minimum levels of service to the public. The level of service provided, however, is drastically below that which would be optimal for the public in Riverside County. Without the necessary number of judges, staff, or funding, the court continues to operate in a "bare minimal" capacity. While Riverside's share of the \$60 million was greatly appreciated by the court and residents of the county, it was not enough to offset the court's cumulative reductions over the past five years.

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

Without increased funding, the actions described in this survey may be temporary and limited to fiscal year 2013-14 as described in the sections above. Compounding these issues is the fact that courts will be restricted to maintaining only one percent in fund balances beginning July 2014. This limitation will hamper the court's ability to offset unfunded mandates, maintain working capital or initiate capital investments, and maintain access to justice when budgets are reduced. In addition, restricting fund balances will cause severe cash flow problems for the court throughout the year. One percent is simply not enough.

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

Projected revenue: \$136,759,898

Projected expenditures: \$132,384,542

The balance is \$4,375,356, of which \$3,051,511 is restricted and \$1,323,845 is the 1 percent allowable carryover.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AS WE PREPARE THIS FOLLOW-UP SURVEY. SUBMIT THIS COMPLETED FORM TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov ON OR BEFORE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, MARCH 27TH. PLEASE CALL ANDI AT 916-323-3121 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

FOLLOW-UP REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

**Superior Court of California,
County of SACRAMENTO**

FY 2013-14

Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$2,625,130

Net Allocation After WAFM: \$2,796,763

There are a number of ways to have used your share of the \$60 million budget augmentation 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, MARCH 27TH.

___ We avoided (or limited) previously planned staffing reductions.

- Please explain how many positions you avoided reducing.

The Sacramento Superior Court avoided further staff reductions due to monies in our fund balance (reserve). However, we note that since 2008 we have reduced personnel by over 200 full-time employees.

The additional funding we received from the \$60 million augmentation (\$2,796,763) was expended to rehire 25 staff to address severe backlogs throughout the court and to restore some of the services in the Family Law Self-Help Center. The use of the additional funds in this way allowed our court to maintain experienced staff in other critical areas to avoid courtroom closures and maintain the public's access to our court at existing levels.

- Please describe the kinds of positions you avoided reducing.

As mentioned above, our court did not expend our share of the \$60 million augmentation to avoid staff reductions. Even with the augmentation we would have been in the position of having to layoff or furlough staff and possibly close courtrooms, but this was avoided because we planned for and maintained a prudent reserve that allowed us to keep staffing at its current level.

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

Sacramento Superior Court increased staffing at our Family Law Self-Help Center which allowed us to increase the number of self-represented litigants we could assist. Self-represented litigants constitute approximately 75% of all family law litigants appearing in our Family Court.

In addition, the court restored funding to a non-profit, multilingual, community-based organization which provides referrals to the public for such services as housing, job placement and training, financial assistance, counseling, mental health services, children's and senior services, food programs, and parenting classes.

The court also reestablished additional workshops to assist family law self-represented litigants in the preparation of an array of legal documents which is further described below.

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

All rehired staff is temporary as the Sacramento Superior Court faces a structural deficit in Fiscal Year 2014-15 stemming from the need to operationalize the last of the multi-year statewide court funding reductions (\$11 million for Sacramento), our 2% statewide reserve contribution of approximately \$1.5 million, and the 1% reserve restriction. As a consequence, our court projects a Fiscal Year 2014-15 deficit of approximately \$7.2 million. This structural deficit would require the layoff of all 25 staff that was rehired using our share of the \$60 million augmentation. Additionally, it is anticipated that additional staff reductions may be necessary due to our funding deficit.

___ **We avoided (or limited) previously planned courtroom closures.**

- Please explain what types of hearings have been maintained.

Sacramento Superior Court has not yet had to close courtrooms.

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

NA

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

Sacramento has avoided courtroom closures primarily because we have been able to maintain a prudent reserve. However, given the large structural deficit in Fiscal Year 2014-15 in combination with the 1% reserve restriction, Sacramento may be put in the position of having to consider courtroom closures due to insufficient funding.

___ **We avoided previously planned courthouse closures.**

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

Please see above responses.

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

NA

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

Please see above responses.

— **We maintained, increased or restored public telephone hours.**

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours maintained or increased public access to justice.

The Sacramento Superior Court has maintained the level of reduced telephone hours available to the public.

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

Given the large structural deficit in Fiscal Year 2014-15, including the 1% reserve restriction, Sacramento will be unable to maintain even the reduced level of public telephone hours and would expect to further decrease the telephone hours available to the public.

Moreover, it is projected that further staffing cuts in the family law and self-help areas would result in drastic increases to both e-correspondence and telephone calls from the public.

— **We maintained, increased or restored court clerk hours.**

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

Sacramento Superior Court rehired 23 Deputy Clerk positions allowing current, experienced staff to maintain critical courtroom workload, public counter, and self-help center services. This allowed our court to redirect the equivalent number of full-time staff to increase public access to various court resources at public counters/windows throughout the court. Thus while our court was able to increase staff availability at public counters, we have been able to only maintain telephone assistance at its reduced levels.

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours maintained or increased public access to justice.

Sacramento utilized rehired clerks to work on case processing functions which allowed existing, experienced court staff to be assigned to courtrooms and public access points (front counters and windows, telephones, etc.). This work by rehired staff resulted in reducing the continuing, growing backlogs that exist throughout the court. Decreasing the backlogs provided increased access by the public to case information, files, and filed documents.

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

Without any additional funding to offset our projected structural deficit in Fiscal Year 2014-15, all staff rehired from the \$60 million augmentation and most likely additional staff will have to be laid off. Any further reduction of clerks would have severe impacts to our court and the public. For example, there will be increased backlogs in the processing of court filings – we expect that we will again experience delays in the processing and hearing of motions to expunge criminal convictions which affects an individual’s ability to obtain employment; untimely completion of court findings and orders to families or their counsel in delinquency and dependency matters; and reduction of services to victims of domestic violence, thereby compromising public safety. [See additional description of backlogs below.]

— We devoted resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.

- Please explain the areas of backlog that were addressed.

Sacramento utilized the funding augmentation to make a priority of reducing backlogs throughout the court. Case processing backlogs included filed documents, judgments, minute orders, and public wait time in lines. In determining which backlogs to address the court considered what would result in greater public access and our ability to stem the return of backlogs with our projected deficit in Fiscal Year 2014-15. The following are further examples of backlog reductions that have been, and continue to be addressed because of the funding augmentation:

Family Law – reduction in the public wait times by the increase in the number of open public windows and the increase of services through the Self-Help Center;

Probate - reduction of nearly 150 backlogged probate investigations, most of which are required reviews under Probate Code Section 1851, which involve the evaluation of living and housing arrangements, care plans, and other information concerning the personal health and safety of conservatees;

Civil – completely reduced 20-40 day backlogs on Proof of Service documents, Notices, Requests for Dismissals, and Writs of Executions and Abstracts with accompanying documents. In addition, there have been substantial reductions in backlogs for all civil default judgments from a high of 101 days to a current backlog of approximately 17 days.

Juvenile – reversed a growing backlog in processing dependency documents; reduced the number of backlog days for filings by half, reduction of confidential mailing information nearly in half, notice of hearings have been reduced from 20 days to 5 days, and reduced by half the number of files awaiting preparation for appeals.

Criminal – addressed backlogs in the court's records retention center, and shredding of documents to provide space for re-filed documents. This work in turn reduces the chances of trial delays due to problems in locating files that may be delayed in transit, waiting for re-filing, or otherwise in between tracking points.

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog maintained or increased public access to justice.

The reduction of public wait times in lines allows us to serve more individuals on a daily basis. This has had a positive impact on reducing levels of stress and frustration on the part of both the public and court staff.

The reduction of case processing documents, in-court documents such as minute orders, filings, and the movement of documents between courtrooms and retention areas makes the judicial process more efficient and accessible for the public. This is critical for all litigants who are in need of the timely resolution of their cases due to health, safety, employment, housing, and other considerations. In civil cases, litigants can more timely begin the process of securing any monies awarded in a judgment.

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

Given the court's structural deficit in Fiscal Year 2014-15 and the 1% reserve restriction, layoffs would be the likely result. All rehired staff which allowed for the reduction of these backlogs would be eliminated thus allowing backlogs to once again grow. This will have a negative impact, including the delay of the public's access to court documents, hearings, and a reduction to self-help assistance.

— **We suspended/avoided employee furloughs.**

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

Sacramento does not currently have any staff on furlough status. The court utilized attrition vacancies and fund reserves to avoid furloughs since 2010.

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

Given the structural deficit in Fiscal Year 2014-15, furloughs would provide some amount of savings and will be an option under consideration as the court seeks to balance its budget. The furlough of staff would further decrease the availability of court staff to assist the public, process court documents, work in courtrooms, and other essential functions at the court.

— **We maintained, increased or restored services in our self-help center.**

- Please explain the details of maintaining, increasing or restoring self-help center services.

As described above, the Sacramento Superior Court increased the number of staff within the Family Law Self-Help Center. The additional staff allows the Center to assist an increased number of self-represented litigants in the preparation of different, and often complex, legal forms that are involved in family law matters. Providing in-person assistance reduces the number of filing errors and increases the likelihood that a self-represented litigant will successfully complete and file documents, such as, default papers, financial disclosures, Request for Orders, paternity paperwork, and requests for child and/or spousal support. This ensures that hearings on their matters can be scheduled and heard rather than be delayed because of a defect in their pleadings. Delays, for example, can impact the individual's ability to obtain court-ordered support (child and spousal), finalize a dissolution, or to establish paternity.

Moreover, for many self-represented litigants, English is their second language and having the ability to have in-person interaction is much more effective than e-correspondence or telephone calls.

Funds were allocated to a non-profit, community based organization that provides multilingual services and referrals for court ordered and other services such as mental health, housing, job placement, health services, counseling, financial assistance, children's and senior services, and parenting classes - all critical to those involved in family law litigation.

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

See above response.

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

The staff assigned to the Family Law Self-Help Center would be among those that would be impacted by layoffs in Fiscal Year 2014-15 due to the structural deficit facing the Sacramento Superior Court. Likewise, the non-profit, community based organization funding would necessarily have to be reduced in Fiscal Year 2014-15.

We anticipate that reductions in staff in the Self-Help Center will result in an increase to e-correspondence and or telephone calls by self-represented litigants. We would be unable to adequately nor timely respond to any increase to online correspondence and telephone calls in that we would have inadequate staff to respond to them.

___ **We maintained, increased or restored court reporting services.**

- Please explain how increased court reporting services maintained or increased public access to justice.

To date the Sacramento Superior Court has been able to maintain court reporting service levels.

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

Again, because of our structural deficit, our ability to maintain the current level of court reporting services and avoid a reduction in this critical area may be in jeopardy in Fiscal Year 2014-15.

___ **We maintained, increased or restored specialty court(s).**

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

To date the Sacramento Superior Court has maintained the same number of specialty courts.

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services maintained or increased public access to justice.

NA

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

Our ability to maintain each of the specialty courts is limited through Fiscal Year 2013-14. Given the structural budget deficit in Fiscal Year 2014-15 a reduction in the number of specialty courts may be necessary.

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

- Explain any other ways your court restored, maintained, or increased public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

All uses have been explained above.

- Explain the impact of the WAFM calculation and your court's net allocation on your court's ability to maintain, increase or restore access to justice.

The WAFM has provided Sacramento with a slight increase in the allocation of historical funding. The increase allows for the addition of the equivalent of one Deputy Clerk position.

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

As described above, the Sacramento Superior Court focused on reducing backlogs throughout the court and to bolstering the Family Law Self-Help Center, along with allocating funding to contract for probate investigative services to review critical investigations required by statute. These investigations are an independent evaluation of the living and housing arrangements, care plans, and other information concerning the personal health and safety of conservatees. The court also restored funding to a non-profit, community based organization that provides multilingual information and referral services assisting mostly self-represented litigants.

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

It cannot be overly stressed that the Sacramento Superior Court's structural budget deficit undoes all the positive actions we were able to take as a result of both the \$60 million augmentation and our ability to maintain a fund balance reserve without restriction.

As explained above, all of the services we have been able to provide to the public and the backlogs we have been able to address will be reversed in Fiscal Year 2014-15 unless we receive additional funding. Moreover, if we experience either or both further reductions to staff or the closing of courtrooms, the impacts to the public will be even greater.

For example:

- Fewer workshops which assist victims of domestic violence with restraining order applications.*
 - Delays of up to three months could be expected in the processing and hearing of motions to expunge criminal convictions.*
 - Unlawful detainer cases will be further delayed impacting those involved in housing disputes.*
 - The court will be unable to timely provide court findings and orders to families or their counsel in delinquency and dependency matters.*
-
- What are your projected revenues and expenditures for NEXT fiscal year (2014-15)?*

| | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <i>Projected Revenues</i> | <i>\$83,850,000</i> |
| <i>Projected Expenditures</i> | <i><u>\$91,050,000</u></i> |
| <i>Projected Deficit/Shortfall</i> | <i>(\$7,200,000)</i> |

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FOLLOW-UP REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

Superior Court of California,

County of SAN BENITO

FY 2013-14

Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$85,264

Net Allocation After WAFM: \$85,264

There are a number of ways to have used your share of the \$60 million budget augmentation 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, MARCH 27TH.

n/a We avoided (or limited) previously planned staffing reductions.

- Please explain how many positions you avoided reducing.

Type your response here

- Please describe the kinds of positions you avoided reducing.

Type your response here

- Please explain how this action allowed 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

n/a We avoided (or limited) previously planned courtroom closures.

San Benito has just two judges and 3 courtrooms to serve the community. With so few courtrooms, closure has never been an option.

- Please explain what types of hearings have been 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 any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

n/a We avoided previously planned courthouse closures.

San Benito has a single court facility. As such, closure has never been an option.

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you were 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 any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

X We *maintained*, increased or restored public telephone hours.

Please note that telephone hours were considered under the same category as “court clerk hours.”

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

X We *maintained*, increased or restored 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 were maintained, increased or restored.

San Benito is a 2-judge Court that offers three public counters: 1) Civil, 2) Criminal – Traffic, and 3) Family Court Services. The Court was able to maintain the hours of public service from 8:00am to 4:00pm which allowed the community to continue to access judicial services at its normal level of convenience. It's important to note that within the category of Family Court Services, the Court continued to provide the community uninterrupted access to the self-help center which is a collaborative effort between San Benito and Santa Cruz (see subsequent question).

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours maintained or increased public access to justice.

San Benito's longstanding schedule of public service has been from 8:00am to 4:00pm, Monday through Friday. 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 to 4:00pm and plans to keep them intact at least until June 30, 2014.

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

Notwithstanding the value of the \$60 million reinvestment in the judicial branch, the depth of the prior budget reductions to the judicial 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 Governor's modest allocation increase proposed for the judicial branch in FY 2014-2015.*
- *New expenditures related to our new courthouse (e.g. \$56,000 for janitorial services).*
- *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 devoted resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.

- Please explain the areas of backlog that were addressed.

Type your response here

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

X We suspended/avoided additional employee furloughs.

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

San Benito negotiated a furlough schedule of 12 furlough days for all court staff for FY2013-2014. The Court's original plan was to negotiate for 24 furlough days and 13 unpaid holidays. In part, our share of the \$60M allowed us to maintain the public's access to judicial service by keeping furlough days to the lowest number that financial conditions would allow.

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

Due to the "bare bones" financial condition described previously, it's uncertain if San Benito can eliminate or reduce the current level of furloughs in FY2014-2015. 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 Governor's modest allocation increase proposed for the judicial branch in FY 2014-2015.*
- *New expenditures related to our new courthouse (e.g. \$56,000 for janitorial services).*
- *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 eliminate or reduce the current level of furlough days.

X We maintained, increased or restored services in our self-help center.

- Please explain the details of maintaining, increasing or restoring self-help center services.

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 maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Due to the “bare bones” financial condition described previously, 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 Governor’s modest allocation increase proposed for the judicial branch in FYI 2014-2015.*
- *New expenditures related to our new courthouse (e.g. \$56,000 for janitorial services).*
- *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 maintained, increased or restored court reporting services.

- Please explain how increased court reporting services maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

X We were unable to maintained, increased or restore specialty court(s).

- Please describe the specialty court(s) 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). Unfortunately, the Court was unable to restore Literacy Court or establish Parental Responsibility Court in FY2013-2014.

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services maintained or increased 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) and which are 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 your court restored, maintained, or increased public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

Type your response here

- Explain the impact of the WAFM calculation and your court’s net allocation on your court’s ability to maintain, increase or restore access to justice.

n/a (San Benito was exempt for FY2013-2014)

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

Notwithstanding deserved appreciation, the value of our share of the \$60 million is limited to the current fiscal year when coupled with the pending modest increase in allocation to the judicial branch for FY2014-2015 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

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 2013-2014 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 depth of the prior budget 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)?

FY2014-2015 Annual Expenses: \$ 3,212,140
FY2014-2015 Annual Revenue: \$ 3,102,854
FY2014-2015 Projected Deficit: \$(109,286)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AS WE PREPARE THIS FOLLOW-UP SURVEY. SUBMIT THIS COMPLETED FORM TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov ON OR BEFORE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, MARCH 27TH. PLEASE CALL ANDI AT 916-323-3121 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

FOLLOW-UP REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

**Superior Court of California,
County of SAN BERNARDINO**

FY 2013-14

Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$3,476,637

Net Allocation After WAFM: \$6,578,924

There are a number of ways to have used your share of the \$60 million budget augmentation 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, MARCH 27TH.

