



Judicial Council of California

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

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RONALD M. GEORGE
Chief Justice of California
Chair of the Judicial Council

WILLIAM C. VICKREY
Administrative Director of the Courts

RONALD G. OVERHOLT
Chief Deputy Director

KATHLEEN T. HOWARD
Director, Office of Governmental Affairs

March 30, 2005

Hon. Dean Florez
Member of the Senate
State Capitol, Room 5061
Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: SB 93 (Florez), as amended March 29, 2005
Hearing: Senate Judiciary Committee – April 5, 2005

Dear Senator Florez:

Under the Trial Court Funding Act (AB 233 (Escutia), Stats. 1997, ch. 850), the state assumed responsibility for costs associated with the operation of the trial courts. In part, trial courts receive their funding by way of each county remitting fifty percent of the fine, fee, and penalty revenues that exceed the stated base for each fiscal year.

The State Controller's Office (SCO) completed an audit of Tulare County's court revenues for the period of July 1, 1996 through June 30, 2000. The audit disclosed that the county underremitted \$1,586,581 in court revenues to the State Treasurer. The SCO recommended that Tulare County remit \$1,465,183 and \$121,398 to the State Treasurer for transfer to the Trial Court Improvement Fund and the state General Fund, respectively.

As introduced, SB 93 would have validated the distributions made by Tulare County. The Judicial Council has historically opposed legislation that forgives payments owed to the courts unless state General Fund money is provided to ensure that an appropriate level of funding will continue to be available to the trial courts.

Hon. Dean Florez
Hon. March 30, 2005
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We understand that Tulare County has made full payment to the SCO and will pay the interest payments over a period of ten years. With the March 29 amendments, the Judicial Council removes its opposition to SB 93.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eraina Ortega".

Eraina Ortega
Manager

EO/lb

cc: Hon. Joseph Dunn, Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee
Members, Senate Judiciary Committee
Ms. Gloria Ochoa, Deputy Chief Counsel, Senate Judiciary Committee
Ms. Karen Pank, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor
Office of Planning and Research



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March 23, 2005

Hon. Dean Florez
Member of the Senate
State Capitol, Room 5061
Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: SB 93 (Florez), as proposed to be amended
Hearing: Senate Judiciary Committee – March 29, 2005

Dear Senator Florez:

Under the Trial Court Funding Act (AB 233 (Escutia), Stats. 1997, ch. 850), the state assumed responsibility for costs associated with the operation of the trial courts. In part, trial courts receive their funding by way of each county remitting fifty percent of the fine, fee, and penalty revenues that exceed the stated base for each fiscal year.

The State Controller's Office (SCO) completed an audit of Tulare County's court revenues for the period of July 1, 1996 through June 30, 2000. The audit disclosed that the county underremitted \$1,586,581 in court revenues to the State Treasurer. The SCO recommended that Tulare County remit \$1,465,183 and \$121,398 to the State Treasurer for transfer to the Trial Court Improvement Fund and the state General Fund, respectively.

As introduced, SB 93 validates the distributions made by Tulare County. The Judicial Council has historically opposed legislation that forgives payments owed to the courts unless state General Fund money is provided to ensure that an appropriate level of funding will continue to be available to the trial courts.

Hon. Dean Florez
Hon. March 23, 2005
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We understand that Tulare County has made full payment to the SCO and that SB 93 will be amended to allow the county to pay any interest and penalties owed over a period of 10 years. With these amendments the Judicial Council removes its opposition to SB 93.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Eraina Ortega".

Eraina Ortega
Manager

EO/lb

cc: Hon. Joseph Dunn, Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee
Members, Senate Judiciary Committee
Ms. Gloria Ochoa, Deputy Chief Counsel, Senate Judiciary Committee
Ms. Karen Pank, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor
Office of Planning and Research