



## Judicial Council of California Administrative Office of the Courts

455 Golden Gate Avenue · San Francisco, California 94102-3688

[www.courtinfo.ca.gov](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov)

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# REPORT TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

For business meeting on: December 13, 2011

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Title	Agenda Item Type
Government Code Section 68106: Implementation and Notice by Trial Courts of Closing Courtrooms or Clerks' Offices or Reducing Clerks' Office Hours (Report #8)	Information Only
	Date of Report
	November 23, 2011
Submitted by	Contact
Mary M. Roberts, General Counsel Nancy E. Spero, Senior Attorney Office of the General Counsel	Nancy E. Spero, 415-865-7915 <a href="mailto:nancy.spero@jud.ca.gov">nancy.spero@jud.ca.gov</a>

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### Executive Summary

In the 2010 Judiciary Budget Trailer Bill, Senate Bill 857, the Legislature enacted fee increases and fund transfers for the courts and also added a new section 68106 to the Government Code.<sup>1</sup> The latter directs (1) trial courts to notify the public and the Judicial Council before closing courtrooms or clerks' offices or reducing clerks' office hours on days that are not judicial holidays, and (2) the council to post on its website and relay to the Legislature all such court notices. This is the eighth report providing information about the implementation of these notice requirements.<sup>2</sup> Since the seventh report, five courts—San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Calaveras,

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<sup>1</sup> A copy of Government Code section 68106 is Attachment A to this report.

<sup>2</sup> The first report, dated December 3, 2010, is at <http://www.courts.ca.gov/20101214govcode68106.pdf>. The second report, dated February 2, 2011, is at <http://www.courts.ca.gov/infogovcode68106.pdf>. The third report, dated April 20, 2011, is at <http://www.courts.ca.gov/xbc/cc/20110429govcode68106.pdf>. The fourth report, dated June 7, 2011, is at <http://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/20110624infogovcode.pdf>. The fifth report, dated July 20, 2011, is at <http://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/20110722govcode68106.pdf>. The sixth report, dated August 16, 2011, is at <http://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/082611infoitem.pdf>. The seventh report, dated October 21, 2011, is at <http://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/Last-INFO-ONLY-Gov-Code-68106.pdf>.

Santa Cruz, and Ventura—have given such notice.<sup>3</sup> Since the effective date of section 68106, October 19, 2010, a total of 22 courts have given notice.<sup>4</sup>

### **Five Courts' Notices Since the Prior Report**

- The San Luis Obispo court, effective January 3, 2012, is suspending operations at the Grover Beach Courthouse. All Grover Beach cases will be heard at the San Luis Obispo Courthouse, at 1035 Palm Street in San Luis Obispo. All filings previously accepted in Grover Beach will be transferred to and handled at the Palm Street address during 2012. The San Luis Obispo Courthouse is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 A.M. to 4:00 p.m.
- The San Mateo court, effective Tuesday, January 3, 2012, is reducing hours for all clerks' offices. The Monday through Friday hours of the civil, family law, juvenile, probate, records, and small claims clerk's offices will be 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and of the traffic and criminal clerk's offices will be 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Drop boxes will be available at each court location to receive documents after 3:30 p.m.; documents dropped off from 3:30–4:00 p.m. will be deemed filed that day.
- The Calaveras court, effective January 1, 2012, is reducing clerk's office hours to receive filings and accept payments to 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Documents may be deposited per California Rules of Court, Rule 2.210, before 8:30 a.m. and after 3:00 p.m.
- The Santa Cruz court will offer limited service on December 27, 28, 29, & 30, 2011. A single courtroom at the main Santa Cruz courthouse will hear, on those dates, all mandatory last-day criminal matters, criminal arraignments, juvenile dependency and delinquency matters, civil ex-partes and domestic violence ex-partes. The court will operate criminal and civil clerks' offices in Santa Cruz during regular business hours (8 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.) during the limited service week; however, the Watsonville courthouse will be closed on these days. All locations will resume normal hours of operation and full use of courtrooms on Tuesday, January 3, 2012.
- The Ventura court, effective January 30, 2012, will reassign its two East County (Simi Valley) civil law judges to its main courthouse, Hall of Justice, 800 South Victoria Avenue, Ventura, California. After January 30, 2012, the East County courthouse will continue to hear and accept filings for family law, small claims, unlawful detainer, and traffic matters. Parties may continue to submit general civil documents at the East County courthouse, which will be "Received" stamped and transported to the Hall of Justice in Ventura for processing and filing.