___ We avoided (or limited) previously planned staffing reductions.

- Please explain how many positions you avoided reducing.

All actions needed to fully balance court revenues and expenditures have been identified. The additional monies were used to keep Joshua Tree Courthouse open. Joshua Tree has been reduced by one courtroom but we were able to keep the remaining three courtrooms open. As a result, we avoided reducing 18 positions in Joshua Tree.

Barstow had been slated for complete closure. The augmentation helped to reduce the closure to only 4 courtrooms and allowed us to keep one courtroom open, but only three days a week. We therefore avoided reducing 9 positions in Barstow.

We also avoided closing four criminal, one delinquency, and one civil courtroom, countywide. The closing of these courtrooms would have resulted in a further reduction of another approximately 18 positions.

Finally, we were able to hire staff to assist in the self- help resource centers and child custody recommending counselors for family law.

- Please describe the kinds of positions you avoided reducing.

In Joshua Tree, the positions we kept were Legal Processing Assistant II, Judicial Assistant I, Judicial Assistant II, Child Custody Recommending Counselor, and Official Court Reporter. In Barstow, we actually added 0.5 Paralegal, who provides services to self-represented litigants in our Barstow self-help resource center.

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

This additional funding did 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. Also, by keeping one courtroom in the Barstow District open, we were able to continue to serve that community by maintaining limited court services there.

The additional funding enabled us to actually increase services by opening new self-help resources center in Barstow and Fontana. The addition of services in Barstow greatly increases access for self-represented litigants of one of the more remote areas of the County. The Fontana center provides a centralized location for San Bernardino Valley residents to obtain assistance with small claims and unlawful detainer actions.

At Family and Children's Services Division, four child custody recommending counselor positions were hired, on a temporary basis, to increase access to justice for families experiencing the crisis of a separation or divorce and families where there has been domestic violence and or child abuse. These additional positions created more child custody recommending counseling appointments which increased access for the public and courtrooms.

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

At the present time, we anticipate the court will have the ability to maintain the self-help positions hired with these ongoing funds.

We expect we will maintain the additional child custody recommending counseling positions for ongoing increased availability of appointments to the public and courtrooms which will support more efficient customer service to families in crisis.

___ We avoided (or limited) previously planned courtroom closures.

- Please explain what types of hearings have been maintained.

Without the additional funding, it was likely that the court would have had 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 courtroom, countywide.

The result in Barstow would have been very similar; the courthouse would have been closed. The Court would not have been able to continue operation of the one (1) courtroom and/or the clerk's office. The additional funding has enabled the residents of these two (2) remote areas to have continued access to the Court without traveling long distances.

- 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. San Bernardino is the largest county, geographically, thus imposing extreme distances between courthouses. With every closure comes serious transportation problems and reduced access to court services.

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

We anticipate that the court will be able to maintain these six (6) courtrooms in operation (four criminal, one delinquency, and one civil courtroom).

___ **We avoided previously planned courthouse closures.**

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

Joshua Tree Courthouse operations will remain open in FY 14-15. Complete closure of Barstow was avoided by maintaining one courtroom in operation, three days per week.

- 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.

The Barstow Courthouse serves a population of approximately thirty-five thousand people. The median income for the area is under \$20,000 and like Joshua Tree, there is extremely limited public transportation; making it very difficult for residents to travel to other court locations.

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

Not applicable.

___ **We maintained, increased or restored public telephone hours.**

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours maintained or increased public access to justice.

The Court has increased its public telephone access by implementing a Call Center/Telephone assistance program in our Self-help Resource Center that provides information and assistance via telephone to self-represented litigants. The call center is

a viable access alternative for residents who live in remote areas of the county and/or lack transportation to visit a Self-help Resource Center.

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

The call center is expected to be permanent as long as funding is available.

___ **We maintained, increased or restored court clerk hours.**

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

Not applicable.

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours maintained or increased public access to justice.

Not applicable. The additional funding did not impact court clerk hours.

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

Not applicable.

___ **We devoted resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.**

- Please explain the areas of backlog that were addressed.

The Court's suspension of employee furloughs allowed the Court to reduce growing case backlogs.

In addition, the funding enabled the Court to hire four (4) child custody recommending counselors and seven (7) self-help employees on a temporary basis, through June 30, 2014. This has assisted in reducing the wait time for child custody recommending counseling appointments. We expect to continue those positions with this ongoing funding.

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog maintained or increased public access to justice.

With the allocation of \$60 million in new monies, the Court suspended furloughs of staff through June 30, 2014. This provided 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, the increase in child custody recommending counselor positions assisted in a reduction of the wait time for family court mediations, which resulted in more timely setting of family law hearings. The additional positions resulted in the creation of 736 new appointments between January 2014 and June 2014 to increase access to justice to the public and family law courtrooms.

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

The increase in mediation and self-help services was implemented in the current fiscal year and is expected to be permanent as long as funding is available.

___ **We suspended/avoided employee furloughs.**

- Please explain how this action allowed 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 increased public access to justice in several way, including reducing public waiting time in lines as more staff is available to provide assistance, and filing backlogs decreased 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 increased assistance to the public by approximately 29,184 court clerk hours or almost 14 FTE in the current fiscal year.

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

The planned furlough was suspended in the 13-14 fiscal year and the Court hopes to be able to suspend furloughs planned for FY 14-15.

___ **We maintained, increased or restored services in our self-help center.**

- Please explain the details of maintaining, increasing or restoring self-help center services.

In FY 13-14 we increased 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 are implementing a Call Center/Telephone assistance program. We are also implementing 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 maintained or increased public access to justice.

With the opening of self-help resource centers in Fontana and Barstow, the public has additional and more convenient access to self-help services. From January 2014 through March 2014, the Fontana center provided assistance in small claims and unlawful detainer cases to 524 people. For the month of March 2014, the Barstow center provided assistance to, on average, 12 people each day the center was open.

Domestic Violence forms will be able to be completed online. Computer generated Domestic Violence forms will be easier to read and fill out. User comment has been very favorable; most stating the forms are clear and easy to use. Online forms will reduce the number of trips to the courthouse.

The Call Center/Telephone Assistance program provides a viable access alternative for residents who live in remote areas of the county and/or lack transportation to visit a Self-help Resource Center.

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

Much of the forms development and programming costs are one time. The enhanced staffing and in-person services will extend beyond 6/30/14.

___ **We maintained, increased or restored court reporting services.**

- Please explain how increased court reporting services maintained or increased public access to justice.

Not applicable. The Court did 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 family law and civil cases. The additional funding provided this year was not sufficient to return to the prior level of service.

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

Not applicable.

___ **We maintained, increased or restored specialty court(s).**

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

There were no changes in specialty courts planned in FY 13-14.

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services maintained or increased 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) and which are 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 your court restored, maintained, or increased public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

San Bernardino Superior Court increased child custody recommending counseling services for Family Law cases with an increase of four (4) Child Custody Recommending Counselors. These additional positions and a new calendaring system supported the Court in reducing a 100+ day backlog of parents waiting for a child custody recommending counseling appointment and a court hearing to the current wait time of 28-42 days for a hearing and a child custody recommending counseling appointment prior to the hearing.

- Explain the impact of the WAFM calculation and your court's net allocation on your court's ability to maintain, increase or restore access to justice.

Being an underfunded Court, the impact of the WAFM calculation was positive and the Court was able to use the funds to improve and automate jury service delivery for the residents of this vast county. The additional self-help services (Call Center, online forms and additional one-on-one assistance) provided through WAFM not only increase access but help to increase case disposition in that documents are correctly prepared, foot traffic in the clerk's office is reduced and litigants are better prepared and ready for court proceedings.

- 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 the funds to implement e-filing processes in civil, probate, and family law cases. This will further enhance the Court's ability to provide access for the residents of this of this county which is over 20,000 square miles.

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

The additional employees in self-help and mediation were hired on the understanding their positions may end on June 30, 2014 depending on the availability of funding. However, the Court hopes to extend this support into future fiscal years.

The jury service and self-help on-line service improvements were largely paid as one-time charges in FY 13-14 and will provide on-going benefits into future fiscal years.

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

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| <i>Projected Revenue</i> | <i>\$ 99,708,769</i> |
| <i>Projected Expenditures</i> | <i>\$100,961,795</i> |

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AS WE PREPARE THIS FOLLOW-UP SURVEY. SUBMIT THIS COMPLETED FORM TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov ON OR BEFORE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, MARCH 27TH. PLEASE CALL ANDI AT 916-323-3121 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

FOLLOW-UP REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

Superior Court of California,

County of SAN DIEGO

FY 2013-14

Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$4,322,164

Net Allocation After WAFM: \$1,564,111

There are a number of ways to have used your share of the \$60 million budget augmentation 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, MARCH 27TH.

XX We avoided (or limited) previously planned staffing reductions.

- Please explain how many positions you avoided reducing.

The 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. The restored funding did not enable our court to increase the number of employees to serve the public. The restored funding offset by 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.

- Please describe the kinds of positions you avoided reducing.
- Please explain how this action allowed you to maintain or increase public access to justice in applicable divisions of your court or courthouse(s).

The restored funding and the stabilization in the size of our workforce (at a 27% vacancy rate from our staffing levels in FY 2007-08) enabled 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, the court was able to 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

XX We avoided (or limited) previously planned courtroom closures.

- Please explain what types of hearings have been maintained.

The restored funding enabled the court to avoid closing 2 courtrooms that were previously planned for closure by June 20, 2013. As a result, the court was able to avoid increases to the already intolerable backlogs and delays in the processing of traffic and family law matters.

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

The restored funding has kept the backlog from “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, the delays in family law child custody evaluations with a family court counselor have remained at the current 2 month backlog.

The 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, the court was not 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 were also unable to restore probate court services or full dependency court services in our North County Branch.

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

___ We avoided previously planned courthouse closures.

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you were able to avoid closing.
- Please explain the impact on the public by keeping open this/these courthouse(s).
- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

XX We maintained, increased or restored public telephone hours.

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours maintained or increased public access to justice.

The restored funding and the stabilization in the size of our workforce (at a 27% vacancy rate from our staffing levels in FY 2007-08) enabled the court 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 the court can avoid any further reductions to public telephone hours.

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

XX We maintained, increased or restored court clerk hours.

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

The restored funding, allowed the court to 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.

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours maintained or increased public access to justice.
- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

— We devoted resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.

- Please explain the areas of backlog that were addressed.
- Please explain how decreasing the backlog maintained or increased public access to justice.
- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

XX We suspended/avoided employee furloughs.

- Please explain how this action allowed 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 any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

XX We maintained, increased or restored services in our self-help center.

- Please explain the details of maintaining, increasing or restoring self-help center services.

The court was able to maintain the current (reduced) level of self-help services in FY 2013-14.

- Please explain how the increase in self-help services maintained or increased public access to justice.
- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

XX We maintained, increased or restored court reporting services.

- Please explain how increased court reporting services maintained or increased public access to justice.

The court was able 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 any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

XX We maintained, increased or restored specialty court(s).

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

The court was able to maintain the current level of specialty courts in FY 2013-14.

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services maintained or increased public access to justice.
- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

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

- Explain any other ways your court restored, maintained, or increased public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

The restored funding, at best, enabled 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. The restored funding did not avoid or limit any previously planned staffing reductions. The restored funding did not enable our court to increase the number of employees to serve the public. The restored funding and implementation of WAFM assisted the court in reducing the court's ongoing structural deficit from an estimated \$8 million to an estimated \$5 million. The structural deficit cannot continue to be maintained at this level after this fiscal year due to the inability to carry over more than 1% in reserve and most likely will be managed by imposing unpaid work furloughs on court employees unless the court receives adequate and restored funding in the future.

- Explain the impact of the WAFM calculation and your court's net allocation on your court's ability to maintain, increase or restore access to justice.

Implementing WAFM in FY 2013-14 reduced San Diego's share of the \$60 million funding augmentation (\$4.32 million) by \$2.76 million. The restored funding total was 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 and adequate restored funding, we will be unable to truly restore or increase public access.

- 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) and which are 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: \$174.7 million

Projected FY 14-15 Revenues: \$168.7 million

Projected FY 14-15 Deficit -\$ 6.0 million

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FOLLOW-UP REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

**Superior Court of California,
County of SAN FRANCISCO**

FY 2013-14

Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$1,605,726

Net Allocation After WAFM: (\$470,569)

There are a number of ways to have used your share of the \$60 million budget augmentation 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, MARCH 27TH.

___ We avoided (or limited) previously planned staffing reductions.

- Please explain how many positions you avoided reducing.

Type your response here

- Please describe the kinds of positions you avoided reducing.

Type your response here

- Please explain how this action allowed 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ We avoided (or limited) previously planned courtroom closures.

- Please explain what types of hearings have been 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 any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We avoided previously planned courthouse closures.**

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you were 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 any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We maintained, increased or restored public telephone hours.**

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We maintained, increased or restored court clerk hours.**

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

Type your response here

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We devoted resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.**

- Please explain the areas of backlog that were addressed.

Type your response here

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ We suspended/avoided employee furloughs.

- Please explain how this action allowed you to 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

X We maintained, increased or restored services in our self-help center.

- Please explain the details of maintaining, increasing or restoring self-help center services.

The Court has hired an additional bi-lingual Spanish speaking attorney to increase self-help services. Specifically, the self-help center has restored the following services:

- 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 maintained or increased 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) and which are 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 maintained, increased or restored court reporting services.

- Please explain how increased court reporting services maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We maintained, increased or restored specialty court(s).**

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

Type your response here

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services maintained or increased 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) and which are 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 restored, maintained, or increased public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

Restore One Probate Examiner Position

The Court hired 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 re-opened 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 expanded services were provided 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.

- Explain the impact of the WAFM calculation and your court's net allocation on your court's ability to maintain, increase or restore access to justice.

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) and which are 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 \$5.6 million deficit for Fiscal Year 2014-15. The specific budget forecasts are:

*Revenue: \$70,801,949
Expenditures: \$ 76,408,057
Net Deficit: \$ (5,606,108)*

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AS WE PREPARE THIS FOLLOW-UP SURVEY. SUBMIT THIS COMPLETED FORM TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov ON OR BEFORE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, MARCH 27TH. PLEASE CALL ANDI AT 916-323-3121 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

FOLLOW-UP REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

Superior Court of California,

County of SAN JOAQUIN

FY 2013-14

Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$1,162,391

Net Allocation After WAFM: \$1,753,890

There are a number of ways to have used your share of the \$60 million budget augmentation 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, MARCH 27TH.

X We avoided (or limited) previously planned staffing reductions.

- Please explain how many positions you avoided 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 avoided reducing.

We had not planned on further staff reductions this fiscal year. However, we did eliminate mandatory furloughs for all staff.

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

In September, we were able to hire back all part-time Legal Process Clerks. We have also hired one Probate Investigator, one Accountant, and one Business Services Specialist. We are currently recruiting for one IT Systems Administrator. These additional staff positions have allowed our Court to fully restore small claims services and reduce some of our backlogs.

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

As long as our funding stream remains consistent, the above actions are not temporary. We do not anticipate reinstating mandatory furloughs or making staff reductions.

X We avoided (or limited) previously planned courtroom closures.

- Please explain what types of hearings have been maintained.

Additional courtroom closures were not necessary this fiscal year.

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

N/A.

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

N/A.

X We avoided previously planned courthouse closures.

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

Additional courthouse closures were not necessary this fiscal year.

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

N/A.

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

N/A.

X We maintained, increased or restored public telephone hours.

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours maintained or increased 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 any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are 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, our plan is to maintain the status quo.

X We maintained, increased or restored court clerk hours.

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

We did not restore the court clerk hours that we are open to the public. We 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 maintained or increased 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) and which are 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, our plan is to maintain the status quo.

X We devoted resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.

- Please explain the areas of backlog that were addressed.

This funding along with other savings this court has achieved through courthouse closures, reductions in staff, furloughs and other cost saving measures, have allowed us to reinstate/recall some of our previously laid off staff. The additional staff has allowed our court to work on some of the backlog. In particular, we have significantly reduced backlogs in Civil and Small Claims.

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog maintained or increased public access to justice.

The reduction in backlog has provided litigants with the documents and actions they need to pursue their cases in civil, small claims and family law. We have been able to once again provide more timely services to all of these litigants.

In criminal and traffic, the reduction in the backlogs have allowed for more timely reporting of dispositions to both the Department of Motor Vehicles and the Department of Justice. The timely reporting of dispositions helps to 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

As long as funding remains constant, we anticipate that we will be able to slowly reduce our backlogs. Our filings and the number of jury trials are increasing. If this trend continues, we will not be able to keep pace with the workload and backlogs may grow unless additional funding is received for additional staff resources.

X We suspended/avoided employee furloughs.

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

Additional employee furloughs were not instituted this fiscal year. This action alone provided approximately 24,000 hours of productivity, which aided in the reduction of backlog, thus increasing access to justice.

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

N/A.

X We maintained, increased or restored services in our self-help center.

- Please explain the details of maintaining, increasing or restoring self-help center services.

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 maintained or increased 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) and which are 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.

X We maintained, increased or restored court reporting services.

- Please explain how increased court reporting services maintained or increased public access to justice.

We did not increase or restore previously cut court reporter services.

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

The reduction in court reporter services will extend beyond fiscal year 2013-14.

X We maintained, increased or restored specialty court(s).

- Please describe the specialty court(s) 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 maintained or increased 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) and which are 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 your court restored, maintained, or increased public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

Between September 1, 2012 and October 1, 2013, our court severely curtailed small claims services. Small claims litigants could file their claims, but were not assigned a hearing date. Our share of the \$60M and the WAFM allocation, 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. With the additional staff, we were able to resume small claims hearings on November 4, 2013. At the time, there was a backlog of 1,200 small claims cases, which was cleared in January 2014.

