



SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF MONTEREY

240 Church Street • Salinas, California • 93901 • (831) 775-5400
www.monterey.courts.ca.gov

Contact: NONA MEDINA
Public Information Liaison
(831) 775-5400 x3020
mediainfo@monterey.courts.ca.gov

PRESS RELEASE

June 20, 2013

MONTEREY COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT ANNOUNCES THE TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF THE KING CITY COURTHOUSE, EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 23, 2013

Pending the restoration of funding by the State for the new South County Courthouse project, the King City Courthouse will temporarily close effective Monday, September 23, 2013. Without an immediate remedy to the current facility's limitations combined with the need to maximize resources, the Court has decided to temporarily close the King City Courthouse. King City personnel will be reassigned to fill court-wide vacancies. At this time, it is unknown when the funding for a new South County courthouse will be restored.

Criminal cases, felonies and misdemeanors, will be consolidated and heard in the Salinas division. Traffic infractions and small claims matters will be consolidated and heard in the Marina division.

Monterey County Superior Court Presiding Judge Marla O. Anderson said, "The Court's commitment to South County over the years has been demonstrated by our efforts to continually resist the closure of the King City Courthouse and identify measures to keep the facility open. The Court has reduced public service hours, has worked diligently to streamline and automate processes, reduce operational expenses by renegotiating contracts, implementing additional procurement restrictions, restructuring and consolidating court divisions and has reduced Court personnel positions by 18% from Fiscal Year 2008-2009, through lay-offs, a voluntary separation program and natural attrition. Additionally, all Court personnel are taking 24 unpaid furlough hours during 2013-2014 and now contribute 7% to the retirement program and pay a cost-share for their medical benefits. Unfortunately, despite these efforts, the budget cuts have been too deep over the past five years to prevent the King City Courthouse closure at this time."

"We appreciate the importance of providing access to court services to South County residents, and will continue to work on technological enhancements to provide automated delivery of court services, when possible. We are fully committed to continue to push for the reinstatement of the South County Courthouse project. We will look for further innovative ways to maintain access to Court services and are open to discussions regarding efforts to minimize impacts to South County residents and agencies."

Over the past 5 years, the Monterey County Superior Court has absorbed a funding reduction of 17.5%, which represents approximately \$10 million.

Pursuant to Government Code section 68106 and California Rules of Court, the Court has also released notice to the local bar association, district attorney, public defender, county counsel, and law enforcement agencies. A copy of the Court's notice to the public is also posted on the Court's public website at: www.monterey.courts.ca.gov.

XXXX

*The mission of the Court is to dispense justice in all matters within
its jurisdiction in an impartial manner and in accordance with the law.*