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<sup>3</sup> A copy of the San Luis Obispo court's notice is Attachment B to this report. The San Mateo court's two notices are Attachment C. The Calaveras court's notice is Attachment D. The Santa Cruz court's notice is Attachment E. The Ventura court's notice is Attachment F.

<sup>4</sup> All courts' notices are listed and posted at <http://www.courts.ca.gov/12973.htm>. A few courts have given more than one notice.

## **Mandate in Government Code Section 68106 (Budget Act of 2010)**

In providing fee increases and fund transfers for the courts, the Legislature in its Budget Act of 2010 expressly declared its intention that trial courts remain open to the public on days that are not judicial holidays and that access to court services for civil litigants be preserved to the extent practicable. To that end, Government Code section 68106 imposes the following notice requirements on trial courts and the Judicial Council:

- Trial courts must provide notice to the public at least 60 days before closing any courtroom or closing or reducing the hours of clerks' offices, although "[n]othing in this section is intended to affect, limit, or otherwise interfere with regular court management decisionmaking, including calendar management and scheduling decisions."<sup>5</sup> The trial court is to provide this notice "by conspicuous posting within or about its facilities, on its public Internet Web site, and to the Judicial Council . . . ."<sup>6</sup> The notification shall include information about the scope of the closure or reduction in hours and about the financial constraints or other reasons that make the closure or reduction necessary.
- The Judicial Council must, within 15 days of receiving a notice from a trial court, "conspicuously" post the notice "on its Internet Web site" and forward a copy to the chairs and vice-chairs of the legislative Committees on the Judiciary, the chair of the Assembly Committee on Budget, and the chair of the Senate Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review.

## **Implementation Efforts**

The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), which carries out the directives of the Judicial Council, notified all trial court presiding judges and court executive officers of the enactment of this statutory mandate and provided legal guidance regarding compliance from the AOC Office of the General Counsel. On about July 1, 2011, the AOC, through the regional offices, sent a reminder to all presiding judges and court executives of the requirements of Government Code section 68106 if a closure or reduction in hours is determined by their courts to be necessary in light of fiscal year 2011–12 budget reductions. Trial courts have been requested to send any such notices to their AOC Regional Administrative Director.

The AOC has placed on the home page of the California Courts website a link to a "Limited Court Service Days" page with information about Government Code section 68106,<sup>7</sup> as well as notices received from trial courts about courtroom or clerks' office closures or reductions in clerks' office hours. Since the last report to the council, the notices from the San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Calaveras, Santa Cruz, and Ventura courts have been added.

The AOC has forwarded these notices from these courts to the designated legislative leaders.

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<sup>5</sup> Gov. Code, § 68106(c).

<sup>6</sup> *Id.*, § 68106(b).

<sup>7</sup> This page is available at <http://www.courts.ca.gov/12973.htm>

## **Attachments**

1. Attachment A: Government Code section 68106
2. Attachment B: October 18, 2011, notice from the San Luis Obispo trial court
3. Attachment C: October 26, 2011, and October 31, 2011, notices from the San Mateo trial court
4. Attachment D: October 31, 2011, notice from the Calaveras trial court
5. Attachment E: October 25, 2011, notice from the Santa Cruz trial court
6. Attachment F: November 17, 2011, notice from the Ventura trial court

Government Code section 68106.

(a) (1) In making appropriations for the support of the trial courts, the Legislature recognizes the importance of increased revenues from litigants and lawyers, including increased revenues from civil filing fees. It is therefore the intent of the Legislature that, to the extent practicable, access to court services for civil litigants be preserved in the allocation of resources by and for trial courts.

(2) Furthermore, it is the intent of the Legislature in enacting the Budget Act of 2010, which includes increases in civil and criminal court fees and penalties, that trial courts remain open to the public on all days except judicial holidays, Saturdays, and Sundays, and except as authorized pursuant to Section 68115.