- Explain the impact of the WAFM calculation and your court's net allocation on your court's ability to maintain, increase or restore access to justice.

The impact of the WAFM calculation and our net allocation allowed our court to maintain, increase, or restore access to justice in the following ways:

- 1. Restore some of the staff that have been laid off over the last several fiscal years.*
- 2. Fully resume small claims services, which were reduced in September 2012.*
- 3. Reduce backlogs in civil, small claims, and family law, thereby increasing the court's ability to provide more timely services to all litigants.*
- 4. Reduce backlogs in criminal and traffic, which allows for more timely reporting of dispositions to both the Department of Motor Vehicles and the Department of*

Justice ensuring that driver's records and criminal history records are as up-to-date as possible.

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

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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

As long as funding remains constant, our court anticipates we will be able to continue with the actions taken this fiscal year. 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. However, we are already experiencing an increase in felony filings and the number of jury trials held. This increase in workload with no increase in funding will jeopardize our progress in reducing backlog and increasing access to justice.

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

For Fiscal Year 2014-2015 we estimate our revenues will be approximately \$30.8M and our expenses approximately \$30.9M. The Governor's FY14-15 budget provided the trial courts with an additional \$100M of new funding. With the current WAFM allocation methodology our court is projected to receive an additional \$1.9M in FY14-15.

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FOLLOW-UP REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

**Superior Court of California,
County of SAN LUIS OBISPO**

FY 2013-14

Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$432,381

Net Allocation After WAFM: \$394,598

There are a number of ways to have used your share of the \$60 million budget augmentation 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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___ **We avoided (or limited) previously planned staffing reductions.**

- Please explain how many positions you avoided reducing.

Our share of the \$60 million augmentation allowed us to eliminate furloughs and hire six temporary employees to process backlogs in criminal and family law.

- Please describe the kinds of positions you avoided reducing.

Because we still had reserves, we did not have to reduce any current positions. However; had the reserve funds been unavailable we would probably be looking at layoffs in areas we are not mandated to provide services such as Self-Help and Court Reporters in Family Law.

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

This funding allowed us to restore full staffing on Fridays which helped us clean up backlogs and provide increased access to litigants 5 days per week.

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

In fiscal year 2014/15 our budget projections indicate we will probably be forced to lay off employees or institute furloughs if appropriate funding is not restored.

___ **We avoided (or limited) previously planned courtroom closures.**

- Please explain what types of hearings have been maintained.

We avoided closing the traffic and small claims courtroom in Paso Robles.

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

Traffic and small claims litigants from the North County avoided the long drive to the main courthouse in San Luis Obispo. Paso Robles Police officers were spared the long travel time from their city to San Luis Obispo to testify in traffic court. .

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

Our expected shortfall for next year will require us to furlough employees 2 days per month creating delays and backlogs. Telephone hours will be reduced and perhaps some reductions in clerk's office hours. 6 temporary legal process positions will be eliminated and we will have further reductions in services and supplies.

___ **We avoided previously planned courthouse closures.**

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

As we lose our temporary staff in Paso Robles, we may have to consider closing the clerk's office in Paso Robles in order to achieve economies of scale at one courthouse. As it stands right now, over half of the work filed in Paso Robles is being processed in San Luis Obispo. The limited resources at the Paso Robles Courthouse have made filing window coverage challenging.

___ **We maintained, increased or restored public telephone hours.**

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours maintained or increased public access to justice.

Consistent telephone coverage has been a challenge due to the on-going budget reductions which began in 2008 and continue to this day. Our philosophy has been to serve the customers in the courthouse as our first priority. Therefore, when we are making hard choices of whether to pick up the phone to answer questions, or help customers waiting in long lines, we help those who have come to the courthouse. Until we achieve full funding, telephone hours will remain limited and inconsistent.

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

Telephone coverage will remain a low priority until full funding is achieved; however, we have not eliminated the service.

___ We maintained, increased or restored court clerk hours.

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

San Luis Obispo Court has not changed court clerk hours; however, the lines have increased due to staffing shortages.

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours maintained or increased public access to justice.

Prior to 2008, we had 18 clerk's office windows staffed to help the public. Presently we have six. We have closed the Grover Beach Clerk's Office which previously had 4 windows serving the public. The Paso Robles Courthouse has four windows that were staffed in 2008 and currently have one or two windows opened to the public depending on staffing. The Civil Clerk's Office in San Luis Obispo has four windows for service to the public; however, only two are staffed. The Criminal/Traffic Clerk's Office has six windows, but only two are staffed.

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

The aforementioned conditions are likely to continue unless full funding is restored.

___ We devoted resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.

- Please explain the areas of backlog that were addressed.

We used temporary help to enter traffic citations, fine payments, family law judgments, state prison packets and warrants into our case management systems. We have not had the resources to address other areas where backlogs exist, such as name search requests, document requests and other routine requests for information.

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

Since we paid for temporary staff out of court reserves, the backlogs will likely reappear as we lose the funding to pay for staff. Unless full funding is restored, we will likely experience backlogs in the future.

___ We suspended/avoided employee furloughs.

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

Our share of the \$60 million augmentation funding gave us the equivalent of one furlough day per month. Unfortunately, we were taking 26 furlough days per year, slightly more than two days per month. We were able to use a portion of our existing fund balance to offset the cost of the remaining days.

The elimination of furlough days basically opened the courthouse back up on Fridays. We were able to conduct somewhat normal business despite the 20% shortage of employees caused by the on-going budget cuts.

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

We have already begun planning for furloughs and layoffs for fiscal year 2014/15.

___ **We maintained, increased or restored services in our self-help center.**

- Please explain the details of maintaining, increasing or restoring self-help center services.

We maintained services in our self-help center.

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

We work with approximately 600 customers per month providing family law, civil and probate services. Without our self-help services these customers would not have adequate access to the courts because most cannot afford to pay for a lawyer.

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

Self-help is not a mandated service courts are required to provide, therefore, if funding is not available they will likely be eliminated.

___ **We maintained, increased or restored court reporting services.**

- Please explain how increased court reporting services maintained or increased public access to justice.

We maintained court reporting services and are currently providing reporters for family law matters. Otherwise, litigants in family law would not be able to appeal decisions without a record of court proceedings.

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

It is not likely we will be able to provide court reporters in family law cases unless funding is restored.

___ **We maintained, increased or restored specialty court(s).**

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

We increased the number of specialty courts by adding an Adult Treatment Court Collaborative (ATCC) and a Veteran's Treatment Court (VTC). We were able to do this because the County provided us with grant money to fund two positions to process the workload.

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services maintained or increased public access to justice.

The ATCC allowed defendants that were otherwise excluded from other specialty courts to find a treatment court that was able to deal with their mental illness and addictions. The VTC allowed us to take advantage of legislation that allows Veterans alternative sentencing models that include treatment and therapy.

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

The county grant money will go away in September and unless there is new funding, we will most likely have to lay off the two positions the grant had paid for. Without staff to process the cases, we may have to eliminate these specialty courts.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AS WE PREPARE THIS FOLLOW-UP SURVEY. SUBMIT THIS COMPLETED FORM TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov ON OR BEFORE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, MARCH 27TH. PLEASE CALL ANDI AT 916-323-3121 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

FOLLOW-UP REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

Superior Court of California,

County of SAN MATEO

FY 2013-14

Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$1,113,257

Net Allocation After WAFM: \$665,146

There are a number of ways to have used your share of the \$60 million budget augmentation 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, MARCH 27TH.

We avoided (or limited) previously planned staffing reductions.

- Please explain how many positions you avoided reducing.

With 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 avoided reducing 13 positions, including one commissioner position.

Unfortunately, the significant cuts that remained necessitated the reduction of seven more court staff and three commissioners through lay-offs. 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 over 30% compared with our workforce in 2008, prior to State cuts.

- Please describe the kinds of positions you avoided reducing.

In addition to one Commissioner position, the court avoided reducing courtroom clerk positions, deputy court clerks, clerk supervisors and one administrative position.

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

The \$60 million partial funding restoration allowed 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

If no new funding is provided in FY14/15 beyond the amount necessary to cover increased employee health and retirement costs, additional reductions may be needed to cover both these costs and the additional reductions from the new workload funding model.

X We avoided (or limited) previously planned courtroom closures.

- Please explain what types of hearings have been maintained.

Preservation of one courtroom has maintained 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 was able to ensure that calendars normally staffed by a Court Commissioner were not delayed. This added Court Commissioner coverage also enabled increased judicial officer coverage of trials, civil caseloads, as well as higher priority criminal hearings.

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

If no new funding is provided in FY14/15 beyond the amount necessary to cover increased employee health and retirement costs, additional reductions may be needed to cover both these costs and the additional reductions from the new workload funding model.

We avoided previously planned courthouse closures.

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

The court was 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 was able to maintain preliminary hearings and prevent further reductions to access to justice at our Northern Branch facility.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are 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, beyond simply the amount necessary to cover increased employee health and retirement costs.

— We maintained, increased or restored public telephone hours.

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours maintained or increased public access to justice.

Our judiciary and staff have worked diligently and in partnership with our unions and justice partners to create efficiencies and savings, to effectively utilize technology and consolidate our workforce to provide the best trial court services possible with the resources available.

The amount of limited funding restoration was insufficient to restore public telephone hours. However, with a minimum \$266 million restored back to the trial courts, we would be able to start restoring public telephone hours to pre-2013 time schedules.

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

If no new funding is provided in FY14/15 beyond the amount necessary to cover increased employee health and retirement costs, additional reductions may be needed to cover both these costs and the additional reductions from the new workload funding model.

— We maintained, increased or restored court clerk hours.

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

Our judiciary and staff have worked diligently and in partnership with our unions and justice partners to create efficiencies and savings, to effectively utilize technology and consolidate our workforce to provide the best trial court services possible with the resources available.

The amount of limited funding restoration was insufficient to restore court clerk counter hours. However, with a minimum \$266 million restored back to the trial courts, we would be able to start restoring court clerk counter hours to pre-2013 time schedules.

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours maintained or increased public access to justice.

The court will continue to make every effort to not decrease public access further, with the understanding that this effort is directly related to our ability to maintain fiscal support for our reduced workforce and add sustainable restoration of funding in 2014, beyond the amount necessary to cover increased employee health and retirement costs.

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

Again, the court will make every effort to not decrease public access further. It must be understood that this effort is directly related to our ability to maintain fiscal support for our reduced workforce and add sustainable restoration of funding in 2014, beyond the amount necessary to cover increased employee health and retirement costs.

X We devoted resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.

- Please explain the areas of backlog that were addressed.

While we were able to limit significant increases to our backlogs in Civil, Family Law, Traffic and Probate, workforce losses necessitated by the ongoing funding cuts beyond the partial restoration have caused records backlogs to increase in Civil and Family Law.

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog maintained or increased public access to justice.

Efforts to decrease the backlog have reduced the delays affecting the public's ability to obtain timely judgments and orders, and reduced delays in the scheduling of hearings in the most essential areas. However, the public's ability to access court records has been negatively impacted, in some circumstances, due to lack of staffing resources.

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

Reducing backlogs in case processing and improving access to records in all divisions is directly related to our ability to maintain fiscal support for our reduced workforce and add sustainable restoration of funding in 2014, beyond the amount necessary to cover increased employee health and retirement costs.

We suspended/avoided employee furloughs.

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

As we have downsized our services to match the size of our reduced workforce and on-going budget cuts, the court has and will continue to avoid employee furloughs.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are 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 maintained, increased or restored services in our self-help center.**

- Please explain the details of maintaining, increasing or restoring self-help center services.

The court will continue to make every effort to avoid decreasing services further in our self-help center, with the understanding that this effort is directly related to our ability to maintain fiscal support for our reduced workforce and add sustainable restoration of funding in 2014, beyond the amount necessary to cover increased employee health and retirement costs.

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

The court maintained its most essential self-help services and prevented services from being reduced further – and will continue to do so, with the understanding that this effort is directly related to our ability to maintain fiscal support for our reduced workforce and add sustainable restoration of funding in 2014, beyond the amount necessary to cover increased employee health and retirement costs.

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

If no new funding is provided in FY14/15 beyond the amount necessary to cover increased employee health and retirement costs, additional reductions may be needed to cover both these costs and the additional reductions from the new workload funding model.

___ **We maintained, increased or restored court reporting services.**

- Please explain how increased court reporting services maintained or increased public access to justice.

The court prevented court reporting services from being reduced further and will continue to do so, with the understanding that this effort is directly related to our ability to maintain fiscal support for our reduced workforce and add sustainable restoration of funding in 2014, beyond the amount necessary to cover increased employee health and retirement costs. .

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

If no new funding is provided in FY14/15 beyond the amount necessary to cover increased employee health and retirement costs, additional reductions may be needed to cover both these costs and the additional reductions from the new workload funding model.

___ **We maintained, increased or restored specialty court(s).**

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

The court has taken steps throughout this year to maintain the integrity and continuity of our successful specialty (collaborative) courts. The future success of these efforts are directly related to our ability to maintain fiscal support for our reduced workforce and add sustainable restoration of funding in 2014, beyond the amount necessary to cover increased employee health and retirement costs.

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services maintained or increased public access to justice.

The court fully understands the importance of maintaining the integrity and continuity of our successful specialty (collaborative) courts.

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

Again, the court has taken steps throughout this year to maintain the integrity and continuity of its successful specialty (collaborative) courts. The future success of these efforts are directly related to our ability to maintain fiscal support for our reduced workforce and add sustainable restoration of funding in 2014, beyond the amount necessary to cover increased employee health and retirement costs.

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

- Explain any other ways your court restored, maintained, or increased public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

The San Mateo Superior Court would like to re-emphasize that the \$60 million partial restoration has incrementally improved court services – and was appreciated as a partial step in the right direction. This said, state trial courts remain in extreme jeopardy and millions of Californians are facing the loss of critical access to justice due to the severe, disproportionate under-funding of our trial courts. While the partial restoration of \$60 million helps, it does not bring back all the staff we have lost or re-open our closed courtrooms. Further, it does not alter the fact that significant restoration of trial court funding is critical to restoring essential access to justice.”

Further restoration of services in the future, including public service hours, normal calendaring and disposition of all case types, and meeting public service level expectations, 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.

With a minimum \$266 million restored back to the trial courts, San Mateo Superior Court would be able to restore public services and other access to justice, as follows:

- Restore public telephone and counter hours to pre-2013 time schedules*
 - Re-open two courtrooms and add back the related courtroom and clerical staff to support them*
 - Increase by approximately one-third the number of available calendars lost from the cutbacks.*
- Explain the impact of the WAFM calculation and your court's net allocation on your court's ability to maintain, increase or restore access to justice.

The San Mateo Superior Court is a "donor court" under the WAFM model, meaning our funding decreases slightly

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

See above responses

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

See above responses

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

Assumes \$100 Million proposed restoration is approved:

PROJECTED REVENUES, ALL SOURCES, INCLUDING RESTRICTED, ENCUMBERED, RESERVES OUTSIDE THE 1% CAP - \$40.65 MILLION

PROJECTED EXPENSES - \$40.95 MILLION

PROJECTED SHORTFALL – (\$300,000)

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FOLLOW-UP REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

**Superior Court of California,
County of SANTA BARBARA**

FY 2013-14

Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$635,282

Net Allocation After WAFM: \$183,622

There are a number of ways to have used your share of the \$60 million budget augmentation 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, MARCH 27TH.

___ We avoided (or limited) previously planned staffing reductions.

- Please explain how many positions you avoided reducing.

There were a combination of actions we were prepared to take. A reduction in positions was one of the options. If it were to be a reduction in positions it may have been as many as five. The money received was offset by a reduction in the money collected for DMV prior searches. We saw a loss in revenue of \$300,000.00 in the same year we received this \$183,622 increase. We were still faced with a structural deficit and remain poised to take further action to deal with that deficit. During this past year we endured two rounds of Voluntary Separation Incentive Programs (VSIP) increasing our vacancies to over 16%. These vacancies have been our means of meeting the funding shortfalls. Without further increases in the coming year we will still need to make further reductions.

- Please describe the kinds of positions you avoided reducing.

Due to the additional revenue and the VSIPs we avoided reducing court reporter and research attorney positions.

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

Continued availability of court reporters allows a significant number of self-represented litigants to continue access to an official record of their proceedings.

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

In the next fiscal year we may be faced with reducing a limited number of Court Reporter positions.

___ **We avoided (or limited) previously planned courtroom closures.**

- Please explain what types of hearings have been maintained.

We avoided closing courtrooms in Solvang/Buellton/Santa Ynez community and in the Santa Barbara Juvenile arena.

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

Continued access for the 14,573 residents of the Buellton, Solvang and Santa Ynez Valley communities to traffic court, small claims, unlawful detainers and the filing of domestic violence restraining orders.

In keeping open the juvenile court we avoided imposing a 75 mile one way trip for parents of minors detained and appearing on calendar.

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

In 14/15 we are faced with closing the Santa Barbara Juvenile Court and relocating services into the downtown Santa Barbara operations compromising some level of confidentiality by placing these cases in a more heavily trafficked criminal court building as well as congesting operations in that facility.

Additionally, the clerk's office of the Solvang Courthouse will be closed and only traffic court trials will be handled at the Solvang Courthouse. This will compel litigants to travel to the Santa Maria or Lompoc Courts over 30 miles away.

___ **We avoided previously planned courthouse closures.**

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

The Solvang Courthouse avoided closure.

