



**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF MERCED**

www.merced.courts.ca.gov

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Submitted electronically

Honorable Jonathan B. Conklin, Co-Chair
Funding Methodology Subcommittee Committee

Rebecca Fleming, CEO – Santa Clara Court
Funding Methodology Subcommittee

Dear Subcommittee Co-Chairs:

The Merced Superior Court is concerned about the discussions regarding the possibility of including civil assessment monies into any future WAFM calculations. We respectfully request that they not be included. If civil assessment monies are included this would have a negative impact on our court.

The Merced Superior Court has a debt service on one of our courthouses that was constructed in 2007. Our MOU agreement signed by the County/Court/JCC requires our court to annually transfer \$310,000 from Civil Assessment funds to the county for the debt service payment until June 30, 2030. These payments began in 2005. The Legislature also enacted GC 76223 to allow our court to use civil assessment funds to augment other funds made available for the construction of our courthouse. Copies of these documents were previously sent to the committee per an email request to all courts.

Civil assessments are one of the last remaining resources that courts are able to use for their operational needs. The 1% fund balance restriction has already hurt the courts and adding the civil assessments to WAFM will also have a negative impact on the majority of the courts.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Linda Romero Soles, CEO

cc: Donald Proietti, Presiding Judge
Mark Bacciarini, Asst. Presiding Judge