(b) Trial courts shall provide written notification to the public by conspicuous posting within or about its facilities, on its public Internet Web site, and to the Judicial Council, not less than 60 days prior to closing any courtroom, or closing or reducing the hours of clerks' offices during regular business hours on any day except judicial holidays, Saturdays, and Sundays, and except as authorized pursuant to Section 68115. The notification shall include the scope of the closure or reduction in hours, and the financial constraints or other reasons that make the closure or reduction necessary. Within 15 days of receipt of a notice from a trial court, the Judicial Council shall conspicuously post on its Internet Web site and provide the chairs and vice chairs of the Committees on Judiciary, the Chair of the Assembly Committee on Budget, and the Chair of the Senate Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review a copy of any notice received pursuant to this subdivision. The Legislature intends to review the information obtained pursuant to this section to ensure that California trial courts remain open and accessible to the public.

(c) Nothing in this section is intended to affect, limit, or otherwise interfere with regular court management decisionmaking, including calendar management and scheduling decisions.

Superior Court of California  
County of San Luis Obispo



**Susan Matherly**  
Court Executive Officer

**Thu B. Nguyen**  
Assistant Court Executive Officer

(805) 781 5421  
(805) 781-1159 (FAX)

Courthouse Annex  
1035 Palm Street, Room 385  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408  
[www.slocourts.net](http://www.slocourts.net)

October 18, 2011

Margie Borjon-Miller  
Director, Southern Regional Office  
Judicial Council of California  
Administrative Office of the Courts  
2255 N. Ontario Street, Suite 200  
Burbank, CA 92504-3188

Re: Notification Pursuant to Government Code Section 68106

Dear Ms Borjon-Miller:

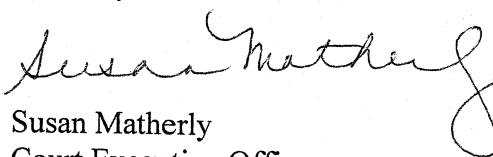
The Superior Court of San Luis Obispo currently holds hearings at three locations: the San Luis Obispo Courthouse Annex, the Paso Robles Branch and the Grover Beach Branch. This letter is to notify you that the Superior Court of San Luis Obispo intends to suspend operations at the Grover Beach Branch as of the close of business on Friday, December 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

Unprecedented and ongoing reductions in court funding have necessitated deep cost-cutting measures, including, among other things, significant reductions to our workforce and labor hours through attrition and implementation of mandatory and voluntary furlough programs. Reduced staffing levels and the fiscal reality facing the court demand a consolidation of operations between the Grover Beach Branch and the San Luis Obispo Courthouse Annex. This consolidation of services will also serve to enhance security and safety for the public and staff as the San Luis Obispo Courthouse provides security features not available at the Grover Beach Branch.

All services previously offered at the Grover Beach Branch will be available on the court website, the telephone and at the San Luis Obispo Courthouse Annex, located approximately 15 miles from Grover Beach at 1035 Palm Street in San Luis Obispo. The San Luis Obispo Courthouse Annex is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Please contact me at 805-781-5421 if you have any questions regarding this notification.  
Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Matherly". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Susan Matherly  
Court Executive Officer

SM/jem

# **IMPORTANT CUSTOMER INFORMATION**

**San Luis Obispo Superior Court**  
**San Luis Obispo County**  
www.slocourts.net  
Contact: Susan Matherly (805) 781-5421



**September 26, 2011**  
**Closure of Grover Beach Branch**  
**Beginning January 3, 2012**

**The Court regrets to announce that it will suspend operations at the Grover Beach Courthouse beginning January 3, 2012, due to unprecedented reductions in funding of the judicial branch. San Luis Obispo County Superior Court alone faces over a \$1 million shortfall.**

**The Court recognizes that this decision will greatly inconvenience County residents during 2012. Court leaders hope that the suspension of operations is temporary and promise to aggressively seek restoration of the recent funding cuts so as to ensure continuing access to justice for everyone.**

**All Grover Beach cases will be heard at the San Luis Obispo Courthouse, at 1035 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo. All filings previously accepted in Grover Beach will be transferred to and handled at the Palm Street address during 2012.**

**Questions or comments about the changes in this notice should be submitted in writing to Susan Matherly, Court Executive Officer, 1035 Palm Street, Room 385, San Luis Obispo, CA 93408.**

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SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