The Santa Barbara Juvenile Courthouse avoided closure.

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

Both of the Courts reported here are single courtroom facilities. The impact of closing the Courtroom is similar to closing the courthouse but magnified by the lack of access to the clerk's office.

Continued access for the 14,573 residents of the Buellton, Solvang and Santa Ynez Valley communities to traffic court, small claims, unlawful detainers and the filing of domestic violence restraining orders.

In keeping open the juvenile court we avoided imposing a 75 mile one way trip for parents of minors detained and appearing on calendar.

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

In FY 14/15 The Court is faced with closing the clerk's office in Solvang and reducing the Courtroom proceedings to traffic court trials originating out of that jurisdiction.

In FY 14/15 the Court is faced with closing the Santa Barbara Juvenile Court, converting it to a storage facility in order to save money on leased storage space and relocating to a part time courtroom in the criminal courthouse in downtown Santa Barbara.

___ **We maintained, increased or restored public telephone hours.**

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours maintained or increased public access to justice.

The Court was not able to increase public telephone hours.

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

NA

___ **We maintained, increased or restored court clerk hours.**

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

We were able to avoid further reductions to office hours.

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

In FY 14/15 the Court is faced with a structural deficit which will require further reductions.

___ **We devoted resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.**

- Please explain the areas of backlog that were addressed.

In the later part of this year the clerk's office has begun using one time reserves to fund overtime in reducing the processing time of judgments, records management and requests for records, county jail abstracts for sentencing and data entry.

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog maintained or increased public access to justice.

This processing will help those waiting for documents to enforce orders and in some instances get remarried. Further, this will move inmates out of the jails and onto state prison in some instances and complete the data necessary for the County Jail to process inmates. The timely entry of data will permit those seeking information or to resolve their traffic matters earlier access to the information.

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

Without additional revenue the reduction in backlogs will be temporary and will grow as the year progresses.

___ **We suspended/avoided employee furloughs.**

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

The increased funding and VSIPs helped the court avoid furloughs by enduring a hiring freeze. Furloughs reduce staffing and decrease morale further affecting the delivery of service.

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

Without increased funding to address the Court's structural deficit some combination of further cuts to positions and furloughs are possible.

___ **We maintained, increased or restored services in our self-help center.**

- Please explain the details of maintaining, increasing or restoring self-help center services.

The Court was able to restore services to the community of Lompoc which was faced with closing entirely. Instead the 42,000 residence of Lompoc continue to have access to self-help services two days per week at the Lompoc Courthouse.

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

The Lompoc Court is located 30 miles away from the next available self-help services. Nearly 22% of the 42,000 residents live below the poverty level. Meaningful access to

legal assistance is vital to those seeking to maintain a stable residence or assistance with immigration, employment and family related issues.

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

Without additional funding the self-help center in Lompoc may yet be closed and litigants directed to obtain assistance at the centers in Santa Maria or Santa Barbara.

___ **We maintained, increased or restored court reporting services.**

- Please explain how increased court reporting services maintained or increased public access to justice.

The Court maintained court reporting services. This vital function continued to provide a record of the civil and family law proceedings maintaining access to appellate review and a record of court proceedings.

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

The court may need to reduce court reporter services in the civil arena in the coming fiscal year.

___ **We maintained, increased or restored specialty court(s).**

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

The Court maintained the current level of specialty courts.

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

It is uncertain at this time if some aspect of the specialty courts may face reduction in FY 14/15.

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

- Explain any other ways your court restored, maintained, or increased public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

NA

- Explain the impact of the WAFM calculation and your court's net allocation on your court's ability to maintain, increase or restore access to justice.

WAFM seriously reduced what appeared to be a significant increase to Court. It confounded labor negotiations as the Court explained the allocation and a redistribution of the money to other courts.

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

WAFM seriously affected the allocation to this court. Additionally, the loss of revenue associated with the DMV prior search fee coupled with increased costs in benefits obviated any value of associated with the \$60 million increase.

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

The Court continues to face a structural deficit heading into fiscal year 14/15 which will require further reductions and will experience the closure of courtrooms and courthouses which have been staved off by the limited funding and loss of personnel associated with the VSIPs.

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

*Projected revenues without adjustment for WAFM \$27,278,010.00.
Projected expenditures without adjustment for WAFM \$27,278,010.00*

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FOLLOW-UP REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

Superior Court of California,

County of SANTA CLARA

FY 2013-14

Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$2,436,612

Net Allocation After WAFM: \$159,598

There are a number of ways to have used your share of the \$60 million budget augmentation 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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___ We avoided (or limited) previously planned staffing reductions.

- Please explain how many positions you avoided reducing.

With the augmentation of \$60 million dollars to the Branch, in conjunction with the use of our remaining fund balance, we are able to suspend this action and continue with existing service levels. Specifically, we were able to avoid 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. Since we did not reduce or eliminate services, it is unnecessary at this time to reduce or reassign 20 employees.

- Please describe the kinds of positions you avoided 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 allowed you to maintain or increase public access to justice in applicable divisions of your court or courthouse(s).

As reported above, since we did not close the operational areas in Family Law, Small Claims, and Traffic, residents in North and South County do not have to travel distances to Downtown San Jose to obtain services which would have presented a hardship on these litigants not only in terms of transportation, but also parking downtown.

Additionally, we were able to maintain public access to our Civil and Family Law litigants and avoid significant delays in processing these cases.

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

The preservation of these services this year is the result of additional allocated funds and the use of \$9 million of our reserves. Continuing these services into subsequent fiscal years will require additional funding to offset the absence of reserves that have been expended. The reserves have been a critical tool to offset the uncertainty in funding over the last eight years.

— **We avoided (or limited) previously planned courtroom closures.**

- Please explain what types of hearings have been maintained.

With the augmentation of \$60 million dollars to the Branch, in conjunction with the use of our fund balance, we were able to: 1) suspend closing 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 would have resulted 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 have resulted 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 was eliminated and we maintained public access in our regional courthouses.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are 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 but more importantly, the availability of reserve funds. Continuing these services into subsequent fiscal years will require additional funding to our court of an additional allocation of at least \$9 million.

___ **We avoided previously planned courthouse closures.**

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you were 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).

N/A

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

N/A

___ **We maintained, increased or restored public telephone hours.**

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours maintained or increased public access to justice.

With the augmentation of \$60 million dollars to the Branch, in conjunction with the remaining use of our fund balance, we were able to maintain public telephone service during normal business hours with no reductions.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are 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. In the absence of reserves, our court would be unable to maintain service levels during “down” budget years. Fund balances have been critical to fill funding gaps from year to year when appropriations decline.

___ **We maintained, increased or restored court clerk hours.**

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

With the augmentation of \$60 million dollars to the Branch, in conjunction with the one-time use of our fund balance, we were able to maintain normal business hours with no reductions.

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours maintained or increased public access to justice.

By keeping our normal business hours intact, our Court was 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) and which are 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 remaining reserves. Continuing these services into subsequent fiscal years will require additional funding.

___ **We devoted resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.**

- Please explain the areas of backlog that were 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 and sustained ongoing funding.

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog maintained or increased 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) and which are 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 and sustained funding.

— **We suspended/avoided employee furloughs.**

- Please explain how this action allowed 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 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 any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are 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 maintained, increased or restored services in our self-help center.**

- Please explain the details of maintaining, increasing or restoring self-help center services.

With the augmentation of \$60 million dollars to the Branch, in conjunction with the use of our fund balance, we were able to maintain service in all Self-Help centers, including the outlying courthouse in Sunnyvale, during normal business hours with no reductions.

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

Maintaining Self-Help center services in the Sunnyvale Courthouse provides residents of the North Santa Clara County access to services in a more timely, affordable, and efficient manner. Providing onsite self-help services for our increasing self-represented litigant population eliminated any unnecessary delays for these litigants. Self-represented litigants represent 80% of the parties that file cases in our Family Law operation. These litigants would be affected most severely.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are 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 and sustained funding.

___ **We maintained, increased or restored court reporting services.**

- Please explain how increased court reporting services maintained or increased public access to justice.

The Court continues to provide 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 any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are 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. Retaining fund balances is a strong tool to encourage courts to continue operating with greater efficiency and better prepare for variations in funding.

___ **We maintained, increased or restored specialty court(s).**

- Please describe the specialty court(s) 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 of these specialty courts offers 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 and absent substantial additional and sustained funding to the courts or relief from the 1% fund balance restriction, there will be zero funds to maintain these programs.

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services maintained or increased public access to justice.

As expressed earlier, these specialty courts were not reduced 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) and which are 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 court funding is not restored. 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 your court restored, maintained, or increased public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

The descriptions provided above outline the many important ways in which we were able 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 funding allocations fall millions of dollars short of the amount required to preserve or even expand the current level of services in future years.

- Explain the impact of the WAFM calculation and your court's net allocation on your court's ability to maintain, increase or restore access to justice.

As reported on page 1, our court received a net allocation of \$160,000 from the \$60 million appropriation when calculated using the WAFM formula. This year, it resulted in a continuation of a deficit in funding that was backfilled by \$9 million in local reserves. These funds are now

exhausted and will be non-existent in future years due to the 1% fund balance cap. These fund balances have been instrumental in retaining jobs during “down” fiscal years and has helped the court maintain services. Despite the impact of WAFM to Santa Clara, we continue to stand behind its allocation methodology.

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

Although the net receipt of \$160,000 was helpful to maintain status quo, it falls short of what we need to deliver the level of service our residents deserve. Since 2008, the ongoing reductions to our Branch have generated a structural deficit for our Court in excess of \$23 million. 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 continue to be 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 an amount in excess of 12%.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are 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. 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 Collaborative Courts, 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 FOLLOW-UP SURVEY. SUBMIT THIS COMPLETED FORM TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov ON OR BEFORE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, MARCH 27TH. PLEASE CALL ANDI AT 916-323-3121 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

FOLLOW-UP REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

Superior Court of California,

County of SANTA CRUZ

FY 2013-14

Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$367,125

Net Allocation After WAFM: \$206,121

There are a number of ways to have used your share of the \$60 million budget augmentation 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, MARCH 27TH.

N/A We avoided (or limited) previously planned staffing reductions.

- Please explain how many positions you avoided reducing.
- Please describe the kinds of positions you avoided reducing.
- Please explain how this action allowed 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

N/A We avoided (or limited) previously planned courtroom closures.

- Please explain what types of hearings have been maintained.
- Please describe the impact on the public by keeping open a courtroom planned for closure.
- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

N/A We avoided previously planned courthouse closures.

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you were able to avoid closing.
- Please explain the impact on the public by keeping open this/these courthouse(s).
- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

X We maintained, increased or restored public telephone hours.

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours maintained or increased public access to justice.

The budget augmentation received this year was used to hire four (4) full-time Legal Processing Clerks to fill vacant positions that were previously subject to a “Hard Hiring Freeze”.

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. This court used its share of this augmentation to maintain our existing telephone hours. These additional hours of telephone service have enabled 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 any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are 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 maintained, increased or restored court clerk hours.

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

The budget augmentation received this year was used to hire four (4) full-time Legal Processing Clerks to fill vacant positions that were previously subject to a “Hard Hiring Freeze”.

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 maintained or increased 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) and which are 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 devoted resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.

- Please explain the areas of backlog that were addressed.

The budget augmentation received this year was used to hire four (4) full-time Legal Processing Clerk to fill vacant positions that were previously subject to a “Hard Hiring Freeze”. 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 maintained or increased 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) and which are 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 suspended/avoided employee furloughs.

- Please explain how this action allowed you to 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

We maintained, increased or restored services in our self-help center.

- Please explain the details of maintaining, increasing or restoring self-help center services.

A portion of the funding augmentation has been used for the following:

1. *One (1) Full-Time bilingual (Spanish Language) staff person has been hired to provide Self-Help Program Services to the Santa Cruz Courthouse. This person has been providing services to self-represented litigants and managing the workshops on the following topics: Small Claims, Civil Answers, And Family Law.*
 2. *One (1) Full-Time Bilingual (Spanish Language) Paralegal has been hired to serve in the Main Self-Help Center located in the Watsonville Courthouse.*
- Please explain how the increase in self-help services maintained or increased 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) and which are 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 maintained, increased or restored court reporting services.

- Please explain how increased court reporting services maintained or increased public access to justice.

Two Court Reporters where hired in FY 2013/2014.

The funding augmentation has enabled the court to fill one vacant, full-time court reporter position (previously the subject of a “Hard Hiring Freeze”) and add a second full-time court reporter. These court reporters have been 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 any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are 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 maintained, increased or restored specialty court(s).

- Please describe the specialty court(s) maintained, increased or restored.
- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services maintained or increased public access to justice.
- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

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

- Explain any other ways your court restored, maintained, or increased public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.
- Explain the impact of the WAFM calculation and your court’s net allocation on your court’s ability to maintain, increase or restore access to justice.
- 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.
- What are your projected revenues and expenditures for NEXT fiscal year (2014-15)?

1% Fund Balance: \$155,909

Combined Revenue \$13,768,002
Total: \$13,923,911

Projected Expenditures: \$14,378,709

Projected Deficit: (\$454,798)

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FOLLOW-UP REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

Superior Court of California,

County of SHASTA

FY 2013-14

Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$323,090

Net Allocation After WAFM: \$368,180

There are a number of ways to have used your share of the \$60 million budget augmentation 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, MARCH 27TH.

___ **We avoided (or limited) previously planned staffing reductions.**

- Please explain how many positions you avoided reducing.

The court continued to staff civil and traffic matters, although some downsizing will occur with temporary, extra-help positions before the end of the fiscal year.

- Please describe the kinds of positions you avoided reducing.

Approximately two clerical positions in the civil and traffic divisions were retained by virtue of the new funding. Service levels were maintained, but not increased.

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

Our services were maintained, but our offices continued to operate on reduced hours.

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

This is difficult to predict. Office hours and staffing levels will be reduced next fiscal year unless funding is restored because our fund balance is gone. The court has requested advances on our April and May payments because our cash flow is too low and the fund balance is insufficient to cover expenditures.

___ **We avoided (or limited) previously planned courtroom closures.**

- Please explain what types of hearings have been maintained.

The Burney Branch court remained closed with the exception of one-day per month, when the court travels an hour through the mountains east of Redding to hear a calendar from 9:30 to 3:30. No additional closures had been planned.

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

N/A

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

The Burney Branch court will remain open only one-day per month until a significant increase in funding occurs.

___ **We avoided previously planned courthouse closures.**

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

No additional 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 any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

N/A

___ **We maintained, increased or restored public telephone hours.**

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours maintained or increased public access to justice.

Shasta maintained telephone hours of 8:30 to 2:00. We were not able to restore hours or increase public access.

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

The reduced telephone hours will remain and may be reduced further unless funding is restored.

___ **We maintained, increased or restored court clerk hours.**

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

Clerk's Offices were maintained at the previously imposed reduced daily hours of 8:30 to 2:00.

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

N/A

— We devoted resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.

- Please explain the areas of backlog that were addressed.

Backlogs have been reduced by periodic overtime as emergencies occur necessitating the backlog be addressed. Clerks have been very understanding about working Saturdays when asked. About 8 Saturdays have been worked thus far this fiscal year. Unfortunately, catching work up is very temporary because it quickly gets behind again.

Please note that Shasta Superior Court is one of only seven courts in the state of California that showed an INCREASE in overall filings from 11/12 to 12/13. Of the seven courts that experienced an increase in filings, Shasta was the third highest in the state. Attempting to manage the increase in case processing has become impossible with reduced staffing levels due to ongoing budget reductions year after year.

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog maintained or increased public access to justice.

The two most problematic areas are criminal and family law. Family law matters are a processing issue where we cannot keep up with the paperwork that is filed and must be prepared for court hearings. Many times, there is a short turnaround with cases going in and coming out of court. Family law matters often involve emergency orders protecting the safety of parties dealing with domestic violence issues and the best interests of children caught in volatile home environments. Additional staff is desperately needed to adequately process this workload.

The sheer number of criminal felony cases being filed (increase of 25% from 11/12 to 12/13) prevents us from ever keeping up with the workload with existing staff. By working overtime and filling vacancies as they occur we have kept courtroom calendars going, but we are struggling to keep up.

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

N/A

___ **We suspended/avoided employee furloughs.**

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

No employee furloughs had been planned, however our largest bargaining unit went on strike in November, resulting in two days loss of pay for these employees. The only positive outcome of the strike was that the court realized a small amount of salary savings. The strike centered on employees refusing to accept anything other than an ongoing salary increase. The strike shut down five courtrooms on the second day at great inconvenience to the public. Of those five courtrooms, four had felony jury trials (one no time waiver). Almost 200 jurors reported for jury duty only to be turned away because of the closed courtrooms as a result of the strike.

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

Furloughs may be planned for 2014/2015 unless funding is restored. Unions have asked to discuss furloughs to reduce layoffs.

___ **We maintained, increased or restored services in our self-help center.**

- Please explain the details of maintaining, increasing or restoring self-help center services.

Augmentation funding was used to maintain minimal services in the self-help center. This office is desperately in need of additional staff to serve the public. Additional computers were added in order to increase services by allowing more access to on-line information and forms.

A paging system was recently purchased in order to allow people to leave the self-help center until staff is ready to help them. It is not uncommon for someone to sign-up for services at 8:30 and wait all day, only to be told they will have to come back the next day because we couldn't get to everyone. After two or three days of doing this, people's tempers flare, even though the staff is doing their best. The paging system should improve the work environment for staff and allow them to provide a better service to litigants. It also allows litigants to leave our cramped offices and encourages people to take small children outside so that the noise and frustration levels will be improved for everyone..