HALL OF JUSTICE  
400 COUNTY CENTER  
REDWOOD CITY, CALIFORNIA 94063-1655

JOHN C. FITTON  
COURT EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
CLERK & JURY COMMISSIONER

(650) 363-4516  
FAX (650) 363-4698  
www.sanmateocourt.org

October 26, 2011

Ms. Althea Lowe-Thomas  
Acting Regional Administrative Director  
Bay Area Northern Coastal Regional Office  
Judicial Council of California  
Administrative Office of the Courts  
455 Golden Gate Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: Notification Pursuant to Government Code Section 68106

Dear Ms. Lowe-Thomas:

The Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo is providing notice of a reduction in hours for all Clerks' Offices. Currently, the hours of the Clerk's Offices are 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (in Traffic, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays and 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Fridays). Effective Tuesday, January 3, 2012, the hours of the Civil, Family Law, Probate, Records, and Small Claims Clerk's Offices shall be 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and the hours of the Traffic and Criminal Clerk's Offices shall be 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Drop boxes will be available at each court location to receive documents after 3:30 p.m. and documents dropped off between 3:30 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. will be deemed filed that day.

The Clerk's Offices are at the following locations:

Hall of Justice  
400 County Center  
Redwood City, CA 94063

Youth Services Center  
222 Paul Scannell Drive  
San Mateo, CA 94402

Traffic and Small Claims Annex  
500 County Center  
Redwood City, CA 94063

Northern Courthouse  
1050 Mission Road  
South San Francisco, CA 94080

Central Courthouse  
800 N. Humboldt Street  
San Mateo, CA 94401

Ms. Althea Lowe-Thomas  
October 26, 2011  
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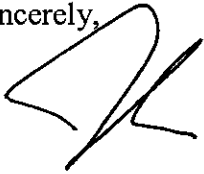
This reduction in Clerk's Office hours will provide time for court staff to prepare court calendars and process cases in as timely a manner as possible.

This action is made necessary due to the severe and ongoing court revenue reductions from the State. The current year's reduction brings the cumulative cuts of 30% to the judicial system over the last three fiscal years.

Unprecedented and ongoing reductions in State court funding have necessitated the reduction of approximately 24% of our court's workforce to-date and significant additional reductions will be required to live within the limits of our reduced funding. The Court has worked diligently to continue to meet the essential needs of court users and litigants while reducing expenses to stay in line with our authorized level of funding. Steps the Court has already taken to combat the shortfall have been considerable, including renegotiating service contracts, consolidating trial court services, reducing employee's wages due to the mandated court closures, increased benefit contributions and significant reductions in our workforce through both attrition and layoffs. With significantly fewer employees to handle the work of the court, we must continually take steps to balance our essential court workload as we strive to become even more efficient and operate within our means.

Please know that we remain committed to serving the public and our justice partners to the best of our ability, given our limited staffing and resources. If you have any questions regarding this change, please contact me at (650)363-4516.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John C. Fitton', written over a horizontal line.

John C. Fitton  
Court Executive Officer

# Notice

Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo

Effective January 3, 2012

all Clerk's Offices will close at 3:30 P.M.

The opening hours for the Clerk's Offices will be as follows:

- The Civil, Family Law, Probate, Records, and Small Claims Clerk's Offices will open at 8:30 a.m.
- The Criminal and Traffic Clerk's Offices will open at 8:00 a.m.

Drop boxes will be available at each court location to receive documents after 3:30 p.m. Documents dropped off between 3:30 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. will be deemed filed that day.

These new hours are the result of unprecedented budget cuts and will continue indefinitely. With the recent reduction, this year's budget for the judicial branch, as passed by the California Legislature, has been reduced by 30 percent and the San Mateo Superior Court workforce has been reduced by 24 percent. Please know that we remain committed to serving you to the best of our ability given our limited staffing and resources.



SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SAN MATEO  
HALL OF JUSTICE  
400 COUNTY CENTER  
REDWOOD CITY, CALIFORNIA 94063-1655

JOHN C. FITTON  
COURT EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
CLERK & JURY COMMISSIONER

(650) 363-4516  
FAX (650) 363-4698  
[www.sanmateocourt.org](http://www.sanmateocourt.org)

October 31, 2011

Ms. Althea Lowe-Thomas  
Acting Regional Administrative Director  
Bay Area Northern Coastal Regional Office  
Judicial Council of California  
Administrative Office of the Courts  
455 Golden Gate Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: Notification Pursuant to Government Code Section 68106

Dear Ms. Lowe-Thomas:

The Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo is providing notice of a reduction in hours for all Clerks' Offices. Currently, the hours of the Clerk's Offices are 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (in Traffic, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays and 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Fridays). Effective Tuesday, January 3, 2012, the hours of the Civil, Family Law, Juvenile, Probate, Records, and Small Claims Clerk's Offices shall be 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and the hours of the Traffic and Criminal Clerk's Offices shall be 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Drop boxes will be available at each court location to receive documents after 3:30 p.m. and documents dropped off between 3:30 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. will be deemed filed that day.