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

Although we did not increase services, we were able to keep the self-help center alive, although on life-support occasionally due to inadequate staffing levels. Whenever possible we provided services, but the length of wait time for litigants needing assistance is unacceptable.

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

The self-help center cannot operate within the funding provided, so unless new or increased funding is provided next fiscal year the self-help center will likely close.

___ **We maintained, increased or restored court reporting services.**

- Please explain how increased court reporting services maintained or increased public access to justice.

Two court reporter vacant positions were filled this fiscal year, after the court experienced two failed recruitments. These reporters will reduce the court's reliance on pro tem reporters and should allow us to cover case types where court reporters are required by law (felonies and juvenile.) Filling these critical positions will prevent trials from being continued for lack of a court reporter as was the case in 2012/13.

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

The court will continue to strive to keep all court reporter positions filled. It should be noted that the court operates 13 courtrooms every day, but we have a staff of only 8 court reporters because we staff only those case types mandated by law. All civil, family law, misdemeanors and traffic matters are not reported in this court and haven't been for many years.

___ **We maintained, increased or restored specialty court(s).**

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

As of January 2014, the court commenced two new specialty courts; a re-entry court and a mental health court. Please use this link to read a newspaper article for more information. Both programs will be kept small until such time as we have more support staff. There is tremendous need in Shasta County for both programs and they have been brought online out of necessity at the worst possible budget time.

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services maintained or increased public access to justice.

We are unable to restore our DUI court that was eliminated due to lack of funding. We continue to participate in the "DUI in the Schools" program in order to further educate our youth on the dangers of drinking and driving.

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

The court hopes there is nothing temporary about the two new programs recently created. A significant amount of staff time has been spent developing and implementing the programs. Having said that, if funding is not restored in 2014/15 the court will have to consider whether the new specialty courts can be sustained.

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

- Explain any other ways your court restored, maintained, or increased public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

The court contracts with juvenile dependency attorneys to represent parties in cases where children have been abused or neglected. The current contracts are \$146,367 over the funding allocation provided to this court under Program 45.10, so the deficit is being covered by a portion of the \$60 million. Note that this deficit exhausted 40% of the court's proportionate share of the \$60 million and WAFM allocation..

- Explain the impact of the WAFM calculation and your court's net allocation on your court's ability to maintain, increase or restore access to justice.

The court's share was increased by virtue of the WAFM calculation, but unfortunately the new funding did little other than to offset the court's share of the \$261 million reduction, which served to strip the court of its fund balance. That fund balance contained no trial court funding dollars, but rather collections operational costs. Shasta Superior Court performs collections for our local court and six other courts and counties. Collections activities brought in over \$10 million for the State of California last year. Unfortunately, the Collections Unit is also at risk of being eliminated next year since we receive no trial court funding to pay this staff and the operational costs we retained to cover expenditures is now gone.

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

We appreciate the new funding, but it's just not enough to sustain this court.

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

N/A

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

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| <i>Preliminary estimates are:</i> | <i>revenue</i> | <i>\$16,193,746</i> |
| | <i>expenditures</i> | <i>\$17,150,343</i> |
| | <i>deficit</i> | <i>(\$ 956,597)</i> |

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FOLLOW-UP REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

Superior Court of California,

County of SIERRA

FY 2013-14

Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$7,615

Net Allocation After WAFM: \$7,615 (no change)

There are a number of ways to have used your share of the \$60 million budget augmentation 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, MARCH 27TH.

___ We avoided (or limited) previously planned staffing reductions.

- Please explain how many positions you avoided reducing.

No further staffing reductions planned. Already at 2/3 minimum staffing levels.

- Please describe the kinds of positions you avoided reducing.

Type your response here

- Please explain how this action allowed 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ We avoided (or limited) previously planned courtroom closures.

- Please explain what types of hearings have been maintained.

Sierra has only one courtroom, therefore no closures possible.

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

Type your response here

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

Type your response here

___ We avoided previously planned courthouse closures.

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

No planned courthouse closures of our single facility.

- Please explain the impact on the public by keeping open this/these 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

X We maintained, increased or restored public telephone hours.

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours maintained or increased public access to justice.

Public telephone hours were maintained throughout standard business hours.

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

We expect to continue providing full business public telephone hours. Our county is very large geographically with high elevation passes. Travel to the Courthouse can be very difficult during winter months, therefore public phone hours are essential to public access.

X We maintained, increased or restored court clerk hours.

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

Three staff persons plus the CEO perform all levels of service and clerk duties to the public. We have maintained our historic service hours, without reduction by careful scheduling. For the same reasons mentioned above, we cannot justify reduction of hours. Due to the distance traveled by most litigants to reach our Court offices, it is imperative that clerks are available to provide service.

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

We expect to maintain full business clerk service hours in future fiscal years.

X We devoted resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.

- Please explain the areas of backlog that were addressed.

Some staff hours were dedicated to finalizing case dispositions, statistical reporting and storage of our backlog inventory.

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog maintained or increased public access to justice.

Properly stored and disposed of files provides a more accurate and efficient method to respond to public case information searches and document request.

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

We expect to continue to work on the backlog inventory as time and resources allow.

We suspended/avoided employee furloughs.

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

No furloughs in Sierra.

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

Type your response here

X We maintained, increased or restored services in our self-help center.

- Please explain the details of maintaining, increasing or restoring self-help center services.

Sierra has maintained self-help at our courthouse location only, provided by clerks and referrals to contract self-help attorneys and/or legal aid specialist. We have not re-opened our Loyalton satellite self-help kiosk due to lack of use and oversight issues.

- Please explain how the increase in self-help services maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

We expect to continue providing in house self-help services as cited above.

X We maintained, increased or restored court reporting services.

- Please explain how increased court reporting services maintained or increased public access to justice.

We continue to contract for “day of” court reporting services by non-employee contractors.

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

We expect to continue the per diem services cited above.

X We maintained, increased or restored specialty court(s).

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

We have maintained our drug court and have expanded those services to AB109 cases.

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Other than a few clerk hours contributed to the Drug Court at the Court’s expense, outside funding from Drug Court Grants and AB109 program supports our collaborative courts model and is expected to do so in the future.

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

- Explain any other ways your court restored, maintained, or increased public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

As Sierra’s \$7615 proportionate share of the \$60M is marginal, it was not the sole source of any particular restoration or maintenance of public access hours, however, every revenue dollar is used to best achieve our responsibility to the public.

- Explain the impact of the WAFM calculation and your court’s net allocation on your court’s ability to maintain, increase or restore access to justice.

Due to the limited number of filings in Sierra, the WAFM calculation would have proven fatal to local court operations. To that end and through significant study by the TCTF Budget Committee

and Small Court Funding Subcommittee, a minimum floor funding adjustment has been implemented to stabilize and keep the smallest of California's rural courts open to the public. Without this adjustment, Sierra County residents and litigants would no longer have access to the most minimum of constitutionally mandated judicial branch services.

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

The \$7615 received by Sierra was absorbed into our operations budget to help retain our current staffing and level of service to the public.

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

The Cluster 1 – Small Court adjustment mentioned above will apply to the Sierra allocation through the next few fiscal years, unless further adjusted by the Council.

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

\$750,000 Revenue/ \$750,000 Expenses

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AS WE PREPARE THIS FOLLOW-UP SURVEY. SUBMIT THIS COMPLETED FORM TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov ON OR BEFORE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, MARCH 27TH. PLEASE CALL ANDI AT 916-323-3121 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

FOLLOW-UP REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

Superior Court of California,

County of SISKIYOU

FY 2013-14

Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$70,136

Net Allocation After WAFM: (\$154,342)

There are a number of ways to have used your share of the \$60 million budget augmentation 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, MARCH 27TH.

___ We avoided (or limited) previously planned staffing reductions.

- Please explain how many positions you avoided reducing.

Type your response here

- Please describe the kinds of positions you avoided reducing.

Type your response here

- Please explain how this action allowed 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ We avoided (or limited) previously planned courtroom closures.

- Please explain what types of hearings have been 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 any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We avoided previously planned courthouse closures.**

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you were 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 any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We maintained, increased or restored public telephone hours.**

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We maintained, increased or restored court clerk hours.**

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

Type your response here

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We devoted resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.**

- Please explain the areas of backlog that were addressed.

Type your response here

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We suspended/avoided employee furloughs.**

- Please explain how this action allowed you to 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We maintained, increased or restored services in our self-help center.**

- Please explain the details of maintaining, increasing or restoring self-help center services.

Type your response here

- Please explain how the increase in self-help services maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We maintained, increased or restored court reporting services.**

- Please explain how increased court reporting services maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We maintained, increased or restored specialty court(s).**

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

Type your response here

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services maintained or increased 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) and which are 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 restored, maintained, or increased public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

Type your response here

- Explain the impact of the WAFM calculation and your court's net allocation on your court's ability to maintain, increase or restore access to justice.

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?

Siskiyou County's share of the \$60 million augmentation was very limited, \$70,136; with the new WAFM implemented, Siskiyou County's estimated share of "new" funds was net approximately \$4,000, and with the reallocation of historical funds, ours was a negative \$154,342. There was simply not enough to restore services or staffing levels that had already been reduced due to funding reductions. Thank you.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are 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 FOLLOW-UP SURVEY. SUBMIT THIS COMPLETED FORM TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov ON OR BEFORE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, MARCH 27TH. PLEASE CALL ANDI AT 916-323-3121 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

FOLLOW-UP REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

Superior Court of California,

County of SOLANO

FY 2013-14

Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$758,555

Net Allocation After WAFM: \$1,105,054

There are a number of ways to have used your share of the \$60 million budget augmentation 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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___ We avoided (or limited) previously planned staffing reductions.

- Please explain how many positions you avoided reducing.

Type your response here

- Please describe the kinds of positions you avoided reducing.

Type your response here

- Please explain how this action allowed 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ We avoided (or limited) previously planned courtroom closures.

- Please explain what types of hearings have been 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 any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

 We avoided previously planned courthouse closures.

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you were 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 any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

 We maintained, increased or restored public telephone hours.

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

 X **We maintained, increased or restored court clerk hours.**

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

Pursuant to reduction in staff from 266 to 209, we were required to reduce clerk's office hours in order to direct staff from the public counter to processing documents received and ensure documents were filed and provided to the judicial departments timely. Clerk's Office hours are currently 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. In FY 13/14, we were able to maintain staffing levels, which allowed us to maintain clerk's office hours from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. We estimate that we need eight positions court-wide to restore clerk's office hours to 4:00 p.m. in all divisions.

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours maintained or increased public access to justice.

There was no restoration or increase of public access, but the funding in FY 13/14 allowed us to maintain our reduced hours of 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., without further reductions to service.

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

Unless additional funding is forthcoming, we will not be able to restore clerk's office hours in FY 14/15. Even if there is an additional \$100 million for the trial courts, we still project a deficit of \$781,000 for FY 14/15.

___ **We devoted resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.**

- Please explain the areas of backlog that were addressed.

Type your response here

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **X We suspended/avoided employee furloughs.**

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

From the \$60 million for trial courts, Solano received \$758,555 in funding. In FY 12/13, we were required to furlough staff for twelve days, which resulted in limited operation days to the public. The twelve days of furlough resulted in cost savings of \$755,041. Accordingly, we used our share of \$758,555 to eliminate furloughs/limited operation days. During a limited operation day, all clerk's offices are closed and all but two courtrooms are closed. By eliminating these days, the public has an additional twelve days to access the clerk's office and to have their matters heard in an open courtroom.

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

Unless additional funding is forthcoming, even with an additional \$100 million for trial courts, we project a deficit of \$781,000 for FY 14/15. It may be necessary to reinstate employee furloughs or limited operation days in order to balance the budget in FY 14/15.

___ **We maintained, increased or restored services in our self-help center.**

- Please explain the details of maintaining, increasing or restoring self-help center services.

Type your response here

- Please explain how the increase in self-help services maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

X **We maintained, increased or restored court reporting services.**

- Please explain how increased court reporting services maintained or increased public access to justice.

In FY 11/12, we eliminated court reporters in misdemeanor matters. We have maintained court reporters in family and civil. We have not been able to restore court reporters in misdemeanors and do not project the ability to restore court reporters in misdemeanors in FY 14/15.

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

With a projected deficit of \$781,000, we may be required to eliminate court reporters in civil and/or family law in order to balance the budget for FY 14/15.

 We maintained, increased or restored specialty court(s).

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

Type your response here

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services maintained or increased 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) and which are 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 restored, maintained, or increased public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

Type your response here

- Explain the impact of the WAFM calculation and your court's net allocation on your court's ability to maintain, increase or restore access to justice.

In addition to our share of the \$60 million, the Solano Court received \$346,498 in WAFM funding in FY 13/14. This additional funding allowed the court to hire five additional positions. The Court added one Legal Process Clerk for the Family Law Division. This division was developing major backlogs. The one position has assisted to reduce those back logs. The court also added four courtroom clerk positions. The court had a severe shortage in this classification, which was resulting in courtrooms having insufficient staff to process cases in the courtroom.

- 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) and which are 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 -- \$23,155,764

Projected Expenditures -- \$23,937,202

Projected Deficit – (\$781,438)

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FOLLOW-UP REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

Superior Court of California,

County of SONOMA

FY 2013-14

Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$844,404

Net Allocation After WAFM: \$1,035,963

There are a number of ways to have used your share of the \$60 million budget augmentation 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, MARCH 27TH.

X We avoided (or limited) previously planned staffing reductions.

- Please explain how many positions you avoided reducing.

Our court anticipated a reduction of about 10 to 11 positions prior to the infusion of the \$60 million. Instead we only saw a reduction of 1.2 positions by holding vacancy positions as we are still freezing positions in order to manage for 14-15 when reserves will be depleted.

- Please describe the kinds of positions you avoided reducing.

We had planned to eliminate reporters in civil and family law matters and a legal assistant position from Self Help and the additional positions were legal processor positions.

- Please explain how this action allowed 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 allowed 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 retaining these important positions, further delays in civil trials or impacts of accountability of transcripts utilizing per diem reporters were avoided.*
- *Keeping the legal assistant position in the Self Help Center assured that this valuable service for the public remained and that the Self Help Center's hours would not have to be further reduced. Our self-represented litigants rely on the services of the Self Help Center and any further erosion would have limited 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 slowing down losses in this position has allowed the court to 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 and not increasing further backlog and longer delays. We also did not have to further reduce our lobby hours which would have impacted the public’s access to filing their cases in all case types.*
- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Until funding for future years is known, predictable and restored, it is difficult to determine if any of the actions above would continue beyond this fiscal year. While the initial budget proposal for 14-15 contains additional funds, it is still not enough to balance our current budget, which would result in additional staffing reductions. 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 avoided (or limited) previously planned courtroom closures.**

- Please explain what types of hearings have been 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 any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We avoided previously planned courthouse closures.**

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you were 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 any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

X We maintained, increased or restored public telephone hours.

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours maintained or increased public access to justice.

Our court currently responds to phone calls from 8 a.m.-12 p.m. each day in our clerk's offices, which continues to impact our court due to reduced staff. Since we did not sustain large additional reductions, our court was able to continue responding to the public on the phones, providing an alternative access to justice. This 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 any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

As stated above, until adequate ongoing funding can be provided some services will have to be reduced or eliminated in order to balance our structural deficit, since we no longer have a reserve to aid in funding our shortfall. Continuing the public phone hours remains a priority for our court, as does finding other alternative ways to communicate information using technology.

We maintained, increased or restored court clerk hours.

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

Our Court continued our reduced lobby hour, closing at 3:30 p.m. and maintained the same level of access as in FY 12-13. This includes accepting new filings, additional paperwork for current cases, payments, processing of cases, proof of service notices, calendaring etc.

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours maintained or increased public access to justice.

The infusion of the \$60 million assured that the public continued to have the same timely and efficient access to the court to file cases and resolve their disputes, as occurred last fiscal year. This maintained our backlogs at the same levels and did not further increase the delays in processing. It also allowed us to maintain the current lobby times instead of considering

additional reductions to public access in order process the paperwork that has been submitted and maintaining required timelines. If our clerks become further 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Our reduced work hours, eliminating one hour per day, continued in FY 13-14 and will continue until additional funds are restored, allowing additional hiring of legal processor positions. At this time we anticipate continuing the current schedule in FY 14-15.

X We devoted resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.

- Please explain the areas of backlog that were addressed.

Our court continues to look for efficient ways to process paperwork more timely. Several targeted projects were addressed in FY 13-14 including improving the backlog of interfiling documents in civil and family law cases, purging of old cases in order to make room for new cases, imaging files to improve access. Additional resources were also added to mediations to improve the current 18 week delays.

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog maintained or increased 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. Improving mediation wait times provides for improved family dynamics and may reduce other issues related to continued delays on family issues. Improving interfiling timelines, provides for less delays in the courtroom and more accurate case files. Purging old files allows room to keep new filings easy accessible to the public, rather than in boxes all over the work areas. 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) and which are 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. Our court is transitioning to a new traffic case management system which should improve some efficiency and increase of access. We will be deploying additional case types over the next two years, further providing efficiency in processing, utilizing technology, so ultimately we hope to continue to improve our backlogs, however during the transition we may see some increased reductions as staff are redeployed to work on the new systems.

 We suspended/avoided employee furloughs.

- Please explain how this action allowed you to 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

 X **We maintained, increased or restored services in our self-help center.**

- Please explain the details of maintaining, increasing or restoring self-help center services.

The infusion of the \$60 million stopped a planned reduction in the Self Help Center thereby allowing the services to remain status quo, protecting this vital service to the public.

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

Self-help services are an important service to our self-represented litigants as it helps them navigate the often difficult and challenging processes to resolve their disputes. Elimination of a planned reduction in this division would have further hampered 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Unknown until funding for future years is determined, predictable and restored we are unable to determine if services will continue at the same levels as today.

 X **We maintained, increased or restored court reporting services.**

- Please explain how increased court reporting services maintained or increased 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 kept our court reporter staffing at status quo in the civil and family divisions. This assured a more efficient process with respect to trials for the litigants and reduced 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 any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Until funding for future years is known, predictable and restored, it is difficult to determine if we would continue to provide reporters beyond this fiscal year. While the initial budget proposal for 14-15 contains additional funds, it is still not enough to balance our current budget, which would result in additional staffing reductions.

X We maintained, increased or restored specialty court(s).

- Please describe the specialty court(s) maintained, increased or restored.
- *Our court continued 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 maintained or increased 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) and which are 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 your court restored, maintained, or increased public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

We are continuing 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 the \$60 million proceeds 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 negotiating an update to 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. Two of the positions we added was an IT positions which will improve our access to the public by improving our websites and other interfaces to provide timely information and provide a valuable interface between operations and IT in the development and conversion to new case management types. We recognize that we need to invest in the IT area in order to realize overall improvements in our systems.

We have also 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. Fortunately, the Traffic conversion should be complete this fiscal year and the benefits of the two plus years of added staff work should finally pay off.

We also are looking at other technological services that will include access once we are on a new case management system, allowing more web and kiosk interfaces for the public and streamlining the daily processing, such as eliminating hand recording of minutes in the courtroom and moving to on-line, real-time entry.

- Explain the impact of the WAFM calculation and your court's net allocation on your court's ability to maintain, increase or restore access to justice.

The WAFM calculation provided an overall infusion of funds of \$1,035,963, helping to offset our continued ongoing reductions, and allowing us to maintain current services and staffing. This translates into no further reductions in services and access to the public, however our court's goals are to be able to restore all hours and services and eliminate backlogs, improving overall the public's access to justice and due process rights.

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

As previously mentioned while our Court appreciates the infusion of the \$60 million to the judicial branch, it does not restore our services thereby continuing to impact the public. This continues to challenge the Court in providing quality, efficient access to justice. While improvements in efficiency and process re-engineering have been deployed, much of the

improvements cannot be realized until we are on new technology and in new facilities that can utilize technology so we are still in a downward spiral trying to achieve these types of efficiencies which come at great cost, both in dollars and resources, until the gains can be achieved at the other end. Investing in the resources to achieve these goals is the right approach in attaining the long term goals of efficient and timely operations.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are 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. Currently, our court is still projecting a deficit next year, even with an additional infusion of \$100 million, since we will no longer have reserves to help balance the budget. The Court will continue to prioritize the level of services to match the available funding and in order to keep the budget balanced.

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

Projected revenues and expenditures for FY 14-15 as currently known are as follows:

Revenue \$26,326,902 (includes local fees and grants)

Expenditures \$28,384,824

Currently resulting in a loss of \$2,057,922, which would require the court to make yet-to-be-determined additional expenditure reductions.

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FOLLOW-UP REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

Superior Court of California,

County of STANISLAUS

FY 2013-14

Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$839,468

Net WAFM Allocation: \$1,490,666

There are a number of ways to have used your share of the \$60 million budget augmentation 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, MARCH 27TH.

X We avoided (or limited) previously planned staffing reductions.

- Please explain how many positions you avoided reducing.

We avoided layoff of 20 clerical positions (front line clerical division employees who assist the customers at public counters and prepare documents/case files for court).

- Please describe the kinds of positions you avoided reducing.

20 clerical positions across all clerk's offices (Family Law, Traffic, Civil, Criminal, IV-D, Juvenile).

- Please explain how this action allowed 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 counter, 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Avoidance of these layoffs will be limited to FY 13-14 if the \$60M is not ongoing or if the courts absorb future cuts.

X We avoided (or limited) previously planned courtroom closures.

- Please explain what types of hearings have been maintained.

We were able to maintain the number of courtrooms we had as of December 2012.

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

No loss of courtroom hearings/access to justice by the public.

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

The maintenance of services will be limited to FY 13-14 without additional funding beyond \$60M. Currently the court is preparing to eliminate calendar services in the criminal courtroom in order to address mandated hearings.

___ We avoided previously planned courthouse closures.

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you were able to avoid closing.
- Please explain the impact on the public by keeping open this/these courthouse(s).
- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

X We maintained, increased or restored public telephone hours.

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours maintained or increased public access to justice.

We maintained the same public telephone hours as FY 12/13 with the priority focus to restore court clerk's office hours.

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

X We maintained, increased or restored court clerk hours.

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

We restored court clerk's office hours for one hour each day Monday – Thursday; increasing the time the offices stay open to the public from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. for restoration of approximately 200 hours annually.

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours maintained or increased public access to justice.

This gives the public greater access 4 hours per week, allowing greater flexibility in their schedule to access court records and have their court needs met/addressed.

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

This schedule is planned to extend into the beginning of next fiscal year. We are at a critically low number of employees at this time, which has created backlogs in almost all divisions. Without increased funding during FY 14/15, the schedule will revert back to 3 p.m.

X We devoted resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.

- Please explain the areas of backlog that were addressed.

Although not originally planned/budgeted, we allowed numerous overtime Saturdays to allow clerical divisions to clear backlog on new case data entry in traffic, family law, civil and criminal. Additional specific backlog addressed included civil judgments, criminal case disposition, traffic payment plan data entry and traffic citation entry.

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog maintained or increased public access to justice.

Reducing backlog maintains or increases access by giving timely information to the public, not stalling case processing/flow into courtrooms, execution of writs, etc.

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

Reduction of backlog in FY 13/14 is temporary (limited to FY 13/14), as overtime was allowed as per utilization of fund balance that will not be available in subsequent years.

X We suspended/avoided employee furloughs.

- Please explain how this action allowed 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 bi-weekly pay period to be used randomly as per division needs. By suspending the furlough in mid-August 2013, we increased public access, as employees no longer had 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 gave the court approximately 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 any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

This change is limited to FY 13/14.

X We maintained, increased or restored services in our self-help center.

- Please explain the details of maintaining, increasing or restoring self-help center services.

SHC hours of operation were restored 4 hours per week; extending closing time from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday for restoration of approximately 200 hours annually.

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

Increased public access 4 hours per week.

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

Increased hours of operation could be limited to FY 13/14 with any subsequent funding reduction, as the SHC budget does not cover full SHC expenditures.

X We maintained, increased or restored court reporting services.

- Please explain how increased court reporting services maintained or increased public access to justice.

Court Reporter Services were maintained for FY 13/14.

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

We believe current services can be maintained in future years, subject to Year 2 WAFM levels and restoration of previous funding.

X We maintained, increased or restored specialty court(s).

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

Maintained at this time.

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services maintained or increased public access to justice.

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

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

- Explain any other ways your court restored, maintained, or increased public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

The Court has diligently pursued automated access with the implementation of a paperless Document Management System (DMS) in FY 13/14. Our IV-D court clerk's office and courtroom went live in August 2013. The Family Law clerk's office as well as all 4 family law courtrooms will go-live on this paperless system on April 1, 2014. Our Criminal clerk's office and 10 criminal courtrooms are anticipated to be live by June 30, 2014. We are in the development stages for our Traffic, HR and Fiscal Divisions at this time and also plan for all other divisions to be implemented by the end of 14/15. These changes have all been funded with one-time reserve funds.

- Explain the impact of the WAFM calculation and your court's net allocation on your court's ability to maintain, increase or restore access to justice.

As a historically underfunded court, the WAFM Year 1 calculations and overall positive net allocation enabled us to avoid 20 layoffs, and maintain services. In some instance we were able to restore services (office hours, etc.) and/or in a rare occasion increase services.

- 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.
- What are your projected revenues and expenditures for NEXT fiscal year (2014-15)?
Total revenues and expenditures are estimated at \$23.8M in FY 14/15 (this includes current estimated WAFM Year 2 adjustments as well as new funding of \$100M for Trial Courts). Base funding estimate of \$19M is insufficient to cover estimated TCTF personnel costs in FY 14/15.

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FOLLOW-UP REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

Superior Court of California,

County of SUTTER

FY 2013-14

Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$165,851

Net Allocation After WAFM: \$245,954

There are a number of ways to have used your share of the \$60 million budget augmentation 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, MARCH 27TH.

___ We avoided (or limited) previously planned staffing reductions.

- Please explain how many positions you avoided reducing.

We avoided reducing one supervisor position.

- Please describe the kinds of positions you avoided reducing.

Court Supervisor.

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

With the loss of the position we would have expected to see an increase in backlog of processing court documents and a reduction in the quality of work performed by the unit.

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

So long as further reductions are not experienced this is an ongoing action.

___ We avoided (or limited) previously planned courtroom closures.

- Please explain what types of hearings have been maintained.

N/A

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

Type your response here

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

Type your response here

___ **We avoided previously planned courthouse closures.**

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you were 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 any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We maintained, increased or restored public telephone hours.**

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours maintained or increased public access to justice.

Due to the additional funding the court was able to maintain its telephone service hours.

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

The telephone service hours are intended to be ongoing.

___ **We maintained, increased or restored court clerk hours.**

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

Due to the additional funding we were able to maintain our court clerk hours.

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours maintained or increased public access to justice.

Court clerk public filing counters did not experience a reduction in hours maintaining public access to file documents, receive information, pay fines, etc.

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

These actions are intended to be ongoing.

___ **We devoted resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.**

- Please explain the areas of backlog that were addressed.

We experienced some backlog reduction in all case types.

*The criminal minutes backlog has been reduced by almost 50%.
Criminal records requests have been reduced from 8 weeks to 4 weeks.*

Civil processing delays have also been decreased significantly.

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog maintained or increased public access to justice.
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; decrease wait times for filings, entry of judgment and issuance of enforcement documents; 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

These actions are intended to be ongoing.

___ **We suspended/avoided employee furloughs.**

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

N/A. We did not have any employee furloughs in this fiscal year.

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

Type your response here

___ **We maintained, increased or restored services in our self-help center.**

- Please explain the details of maintaining, increasing or restoring self-help center services.

During this fiscal year, we were concerned that we would have to reduce the public hours of the Family Law Center. We were able to avoid reducing the public hours generally, although still experience some disruption when staff assigned to this unit are out due to illness, vacation or training.

We now have a full-time Family Law Facilitator and two full-time court clerk positions assigned to the Family Law Center.

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

By assisting litigants with the preparation of filings, they are able to more timely bring their issue before the court and obtain the remedy that is appropriate under the law. Parents are able to obtain timely custody and visitation orders, allowing children to have greater access to both parents. Cases involving children in need of a guardianship are filed and heard in a timely manner.

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

These actions are intended to be ongoing.

___ **We maintained, increased or restored court reporting services.**

- Please explain how increased court reporting services maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We maintained, increased or restored specialty court(s).**

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

Not applicable.

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services maintained or increased 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) and which are 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 restored, maintained, or increased public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

- Explain the impact of the WAFM calculation and your court's net allocation on your court's ability to maintain, increase or restore access to justice.

As a historically underfunded court, we received additional funding under the new WAFM calculation. This funding has allowed us to improve our technology infrastructure as well as helped to offset increasing costs of doing business such as increased postage costs, janitorial, supplies, insurance, etc.

- 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

All of the actions taken with respect to our proportionate share of the \$60 million are ongoing.

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

Estimated Revenues - \$5,445,423

Estimated Expenses - \$5,435,977.

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FOLLOW-UP REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

Superior Court of California,

County of TEHAMA

FY 2013-14

Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$117,632

Net Allocation After WAFM: \$104,199

There are a number of ways to have used your share of the \$60 million budget augmentation 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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___ We avoided (or limited) previously planned staffing reductions.

- Please explain how many positions you avoided reducing.

Two entry level clerk positions.

- Please describe the kinds of positions you avoided reducing.

Entry level clerks perform full range of clerical duties in support of court operations. This position performs a variety of processing functions including, but not limited to, assisting the public with file or court information, preparing and issuing legal orders, entering and retrieving data from a computer system and accepting payment of fines and fees. During the performance of their assigned duties, entry level clerks interact extensively with the public, other court staff and other agencies.

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

Tehama Court has been able to maintain its current level of public access with its share of the \$60M

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

A reduction in force and maintaining public access to justice is limited to this fiscal year. However, should there be a restoration of money or new money, the Tehama Court is hopeful it will be able to increase public access to justice.

___ We avoided (or limited) previously planned courtroom closures.

- Please explain what types of hearings have been maintained.

Tehama Court did not have any previously planned courtroom closures.

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

N/A

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

N/A

___ **We avoided previously planned courthouse closures.**

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

Unfortunately, we were unable to avoid closing the Corning Branch Court.

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

N/A

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

The closing of the Corning Branch Court will extend beyond this fiscal year.

___ **We maintained, increased or restored public telephone hours.**

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours maintained or increased public access to justice.

Tehama Court maintained its current schedule of public telephone hours (Monday-Friday 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.).

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

Maintaining the current public telephone hours is limited to this fiscal year. However, should there be a restoration of money or new money, the Tehama Court is hopeful it will be able to increase public telephone hours.

___ **We maintained, increased or restored court clerk hours.**

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

Court clerk working hours were restored to 40 hours per week allowing court clerks' to prepare, process and file documents; prepare and assembly calendars; and process fines and fees in a more efficient manner.

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours maintained or increased public access to justice.

Restoration of court clerk working hours allowed the Tehama Court Clerk's Office hours to be maintained (Monday-Friday 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.) allowing the same level of public access to justice.

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

Maintaining the current court clerk working hours and Court Clerk's Office hours is limited to this fiscal year. However, should there be a restoration of money or new money, the Tehama Court is hopeful it will be able to increase court clerk hours.

— **We devoted resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.**

- Please explain the areas of backlog that were addressed.

The Tehama Court continues to work on creating efficiencies and streamlining processes within the Criminal and Traffic departments.

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog maintained or increased public access to justice.

Decreasing backlog in the areas of dispositions and DMV reporting will restore public confidence and avoid adverse actions against compliant defendants.

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

Decreasing the backlog in dispositions and DMV reporting is limited to this fiscal year. Decreasing/eliminating backlogs in all areas is the Court's ultimate goal and can only be accomplished through the restoration of money or new money.

— **We suspended/avoided employee furloughs.**

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

Tehama Court did not have any previously planned employee furloughs.

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

N/A

___ **We maintained, increased or restored services in our self-help center.**

- Please explain the details of maintaining, increasing or restoring self-help center services.

The Tehama Court improved access to its self-help center by relocating the center to the main courthouse.

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

Litigants may now visit the self-help center, file documents and appear in court all in one location. Additionally, reduced long term costs is a significant benefit to the public as these savings can be redirected to key public access improvements, including but not limited to additional hours of operation and/or improved staffing.

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

The relocation of the self- help center will extend beyond this fiscal year.

___ **We maintained, increased or restored court reporting services.**

- Please explain how increased court reporting services maintained or increased public access to justice.

The Tehama Court maintained court reporting services.

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

If there are future reductions to the trial court budgets; no restoration of money or no new monies, the Court may consider reducing court reporting services.

___ **We maintained, increased or restored specialty court(s).**

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

Tehama Court implemented Truancy Court in September 2013, Behavioral Court in the fall of 2013 and expanded the enrollment availability of Felon Drug Court.

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Truancy, Behavioral and Felon Drug Court are likely to be extended beyond this fiscal year.

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

- Explain any other ways your court restored, maintained, or increased public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

A portion of Tehama's share will be used towards the purchase of a Voice over Internet Program (new telephone system). Although there is an initial setup cost, significant net savings can result from managing only one network and not needing to sustain a legacy telephony system in an increasingly digital and data-centered world; reduced long term costs is a significant benefit to the public as these savings can be redirected to key public access improvements, including but not limited to additional hours of operation and/or improved staffing. The new system will allow the Court to distribute telephone calls in a more timely and efficient manner. Future enhancements may include voice payments.

- Explain the impact of the WAFM calculation and your court's net allocation on your court's ability to maintain, increase or restore access to justice.

*The WAFM calculation reduced Tehama's net allocation by \$13,433.00
\$13,433.00 is equivalent to approximately 28.5% of an entry level clerk's salary.*

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

Tehama Court has made an efficient use of its share of the \$60M in maintaining and increasing public access to justice.

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

The VoIP system will extend beyond this fiscal year.

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

*Revenues: \$2,929,077.00 (allocation) + \$190,798.00 (share of \$100M) + \$39,400.00 (1% fund balance) + \$489,111.00 (other revenue) = \$3,648,386.00
Expenditures: \$4,022,641.00*

The Court is currently reviewing all expenditures and working on a cost reduction plan.

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FOLLOW-UP REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

Superior Court of California,

County of TRINITY

FY 2013-14

Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$43,420

Net Allocation After WAFM: \$43,420 (no change)

There are a number of ways to have used your share of the \$60 million budget augmentation 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, MARCH 27TH.

___ We avoided (or limited) previously planned staffing reductions.

- Please explain how many positions you avoided reducing.

We have avoided our plan for additional reductions in hours, but are not filling vacant positions, with exception of one vacancy in marshal's office due to attrition. We will continue to function at a 35-40% vacancy rate when comparing filled FTEs to the 2013-2014 Workload-Based Allocation and Funding Methodology (WAFM) FTE need. A 1% salary reduction was implemented for all court employees effective 7/1/2013 for FY13. The 1% reduction was lifted earlier than intended, in part, instead of extending the staff loss of wages through FY14/15.