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Redwood City, CA 94063

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South San Francisco, CA 94080

Central Courthouse  
800 N. Humboldt Street  
San Mateo, CA 94401

Ms. Althea Lowe-Thomas  
October 31, 2011  
Page 2

This reduction in Clerk's Office hours will provide time for court staff to prepare court calendars and process cases in as timely a manner as possible.

This action is made necessary due to the severe and ongoing court revenue reductions from the State. The current year's reduction brings the cumulative cuts of 30% to the judicial system over the last three fiscal years.

Unprecedented and ongoing reductions in State court funding have necessitated the reduction of approximately 24% of our court's workforce to-date and significant additional reductions will be required to live within the limits of our reduced funding. The Court has worked diligently to continue to meet the essential needs of court users and litigants while reducing expenses to stay in line with our authorized level of funding. Steps the Court has already taken to combat the shortfall have been considerable, including renegotiating service contracts, consolidating trial court services, reducing employee's wages due to the mandated court closures, increased benefit contributions and significant reductions in our workforce through both attrition and layoffs. With significantly fewer employees to handle the work of the court, we must continually take steps to balance our essential court workload as we strive to become even more efficient and operate within our means.

Please know that we remain committed to serving the public and our justice partners to the best of our ability, given our limited staffing and resources. If you have any questions regarding this change, please contact me at (650)363-4516.

Sincerely,

John C. Fitton  
Court Executive Officer

# Notice

Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo

Effective January 3, 2012

all Clerk's Offices will close at 3:30 P.M.

The opening hours for the Clerk's Offices will be as follows:

- The Civil, Family Law, Juvenile, Probate, Records, and Small Claims Clerk's Offices will open at 8:30 a.m.
- The Criminal and Traffic Clerk's Offices will open at 8:00 a.m.

Drop boxes will be available at each court location to receive documents after 3:30 p.m. Documents dropped off between 3:30 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. will be deemed filed that day.

These new hours are the result of unprecedented budget cuts and will continue indefinitely. With the recent reduction, this year's budget for the judicial branch, as passed by the California Legislature, has been reduced by 30 percent and the San Mateo Superior Court workforce has been reduced by 24 percent. Please know that we remain committed to serving you to the best of our ability given our limited staffing and resources.



**Superior Court of California  
County of Calaveras**

Government Center  
891 Mountain Ranch Road  
San Andreas, CA 95249  
(209) 754-6141 Voice (209) 754-6295 Fax  
www.calaveras.courts.ca.gov

*Douglas V. Mewhinney  
Presiding Judge*

*John E. Martin  
Judge*

*Hugh K. Swift  
Court Executive Officer*

*Grant V. Barrett  
Commissioner*

October 31, 2011

VIA E-MAIL AND REGULAR MAIL

Ms. Jody Patel  
Regional Administrative Director  
Judicial Council of California - Administrative Office of the Courts  
2860 Gateway Oaks Drive, Suite 400  
Sacramento, CA 95833-4336

Re: Notice of Change in Court Clerks' Office Hours

Dear Jody:

Please see the attached "Notice of Change in Court Clerks' Office Hours". Please consider this notice to the Judicial Council, as required by Government Code Section 68106(b), the Calaveras Superior Court intends to reduce the hours the Clerks' Office is open. The change takes effect on January 1, 2012.

Please let me know if you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

Hugh K. Swift

cc: Presiding Judge Douglas V. Mewhinney



# Superior Court of California County of Calaveras

## NOTICE OF CHANGE OF COURT CLERKS' OFFICE HOURS CALAVERAS SUPERIOR COURT (Government Code Section 68106)

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PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, effective January 1, 2012, the Clerks' Office will be open to receive filings and accept payments during the hours of **8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**, Monday through Friday. This change reduces the number of hours the Clerks' Office is currently open. (8:15 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.)

The Calaveras Superior Court determined a reduction in hours was necessary due to ongoing and anticipated reductions to the Court's budget. As a part of the Judicial Branch of government, the Superior Court receives its annual budget allocation through the Judicial Council of California, which is an entity funded by the State. Due to the State's budget crisis, the amount of funding the trial courts from the Judicial Council has significantly decreased in recent years. The Court expects these reductions to continue for the foreseeable future.

In the current fiscal year (2011-12), Court funding was reduced by 6.8%. The Court anticipates a budget reduction of approximately 15% in fiscal year 2012-13. As a result of these funding reductions, the Court has not filled vacant staff positions, implemented a voluntary furlough program and is considering other costs savings measures.

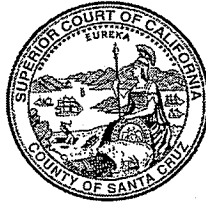
The Court's decision not to fill vacant position reduced staffing levels. However, court filings remain relatively constant and workload demands have not diminished. Reduced hours will allow court staff to process documents in a timely manner and maintain an accurate record of court proceedings.

The Court will provide a drop-box in the public lobby for documents to be deposited before 8:30 a.m. and after 3:00 p.m. (California Rules of Court, Rule 2.210.)



# Superior Court of California

COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ



Alex Calvo  
Executive Officer

Judges Chambers  
701 Ocean Street  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
Phone (831) 420-2401

October 25, 2011

Ms. Althea Lowe-Thomas  
Acting Regional Administrative Director  
Bay Area Northern Coastal Regional Office  
Judicial Council of California  
Administrative Office of the Courts  
455 Golden Gate Ave.  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: Notification of Court Closures Pursuant to Government Code Section 68106

Dear Ms. Lowe-Thomas:

Please accept this letter as notice that the Superior Court of Santa Cruz County intends to offer limited services for four days during Fiscal Year 2011-2012 due to significant financial constraints brought on by the continuing state budget crisis.

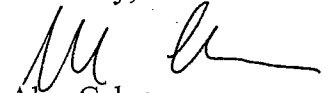
The limited service days will run concurrent with days that the County of Santa Cruz is taking as furlough. This coordination will minimize the impact on justice system partners and court users county-wide. The court will use a single courtroom at the main Santa Cruz courthouse to hear all mandatory last-day criminal matters, criminal arraignments, juvenile dependency and delinquency matters, civil ex-parte and domestic violence ex-parte. The court will also operate Criminal and Civil Clerks' Offices in Santa Cruz during regular business hours. The Watsonville Courthouse will be closed during these selected days.

The four days selected for limited service are December 27, 28, 29 & 30, 2011.

The Court has reached agreements with its local bargaining units for these days and many represented employees will take these days as furlough. The court will achieve savings of approximately \$80,000 by implementing these limited service days.

Please contact me if you have any questions about this subject. I can be reached at 831-420-2401 or by email at alex.calvo@santacruzcourt.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alex Calvo', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Alex Calvo  
Court Executive Officer

cc: Jeffery J. Almquist, Presiding Judge

# Superior Court of California

COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ



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\*\*\*PUBLIC NOTICE\*\*\*

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## NOTICE OF TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF COURTROOMS IN SANTA CRUZ AND WATSONVILLE

Effective October 25, 2011

The Superior Court of Santa Cruz County intends to offer limited services for four days during Fiscal Year 2011-2012 due to significant financial constraints brought on by the continuing state budget crisis. The four days selected for limited service are December 27, 28, 29 & 30, 2011.

These limited service days will run concurrent with days that the County of Santa Cruz is taking as furlough. This coordination will minimize the impact on justice system partners and court users county-wide. The court will use a single courtroom at the main Santa Cruz courthouse to hear all mandatory last-day criminal matters, criminal arraignments, civil ex-parte and domestic violence ex-parte. The court may use a second courtroom in Santa Cruz to hear mandatory juvenile dependency and delinquency matters.

The court will operate Criminal and Civil Clerks' Offices in Santa Cruz during regular business hours (8 A.M. to 3 P.M.) during the limited service week; however, the Watsonville Courthouse will be closed completely during these selected days. All locations will resume normal hours of operation and full use of courtrooms beginning Tuesday, January 3, 2012.