- Please describe the kinds of positions you avoided reducing.

We avoided undesirable staff attrition by lifting the 1% salary reduction, albeit temporary. Our vacancies persist in security, administrative and court services.

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

The most difficult and complicating factor has been the 14 month vacancy of a bench officer, creating additional workload on the skeletal staff to navigate judicial assignments and multiple calendar changes. The staff is better able to provide supplemental support to the numerous visiting judges with the reduction of hours open to the public, yet insuring the courtroom remains open with an assigned judge to fill the "temporary" vacancy.

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

Employees have already absorbed the work of vacant positions at lesser pay and attrition; service levels and morale have diminished. Unless restoration of funds is a viable option, these are ongoing issues that will extend beyond the current fiscal year.

__N/A__ **We avoided (or limited) previously planned courtroom closures.**

- Please explain what types of hearings have been 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 any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

__ **We avoided previously planned courthouse closures.**

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

We were able to provide 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 was able to avoid reducing hours or closing these remote branches.

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

Closures would impact constituents living in remote regions; they 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 any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Keeping the branch courts open is a priority to our court, but may not be realistic in the long-term without adequate and ongoing funding to support access to justice in remote areas of California.

__ **We maintained, increased or restored public telephone hours.**

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours maintained or increased 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 any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Restoration of funds to the judiciary, particularly Trinity, is necessary to restore service levels to the public.

— **We maintained, increased or restored court clerk hours.**

- Please explain what kinds of court clerk duties were 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 maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

N/A

— **We devoted resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.**

- Please explain the areas of backlog that were addressed.

N/A

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

N/A

— **We suspended/avoided employee furloughs.**

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

Increase to Access to justice will occur when we are able to return to normal working hours, open to the public.

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

N/A

___ **We maintained, increased or restored services in our self-help center.**

- Please explain the details of maintaining, increasing or restoring self-help center services.

We were able to adjust the self help hours to extend times when the Family Court Commissioner is present from a neighboring county, and to add two hours per week for one clerk to be trained for the self help center.

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

The additional day assists the public access when the judge refers people to the center on the same day when they attend court, whereas before, it was closed to the public.

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

N/A

___ **We maintained, increased or restored court reporting services.**

- Please explain how increased court reporting services maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We maintained, increased or restored specialty court(s).**

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

We are hoping to open a Juvenile Drug Court if funds allow.

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services maintained or increased public access to justice.

Funds allocated to juveniles in this county have dwindled in all sectors, with increased drug use in rural community due to marijuana production. We have a collaborative need to open a Juvenile Drug Court with our Juvenile hall, and Health and Human Service providers to serve the increasing needs of minors.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are 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 your court restored, maintained, or increased public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

Providing a safe and secure environment for judges, court staff and the court users 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) are being used in part to expand the marshals' overcrowded office. It is important to note \$43,420 is only a fraction of what is needed to correct the findings of the reports.

- Explain the impact of the WAFM calculation and your court's net allocation on your court's ability to maintain, increase or restore access to justice.
Our two judge county has been without its second judgeship for 14 months. This has put an increased burden on every area, limiting access to justice when one judge must be responsible for all energy orders, and search warrants, after hours, and every weekend, when the visiting judge goes home.

Additional fiscal impact has forced us to address the fact that we are the worst county in California, in regards to our collections, outside of Modoc County. In order to implement an efficient program, the court's IT department must separate from the county. The lack of funds makes this separation near impossible, forcing us to lose much needed revenue monthly (over 100% for March 2014).

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

Trinity County is dependent on county based collections program, IT server, Auditor, Human Resources, and Payroll, and these county costs increase each year. The start of a separation from collections and IT will assist and support the court's attempt to be responsible for its own revenue, and implement successive planning in the above mentioned areas.

- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are 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 FOLLOW-UP SURVEY. SUBMIT THIS COMPLETED FORM TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov ON OR BEFORE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, MARCH 27TH. PLEASE CALL ANDI AT 916-323-3121 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

FOLLOW-UP REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

Superior Court of California,

County of TULARE

FY 2013-14

Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$558,947

Net Allocation After WAFM: \$711,629

There are a number of ways to have used your share of the \$60 million budget augmentation 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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___ **We avoided (or limited) previously planned staffing reductions.**

- Please explain how many positions you avoided reducing.

We were able to retain 7.5 employees that otherwise would have been laid off.

- Please describe the kinds of positions you avoided reducing.

Court clerks, courtroom clerks, legal processing clerks, facilitator staff, court reporters, mediators and investigators.

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

This action did not maintain or increase access. This action only decreased the extent of the layoffs that were originally planned. Keeping facilitator staff enabled self-represented litigants to properly participate in court. Keeping clerk staff enabled us not to cut public access hours even further. We were also 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

All actions listed above are potentially temporary if we do not receive a significant restoration of prior years' cuts in the next fiscal year (2014-15). This current fiscal year (2013-14) we are using the last of our reserves. We have not fully operationalized prior year cuts, therefore we will be forced to absorb another huge cut requiring crippling personnel reductions or large salary reductions. Despite the additional augmentation this year, we were forced this year to increase our previous year mandatory furloughs by an additional 2 days. Currently, staff are

required to take 12 mandatory furlough days resulting in approximately 4.62% salary reduction for all employees.

___ **We avoided (or limited) previously planned courtroom closures.**

- Please explain what types of hearings have been maintained.

We were able to continue to 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.

Victims of domestic violence were still able to obtain prompt court orders and citizens were able to resolve their small claims disputes in a timely manner.

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

All of the actions listed above are temporary if we do not receive a significant restoration of prior years' cuts. Without significant restoration of prior years' cuts, access to the court for all services, including domestic violence and small claims, will be affected due to required additional personnel cuts.

___ **We avoided previously planned courthouse closures.**

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

We were able to avoid not opening the newly constructed South County Courthouse (located in Porterville) this fiscal year. However, if we don't receive a significant restoration of prior years' cuts then closing down the newly constructed South County Courthouse will once again become an option. We have already closed Tulare and Dinuba leaving only the Visalia Courthouse and the South County Courthouse.

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

The impact on the public of allowing the South County Courthouse to open as planned this fiscal year was enormous. Porterville is 40 miles away from the main courthouse in Visalia, therefore public access to justice was significantly maintained by keeping the South County Courthouse open.

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

Keeping the South County Courthouse open this fiscal year is potentially temporary. If we don't receive a significant restoration of prior years' cuts then closing down the newly constructed South County Courthouse will once again become an option.

___ **We maintained, increased or restored public telephone hours.**

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours maintained or increased public access to justice.

We maintained the one hour cut in telephone hours. If not for the augmentation this fiscal year, we would have had to cut telephone hours more.

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

Maintaining the current level of telephone hours is a temporary action. If we don't receive a significant restoration of prior years' cuts then we will certainly be reducing telephone hours further due to staff layoffs.

___ **We maintained, increased or restored court clerk hours.**

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

We have been able to maintain court clerk hours. Lines are definitely longer but processing clerks are still available for domestic violence and family law orders and small claims.

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours maintained or increased public access to justice.

Public access to justice was maintained this fiscal year, although the lines have been much longer.

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

This action is temporary unless there is a significant restoration of prior years' cuts. Without a significant reduction of prior years' cuts, we will have no choice but to lay off a significant number of staff which will likely result in a reduction of court clerk hours.

___ **We devoted resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.**

- Please explain the areas of backlog that were addressed.

We had significant backlog this year and had no choice but to authorize 2 Saturdays for processing clerks to come in and process backlog.

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog maintained or increased public access to justice.

Decreasing the backlog maintained public access to justice by allowing the cases to be processed timely.

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

This was a temporary action. If we do not receive a significant restoration of prior years' reductions then we will not be able to address backlog like we did this fiscal year as we will not have the funds to authorize Saturday case processing. The authorization for Saturday case processing was only possible because we had reserves on hand to use for emergencies such as this. Next fiscal year (2014-15) we will no longer have adequate reserves making this action impossible next year.

— **We suspended/avoided employee furloughs.**

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

We were not able to suspend or avoid mandatory furloughs. In fact, we increased mandatory furloughs from 10 to 12 days.

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

Mandatory furloughs will extend into the next fiscal year unless we receive a significant restoration of prior years' cuts.

— **We maintained, increased or restored services in our self-help center.**

- Please explain the details of maintaining, increasing or restoring self-help center services.

We were able to maintain the services in our self-help center this fiscal year.

- Please explain how the increase in self-help services maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Without a significant restoration of prior years' cuts, we will have a large deficit to cover next year and thereafter, so cuts to our Self Help Center would be inevitable.

— **We maintained, increased or restored court reporting services.**

- Please explain how increased court reporting services maintained or increased public access to justice.

We have been able to maintain court reporting services. This was achieved, by the use of per diem court reporters rather than employee court reporters.

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

This is a temporary action. We will withdraw the use of court reporters in all cases that are not statutorily mandated to have a court reporter if there is not a significant restoration of prior years' cuts.

— We maintained, increased or restored specialty court(s).

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

We currently have a Veteran's Court, Mental Health Court, Drug Court and Recovery Court. We were able to maintain these courts this fiscal year.

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services maintained or increased 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 member 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

The action above is temporary. All but Recovery Court are not mandated programs and would be subject to elimination if there is not a significant restoration of funding in fiscal year 2014-15.

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

- Explain any other ways your court restored, maintained, or increased public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

The most significant way our court was able to maintain public access was utilizing a portion of our local reserves and our share of the \$60 million augmentation to open our new South County Courthouse. Without the \$60 million augmentation we likely wouldn't have opened the new facility at all. Now that we no longer have local reserves, we are once again forced to consider closing down the facility unless there is a significant restoration of prior years' reductions.

- Explain the impact of the WAFM calculation and your court's net allocation on your court's ability to maintain, increase or restore access to justice.

The WAFM calculation increased our court's allocation and allowed our court to maintain access to justice.

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

While Tulare Court is grateful for the \$60 million augmentation and appreciative the legislators have acknowledged the additional need in funding to the trial courts, Tulare Court is still currently woefully underfunded and understaffed. Although the augmentation and WAFM have been, and will assumingly continue to be, beneficial to our court, the new funding methodology clearly demonstrates the extreme need for additional revenues necessary to support the timely processing of cases in Tulare County.

Recently, our Court performed a local workload assessment study in an effort to identify those divisions within our court that were processing cases more efficiently than perhaps other divisions. After working on this project with Leah Rose-Goodwin of the AOC's Office of Court Research, Court Operations & Special Services, we found that per Leah's RAS FTE suggested staffing level calculation, our court is woefully understaffed. The calculation suggested a staffing level of 271 FTE Program 90 & Program 10 staff. We currently have 190 FTE Program 90 & Program 10 staff. Our court is currently understaffed by 81 FTE Program 90 and Program 10 staff! And it should be noted that our staff has mandatory furlough of 12 furlough days per year which, combined with vacation time, sick time and FMLA time, equates to a skeleton staff on hand to process cases.

Additional augmentation is desperately needed in Tulare Court so that we can adequately staff our court. In FY 2013-14 we had reserve funds from prior years that we partially utilized to pay our existing staff salaries and benefits, however, as of June 30, 2014 those funds are essentially gone. We will likely incur further reductions to staff in FY 2014-15 if additional funding is not made available to us. Those position that would potentially be laid off next year would include court reporters, clerks, courtroom clerks, self help employees and family law mediators.

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

Tulare Court currently has 190 FTE Program 90 & Program 10 employees. As woefully understaffed as we currently are (we should have 271 FTE Program 90 and Program 10 employees), there is potential for further layoffs in FY 2014-15 unless further augmentation of funding is granted.

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

The current FY 2014-15 Operations Projections are listed below. However, these are current projections only based on information available to us at the time this report was completed. These projections will certainly be modified accordingly as more information is delivered to our court in the weeks and months ahead.

| | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| <i>Projected FY 2014-15 Operations Revenues:</i> | <i>\$16,956,572*</i> |
| <i>Projected FY 2014-15 Operations Expenditures:</i> | <i><u>\$17,496,770*</u></i> |
| <i>Projected FY 2014-15 Deficit:</i> | <i><u>\$540,198</u></i> |

** These amounts include TCTF, local court revenue, civil assessment fees and other “operations revenues or expenditures” received or incurred by the court that are utilized for court operations at the discretion of local court management. Grant funds, statutorily mandated funds, and other such funds are not included in these projections.*

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FOLLOW-UP REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

Superior Court of California,

County of TUOLUMNE

FY 2013-14

Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$92,130

Net Allocation After WAFM: \$37,097

There are a number of ways to have used your share of the \$60 million budget augmentation 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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___ We avoided (or limited) previously planned staffing reductions.

- Please explain how many positions you avoided reducing.

To date, in FY 2013-2014, we have not had to further reduce our staff by the 1-2 positions that we anticipated we would need to eliminate. Since we are down 27% in staffing court wide, which translates to 12.75 positions, this is very significant. Additionally, we recently lost an additional 4 experienced staff due to retirement and/or resignation for promotional opportunities. During this month, (March), we were able to hire to fill those recently vacated positions, maintaining our current (albeit low) staffing levels. We note that it takes two (2) years to fully train a new clerk.

- Please describe the kinds of positions you avoided reducing.

We avoided elimination of 1 clerical employee, who answers the public phones and is assigned to assist the public at the front counter, along with an Operations Manager. Note: we have also reclassified one of our Operations Manager positions as a Management Analyst/Court Trainer, which is providing greater efficiency and use of managerial level personnel. The Management Analyst/Trainer, is providing much needed training to new staff as well as to existing staff who is not receiving needed training which would enable these staff to better assist/serve the public. Due to short staffing and the needs of supervisors and managers to perform clerical and court support duties along with their supervisory and managerial responsibilities, there is no one able to provide consistent training.

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

Retention of the clerical position has enabled our court to keep our Self Help Center open 5 days per week between the hours of 8AM and 3PM. If this position had been

eliminated, we would have had no choice but to reduce Self Help Center hours by 3 hours per day, 3 days per week for a total of 9 hours per week, so that staff could work part of the time in the Civil and Family Law Division Clerk's Office.

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

At this time, we do not anticipate that these actions will be temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-2014) unless unforeseen circumstances arise that would require us to implement the more draconian measures. We are still very much concerned about FY 14-15.

___ **We avoided (or limited) previously planned courtroom closures.**

- Please explain what types of hearings have been 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 any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

N/A

___ **We avoided previously planned courthouse closures.**

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you were 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 any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

N/A

___ **We maintained, increased or restored public telephone hours.**

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours maintained or increased public access to justice.

We were able to maintain public telephone hours at seven (7) (between 8AM and 3PM daily).

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

Without dramatic increases to our revenues, we will need to once again look at reducing phone hours by one (1) hour daily/five (5) hours weekly in FY 14/15.

— **We maintained, increased or restored court clerk hours.**

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

Clerk's Office hours remained the same, at seven (7) hours per day between 8AM and 3PM.

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours maintained or increased public access to justice.
- *We did not have to implement a plan which would have reduced Clerk's Office hours by one (1) hour daily, allowing us to maintain public access at current levels.*
- Explain the extent to which any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Without dramatic increases to our revenues, we will need to once again look at reducing court clerk hours by one (1) hour daily/ five (5) hours weekly, in FY 14-15.

— **We devoted resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.**

- Please explain the areas of backlog that were addressed.

We were able to reduce some backlog in the areas of DOJ reporting and DMV reporting/updating, We have struggled to remain current in CCPOR entry, and scanning documents into our Document Management System (DMS), however, staff continues to address these as they are able, on a daily basis. We have not been able to hire additional staff above current staffing levels. Therefore, we have not been able to address increasing backlog in DCSS, Civil, Small Claims, Probate, Family Law or Criminal case processing, scanning, correspondence and/or public record searches.

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog maintained or increased public access to justice.

Maintaining DMV reporting/updating in a current status allows DMV to timely release holds placed on drivers licenses, which is a tremendous public service for those who rely on their vehicles for travel to and from work/school. Accurate/timely entry into our case management system improves our ability to provide the court, our justice partners, and the public with accurate and timely information, in the case of DMV, regarding fine/fees owing, and the status of one or more cases involving vehicle code violations.

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

We believe that staff will be able to maintain a reduced backlog in these stated areas beyond this fiscal year. Due to continuing staff shortages, managers/supervisors will continue to absorb backlogs as part of their daily duties, to assist subordinate staff and the court, resulting in increasing backlog in the areas of JBSIS statistical review and analysis and reporting, training and performance management. It also results in the inability of managers to think and plan strategically, rather than tactically, which negatively impacts the entire court.

— **We suspended/avoided employee furloughs.**

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

Suspending furloughs for FY 2013-2014 resulted in improved access for the public as the Clerk's Offices and Self-Help Center remained open a full five (5) days per week, seven (7) hours per day for both counter and phone service. All 5 courtrooms remained open and cases were heard a full five (5) days per week, seven (7) hours per day as well.

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

Without dramatic increases to our revenues, we will need to once again look at reinstituting furloughs. Our suspension of furloughs may indeed be a temporary situation.

— **We maintained, increased or restored services in our self-help center.**

- Please explain the details of maintaining, increasing or restoring self-help center services.

We maintained Self-Help Center services by keeping the doors open to the center five (5) days per week, seven and one-half (7.5) hours per day, with a dedicated clerk answering phone calls and staffing the front counter of the Center, as well as maintaining our share of a regionalized contract with two (2) other counties for the contracted services of the Self-Help Attorney and her paralegal/assistant 1.5 days per week.