# Superior Court of California

COUNTY OF VENTURA  
Hall of Justice  
800 South Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93009

**Michael D. Planet**  
*Executive Officer/Clerk  
and Jury Commissioner*

November 17, 2011

Jody Patel  
Regional Administrative Director  
Regional Offices  
Judicial Council of California - Administrative Office of the Courts  
2860 Gateway Oaks Drive, Suite 400  
Sacramento, Ca 95833

Re: *Notification of Reassignment of East County Civil Law Judges and Clerk's Operations to the Hall of Justice in Ventura, effective January 30, 2012 (Government Code §68106 and California Rule of Court, rule 10.620)*

Dear Ms. Patel:

Pursuant to the above code section and court rule, the Superior Court of California, County of Ventura, is providing 60 days notice of the decision of the Presiding Judge to reassign its two East County Civil Law Judges (Courtrooms S3 and S5) and all related civil clerk's office operations at that location, except unlawful detainers, family law and small claims to its main courthouse located at the Hall of Justice, 800 South Victoria Avenue, Ventura, California on January 30, 2012.

The proposed changes are due to the significant reduction in funding for the California court system. The Ventura Superior Court is facing a \$5.8 million dollar deficit for the fiscal year that began July 1, 2011, and which is projected to increase to \$11.8 million for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2012. These ongoing reductions have necessitated deep cost-cutting measures, including unpaid employee furloughs, freezing vacancies, layoffs, reengineering court processes for efficiencies, and reduction of expenditures for services and supplies. (See the attached Public Notice for more information regarding the impact of reductions to the court's funding.)

Jody Patel  
Director, Southern Regional Office  
November 17, 2011  
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After January 30, 2012, the East County Courthouse will continue to hear and accept filings for Family Law, Small Claims, Unlawful Detainer, and Traffic matters. Parties may continue to submit general civil documents at the East County Courthouse. However, the documents will be "Received" Stamped and transported to the Hall of Justice in Ventura for processing and filing.

The Court recognizes and regrets that this decision will greatly inconvenience Ventura County residents. However, due to inadequate funding, the Court cannot maintain the current level of services. Moving the civil courtrooms will allow for greater efficiencies by processing all general civil cases in one court location.

Sincerely,



Michael D. Planet  
Executive Officer

cc: Margie Borjon-Miller

MDP/vjb  
Encls.

## **PUBLIC NOTICE- November 17, 2011**

Superior Court of California, County of Ventura

### **REASSIGNMENT OF EAST COUNTY CIVIL LAW JUDGES AND CLERK'S OPERATIONS TO THE HALL OF JUSTICE IN VENTURA EFFECTIVE January 30, 2012**

Pursuant to Government Code §68106 and California Rules of Court, rule 10.620, the Superior Court of California, County of Ventura, is providing 60 day notice of the decision of the Presiding Judge to reassign its two East County Civil Law Judges (Courtrooms S3 and S5) and all related civil clerk's office operations at that Simi Valley location, except unlawful detainers, family law and small claims to its main courthouse located at the Hall of Justice, 800 South Victoria Avenue, Ventura, California on January 30, 2012.

This change is necessary due to the significant reduction in funding for the California court system. The Ventura Superior Court is facing a \$5.8 million dollar deficit for this fiscal year that began July 1, 2011, and is projected to increase to \$11.8 million for next fiscal year beginning July 1, 2012.

Court employees currently working at the East County Courthouse civil clerk's office are responsible for processing all civil, family and small claims matters filed at that location. Due to hiring freezes, mandatory furloughs and layoffs, staffing at the East County Courthouse has been so reduced that the clerk's office is unable to process the work in all these areas in a timely manner.

After January 30, 2012, the East County Courthouse will continue to hear and accept filings for Family Law, Small Claims, Unlawful Detainer, and Traffic matters. Parties may continue to submit general civil documents at the East County Courthouse. However, the documents will be "Received" Stamped and transported to the Hall of Justice in Ventura for processing and filing.

The court invited public comment pursuant to rule 10.620(d)(3). The court received fourteen comments from the public. Ten opposed relocation based upon the additional cost and inconvenience of being required to conduct court business at the Hall of Justice. Four supported relocation to assist with the current budget crisis. The Court recognizes and regrets that this decision will greatly inconvenience Ventura County residents. However, due to inadequate state funding, the Court cannot maintain the current level of services. Moving the civil courtrooms will allow for greater efficiencies by processing all general civil cases in one court location.