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

The Self-Help Center provides invaluable services to pro per litigants who cannot afford legal counsel, and who are seeking assistance with various types of Civil and Family Law cases. The center also houses our County Law Library, which is visited by the public and members of the legal community.

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

Without dramatic increases to our revenues, we will need to once again look at reducing the office hours of our Self-Help Center. Our maintaining 5-day per week, 7 hours per day public access by phone and public counter, may be temporary.

___ **We maintained, increased or restored court reporting services.**

- Please explain how increased court reporting services maintained or increased public access to justice.

We maintained our current court reporter staff at two (2) full-time reporters, and we occasionally hire a 3rd reporter on a part-time, contract basis for necessary coverage. Due to current budget constraints, we have not been able to restore the 3rd full-time court reporter position, which has resulted in delays in proceedings and the inability of reporters to provide their transcripts for cases on appeal, in a timely manner.

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

Without dramatic increases to our revenues, we will not be able to hire a much needed 3rd full-time court reporter. At this time, we do not anticipate that we will be able to hire another full-time reporter in the near future.

___ **We maintained, increased or restored specialty court(s).**

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

Our court maintained Drug Court and Dependency Drug Court programs at currently supported levels through 2013/2014.

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Without dramatic increases to our revenues, we will not be able to increase/restore specialty court programs, and 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 your court restored, maintained, or increased public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

Our court's share of the \$60 Million appropriation, (\$37,097), 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.

- Explain the impact of the WAFM calculation and your court's net allocation on your court's ability to maintain, increase or restore access to justice.

The unadjusted \$60 Million in new funding to our court was \$92,130. Under the WAFM calculation, the reallocation of 10% historical funding resulted in a deduction of (\$38,673). Reallocation of the \$60 Million in historical funding resulted in a deduction of (\$16,359), for an actual net amount received of \$37,097. This amount, while appreciated, was insufficient to maintain or positively impact/restore access to justice.

- 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 grateful to have received our share of the \$60 million augmentation, the net received by our court was, as stated previously, \$37,097, which will not allow us to maintain expenditures at last year's levels, hire any new staff to address public access or backlogs, let alone allow us to plan strategically going forward. With reserves limited to 1%, we will no longer have sufficient reserves to enable us to operate with existing expenditure levels. Further reductions will have to be considered, which will result in reduced public access to justice and increased backlogs. We will not be able to move forward with technology advances or to partner with DCSS, the DA, or other agencies who are moving forward with going "paperless", e-filing, etc.

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

With rising costs that are beyond our control, our reserves limited to 1%, and no guarantees that we will receive additional budget augmentations, we are unable to say that these actions are temporary.

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

Expected revenues are: \$3,561,312

Expected expenditures are: \$3,985,743

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AS WE PREPARE THIS FOLLOW-UP SURVEY. SUBMIT THIS COMPLETED FORM TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov ON OR BEFORE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, MARCH 27TH. PLEASE CALL ANDI AT 916-323-3121 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

FOLLOW-UP REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

Superior Court of California,

County of VENTURA

FY 2013-14

Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$1,164,629

Net Allocation After WAFM: \$1,660,216

There are a number of ways to have used your share of the \$60 million budget augmentation 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, MARCH 27TH.

X We avoided (or limited) previously planned staffing reductions.

- Please explain how many positions you avoided reducing.

This additional funding preserved 15 positions from layoffs.

- Please describe the kinds of positions you avoided reducing.

Attorneys, Secretaries, Management, Court Processing Assistants, Judicial Assistants, Court Reporters, Administrative Staff including Fiscal, Human Resources and IT.

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

The added funding has allowed the court to provide the same level of service as in Fiscal Year 2012-13. Additional service reductions to the courtrooms, public counters were not required as layoffs were not required.

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

The actions of 2013-14 resulting from the \$60 million are indeed one-time and temporary. The 2014-15 fiscal year will require \$266 million in funding statewide just to maintain the current fiscal year's service level. This is \$206 million more than was received statewide in 2013-14 and \$166 million more than what is included for the trial courts in the Governor's 2014-15 Budget. Since our court reserves will be approximately \$450,000 this coming July, severe reductions will be required to balance the budget without additional funding. Layoffs will be required and service reductions to the public will be the end result.

X **We avoided (or limited) previously planned courtroom closures.**

- Please explain what types of hearings have been maintained.

The court was able to maintain the two days of limited court services of Traffic court trials and Small Claims trials at the East County Courthouse that started in the 2012-13 fiscal year.

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

With this added funding the public and law enforcement from the east end of the county avoided the need 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. Increased parking congestion, longer lines and wait-times at the public counters and in the courtrooms were also avoided.

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

Additional new funding totaling \$266 million statewide will be required in the upcoming fiscal year in order to maintain this current level of service. If funding above the \$100 million currently in the Governor's Budget is not received, then major reductions in services beyond the current level will be necessary to balance the budget.

X **We avoided previously planned courthouse closures.**

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

This additional funding allowed the court to continue its 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 \$60 million in new funding allowed this to continue for the 2013-14 fiscal year.

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

With this funding, the public and law enforcement from the east end of the county did not have to make the 80 mile round trip into Ventura or Oxnard and spend over an hour and a half of travel time to handle their court business. Increased parking congestion, longer lines and wait-times at the public counters and in the courtrooms were also avoided.

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

Additional new funding totaling \$266 million statewide will be required in the upcoming fiscal year in order to maintain this current level of service. If funding above the \$100 million currently in the Governor's Budget is not received, then major reductions in services beyond the current level will be necessary to balance the budget.

X We maintained, increased or restored public telephone hours.

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours maintained or increased public access to justice.

Service to the public has been increased in this area 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 any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Additional new funding totaling \$266 million statewide will be required in the upcoming fiscal year in order to maintain this current level of service. If funding above the \$100 million currently in the Governor's Budget is not received, then major reductions in services beyond the current level will be necessary to balance the budget.

X We maintained, increased or restored court clerk hours.

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

Public service was increased as the court had 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 maintained or increased public access to justice.

The entire court was open to the public two more days per year than the prior two fiscal years.

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

Additional new funding totaling \$266 million statewide will be required in the upcoming fiscal year in order to maintain this current level of service. If funding above the \$100 million currently in the Governor's Budget is not received, then major reductions in services beyond the current level will be necessary to balance the budget.

___ **We devoted resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.**

- Please explain the areas of backlog that were addressed.

N/A

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

N/A

X **We suspended/avoided employee furloughs.**

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

The number of mandatory furlough days was reduced by two days from the 2012-13 fiscal year level. Going from 6 days to 4 days has provided an increase of two full days of service to the public. 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; FY 2010-11: 12 days; FY 2009-10: 12 days.

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

Since the court's fund balance will be exhausted down to 1% at the end of this fiscal year, additional furloughs and more than likely lay-offs may be required to balance the court's budget structural deficit. If funding above the \$100 million currently in the Governor's Budget is not received, then major reductions in services beyond the current level will be necessary to balance the budget.

___ **We maintained, increased or restored services in our self-help center.**

- Please explain the details of maintaining, increasing or restoring self-help center services.

N/A

- Please explain how the increase in self-help services maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

N/A

— **We maintained, increased or restored court reporting services.**

- Please explain how increased court reporting services maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

N/A

— **We maintained, increased or restored specialty court(s).**

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

N/A

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services maintained or increased 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) and which are 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 your court restored, maintained, or increased public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

This funding was a good start to alleviate five consecutive years of budget reductions. Additional funding is necessary in order to increase, restore or maintain services to the public considering the depth of the ongoing budget reductions on top of rising operational costs. This funding was essentially used to maintain the same level of service provided in 2012-13 as the \$60 million was not enough to offset the ongoing budget reductions along with the increased costs of doing business.

- Explain the impact of the WAFM calculation and your court’s net allocation on your court’s ability to maintain, increase or restore access to justice.

The WAFM formula will increase this courts budget allocation over time, but WAFM alone will not eliminate our structural budget deficit. Funding to make up for the loss of the reserves will be required in 2014-15 in order to provide the same level of service provided in the 2013-14 fiscal year.

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

This funding was just enough to maintain the prior year’s service level. The increased costs of retirement and employee health benefits must also be fully funded before services can actually be restored or increased.

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

The actions taken were 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 above the \$100 million in the Governor’s budget is allocated.

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

*EXPENDITURES: \$39,164,200
REVENUE: \$(36,637,600)
STRUCTURAL DEFICIT: \$2,526,600*

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FOLLOW-UP REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

Superior Court of California,

County of YOLO

FY 2013-14

Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$296,038

Net Allocation After WAFM: \$377,852

There are a number of ways to have used your share of the \$60 million budget augmentation 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, MARCH 27TH.

X **We avoided (or limited) previously planned staffing reductions.**

- Please explain how many positions you avoided reducing.

Yolo Superior Court was able to retain six limited term staff that would otherwise be eliminated, however, the court maintains a total court vacancy rate of 28%.

- Please describe the kinds of positions you avoided reducing.

Legal process clerks.

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

The new money allowed Yolo Court to retain six legal process clerks and maintain the current reduced hours of service to the public, without further reductions in hours of service.

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

The six limited term legal process clerk positions were maintained throughout fiscal year 2013-14 only because of the Court's share of the \$60 million additional trial court funding. Without a continuation of this funding, all six positions will be eliminated at the start of fiscal year 2014-15.

 We avoided (or limited) previously planned courtroom closures.

- Please explain what types of hearings have been maintained.

Type your response here

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

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

Type your response here

 We avoided previously planned courthouse closures.

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you were 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 any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

 X **We maintained, increased or restored public telephone hours.**

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours maintained or increased public access to justice.

Yolo Superior Court was able to maintain the current public phone hours without further reduction. Current phone hours are 9-3.

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

The six limited term legal process clerk positions were maintained throughout fiscal year 2013-14 only because of the Court's share of the \$60 million additional trial court funding. Without a continuation of this funding, all six positions will be eliminated at the start of fiscal year 2014-15.

 X **We maintained, increased or restored court clerk hours.**

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

The limited term legal process clerks, in addition to serving the public in person and on the phone, also provided other legal process clerk duties in all three divisions, including processing filings, abstracts, writs, research and copy requests, tickets, FTA notices and other legal clerk processes.

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours maintained or increased public access to justice.

The limited legal process clerk positions assisted the court in maintaining the minimal public service hours of phone and window service.

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

The six limited term legal process clerk positions were maintained throughout fiscal year 2013-14 only because of the Court's share of the \$60 million additional trial court funding. Without a continuation of this funding, all six positions will be eliminated at the start of fiscal year 2014-15.

X We devoted resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.

- Please explain the areas of backlog that were addressed.

Criminal, civil and traffic backlogs were addressed.

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog maintained or increased public access to justice.

Reduced backlog in all three divisions assisted the court in maintaining the minimal public access to justice by processing filings timely.

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

The six limited term legal process clerk positions were maintained throughout fiscal year 2013-14 only because of the Court's share of the \$60 million additional trial court funding. Without a continuation of this funding, all six positions will be eliminated at the start of fiscal year 2014-15.

We suspended/avoided employee furloughs.

- Please explain how this action allowed you to 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

X We maintained, increased or restored services in our self-help center.

- Please explain the details of maintaining, increasing or restoring self-help center services.

Yolo Superior Court was able to maintain the Self Help Center with the current minimal hours of 9-3, Monday – Thursday. However, without further funding, Yolo Superior Court may face further reductions in hours of service, and will not be able to increase self-help center hours.

- Please explain how the increase in self-help services maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

N/A

___ **We maintained, increased or restored court reporting services.**

- Please explain how increased court reporting services maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

___ **We maintained, increased or restored specialty court(s).**

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

Type your response here

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services maintained or increased 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) and which are 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 restored, maintained, or increased public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

While the 60 M helped Yolo Superior Court to maintain service window hours and phone service at the current reduced level of 9-3, it has not enhanced any services other than the minimal, critical services to the public.

- Explain the impact of the WAFM calculation and your court's net allocation on your court's ability to maintain, increase or restore access to justice.

Yolo Superior Court used our net allocation to hire 6 limited term legal process clerks which allowed the court to maintain, without further reduction, court clerk window and phone hours.

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

Without the allocation, Yolo Superior Court would be forced to consider further reduced services to the public to include the elimination of the 6 limited term legal process clerks, furloughs, and other measures.

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

The six limited term legal process clerk positions were maintained throughout fiscal year 2013-14 only because of the Court's share of the \$60 million additional trial court funding. Without a continuation of this funding, all six positions will be eliminated at the start of fiscal year 2014-15.

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

Yolo Court anticipates its expenditures will exceed revenues by \$198,961 in FY 14/15. Projected revenues for FY 14/15 are \$11,485,672 and expenditures are \$11,684,633.

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FOLLOW-UP REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

Superior Court of California,

County of YUBA

FY 2013-14

Share of \$60 million augmentation: \$108,126

Net Allocation After WAFM: \$17,128

There are a number of ways to have used your share of the \$60 million budget augmentation 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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n/a We avoided (or limited) previously planned staffing reductions.

- Please explain how many positions you avoided reducing.

Type your response here

Please describe the kinds of positions you avoided reducing.

Type your response here

- Please explain how this action allowed 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

n/a We avoided (or limited) previously planned courtroom closures.

- Please explain what types of hearings have been 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 any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

n/a We avoided previously planned courthouse closures.

- Please explain which courthouse(s) you were 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 any of the actions listed above are temporary (limited to fiscal year 2013-14) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

X We maintained, increased or restored public telephone hours.

- Please explain how the restoration of public telephone hours maintained or increased public access to justice.

The Court's public hours remained the same. The suspension of furlough hours in December has increased the staff hours thereby allowing the clerks more time to answer phones. We are a small, rural county and many of our court users are from remote locations and cannot easily come to the courthouse in person.

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

With no change to our FY2014-2015 budget, this may be a temporary reprieve from future furloughs resulting in decreased public telephone hours, or in our case, availability.

X We maintained, increased or restored court clerk hours.

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

The following clerk functions were maintained: answering phones, assisting customers at the clerk's office, processing paperwork and timely reporting of disposition to DMV/DOJ, processing of bail bonds.

- Please explain how the restoration of court clerk hours maintained or increased public access to justice.

The suspension of the furloughs has increased staff hours. With the restoration of these production hours there is more staff available to answer phones, assist customers at the clerk's office, 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

With no change to our FY2014-2015 budget, this may be a temporary reprieve from future furloughs resulting in decreased court clerk hours.

X We devoted resources to reducing backlogs in case processing.

- Please explain the areas of backlog that were addressed.

With the suspension of the furloughs and the restoration of the work production hours, the court was able to shorten the delay in processing bail bond forfeitures, reporting dispositions to DMV/DOJ, and reporting JBSIS stats to AOC.

- Please explain how decreasing the backlog maintained or increased public access to justice.

Processing bail bonds more timely helps bail bond companies in their outstanding liabilities and help preserve appropriate reserve for court cost and forfeiture money for our county.

Reporting dispositions to both DMV and DOJ, timely and correctly, is critical to law enforcement officer safety and prospective hiring authorities, such as schools and daycare licensing agencies. Correct arrest records and DMV records are important for prosecuting agencies and corrections facilities. Accurate records are also crucial to public safety.

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

With no change to our FY2014-2015 budget, this may be temporary reprieve from future furloughs resulting in increased backlogs.

X We suspended/avoided employee furloughs.

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

The Court suspended employee furloughs in December 2013, thereby staffing hours were increased. With the restoration of these production hours there is more staff available to answer phones, assist customers at the clerk's office, process paperwork such as bail bonds, report dispositions to DMV/DOJ, and report JBSIS stats to the AOC.

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

With no change to our FY2014-2015 budget, this may be a temporary reprieve from future furloughs.

X We maintained, increased or restored services in our self-help center.

- Please explain the details of maintaining, increasing or restoring self-help center services.

We have not reduced our services in our self-help center, but often the lines form as early as 7:15 a.m. for services. Clients seeking services have increased dramatically. The court has had to refer customers to return on the next business day. The Self-Help/Facilitator routinely borrows court staff to triage clients.

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

The suspension of the furloughs and the restoration of the work production hours have provided timelier public access to domestic violence and elder abuse restraining orders, child custody modifications, default judgments, etc.

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

With no change to our FY2014-2015 budget, this may be a temporary reprieve from future furloughs resulting in cuts to the self-help center.

n/a We maintained, increased or restored court reporting services.

- Please explain how increased court reporting services maintained or increased 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) and which are likely to extend beyond this fiscal year.

Type your response here

n/a We maintained, increased or restored specialty court(s).

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

Type your response here

- Please explain how the restoration of specialty court services maintained or increased 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) and which are 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 restored, maintained, or increased public access to justice with your proportionate share of the \$60M.

Type your response here

- Explain the impact of the WAFM calculation and your court's net allocation on your court's ability to maintain, increase or restore access to justice.

Yuba County's net allocation was \$17,128.

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

Our court received 0.18% of the \$60 million restoration funds – far short of even 1% of the total augmentation money. This severely limited our ability to provide any increases in service, but did have a marginal effect, initially, in helping to reduce the escalation of backlogged work by increasing the employee work hours during FY2013-2014. However, due to unfilled vacancies, the stabilization of backlogged work has now begun to drastically backup once again.

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

With no change to our FY2014-2015 budget, this may be a temporary reprieve from future furloughs and/or staffing reductions.

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

Revenue: \$4,954,349

Expenditures: \$5,505,042

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AS WE PREPARE THIS FOLLOW-UP SURVEY. SUBMIT THIS COMPLETED FORM TO andi.liebenbaum@jud.ca.gov ON OR BEFORE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, MARCH 27TH. PLEASE CALL ANDI AT 916-323-3121 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

