



The Superior Court
COUNTY OF SAN JOAQUIN
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STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA 95202

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SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY COURTS REDUCE SERVICES AND STAFFING LEVELS, AND CLOSE COURTROOMS

As a result of another year of budget cuts passed by the state legislature and approved by the Governor, San Joaquin County Superior Court will be reducing services to the public beginning Monday, October 3, 2011. “We regret having to lay-off hardworking members of our staff, to close our Tracy Court Branch and one courtroom in Lodi, and dramatically reduce our small claims calendar, which will leave the citizens of this County with inadequate access to justice. However, as a court that has historically received less funding than it should, we cannot continue to sustain our operations and provide the level of service the public deserves,” said Robin Appel, Presiding Judge.

The unprecedented budget cuts have required the court to make unprecedented decisions with regard to court operations. In July, the court announced its plan to close its two-courtroom Tracy Court Branch, one courtroom in Lodi (department L-2), and dramatically reduce its small claims calendar to try to deal with the budget cuts and a projected \$1 million deficit going into next fiscal year. In addition to the court closures and changes to its small claims calendar, in August, the court issued forty-six lay-off notices. The last day of work for affected employees is this Friday, September 30, 2011. With a staff vacancy rate of just over 25% and fewer courtrooms to hear cases, the court anticipates that there will be delays in processing and hearing many cases. This anticipation has led the court to hear small claims cases on a very limited basis and at the main Stockton courthouse only.

One courtroom (department L-1) of the Lodi Court Branch will continue to receive the public and hear criminal cases, traffic court trials, and unlawful detainers. Based on the Tracy Court Branch’s inadequate holding cells to accommodate the number of in-custody defendants brought to court, it was decided that this location would be closed. The Manteca Court Branch is better equipped to handle criminal cases where defendants are in-custody. Also, the main Stockton courthouse cannot handle all of the in-custody cases in the county; therefore, it is necessary to keep branch courts with adequate holding cells open.

With the closure of the Tracy Court Branch and department L-2 of the Lodi Court Branch, employees will be reassigned to other branches of the court. Cases that are currently

being heard at these locations will be heard at other branches of the court (*see attached tables for service changes*).

In addition to the changes noted above, effective Monday, October 3, 2011, Records Management counters located at the main Stockton Courthouse (222 E. Weber Avenue, Room 303) and the Stockton Courthouse Annex (540 E. Main Street) will be closed daily between 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. All court clerk's offices begin serving the public at 8:00 a.m. and close at 3:00 p.m. daily, except the Records Management counter at the Stockton Courthouse Annex, which closes at 3:30 p.m. daily. Information on how to submit records requests can be found at <http://www.stocktoncourt.org/courts/recordsmanagement.htm>.

Despite the major changes taking place within the court, it continues to seek ways to increase revenues, decrease expenses and improve upon services to the public. It is pursuing an alternative payment option for defendants to pay their traffic citations at certain retail locations. This new alternative would provide an added convenience to the public. When all the details are worked out, a press release announcing the retail locations will be provided. It is anticipated an announcement could be made in November 2011. Today defendants may pay their traffic citations over the court website, over the phone, and, of course, in person at courthouses.

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Superior Court of California, County of San Joaquin
SERVICE CHANGES BY CASE TYPE FOR CASES FROM TRACY COURT BRANCH AND DEPARTMENT L-2 OF THE LODI COURT BRANCH
 *Changes effective Monday, October 3, 2011

Due to unprecedented budget cuts to the judicial branch, **effective Monday, October 3, 2011, the entire Tracy Court Branch and Department L-2 of the Lodi Court Branch will be closed until further notice.** The following tables provide information about where cases from these closed locations will now be heard.

With the closure of the TRACY COURT BRANCH, the cases from this location will now be heard has follows:

Case Type	Services provided	Will now be heard at	Address	Phone Number
Civil Limited	Accepts filings and holds hearings	Main Stockton Courthouse	222 E. Weber Avenue, Stockton, CA 95202	(209)468-2933
	Accepts filings and counter transactions, and holds first court appearances	Main Stockton Courthouse	222 E. Weber Avenue, Stockton, CA 95202	(209)468-2966
Traffic		Main Stockton Courthouse	222 E. Weber Avenue, Stockton, CA 95202	(209)468-2966
Small Claims	Accepts filings and holds hearings	Main Stockton Courthouse	222 E. Weber Avenue, Stockton, CA 95202	(209)468-2949
Domestic Violence	Accepts filings and holds hearings	Stockton Courthouse - Annex	540 E. Main Street, Stockton, CA 95202	(209)468-8116
Civil Harassment	Accepts filings and holds hearings	Manteca Court Branch	315 E. Center Street, Manteca, CA 95336	(209)239-9188
Unlawful Detainer (Landlord-Tenant)	Accepts filings and holds hearings	Manteca Court Branch	315 E. Center Street, Manteca, CA 95336	(209)239-9188
Traffic	Holds traffic case court trials	Manteca Court Branch	315 E. Center Street, Manteca, CA 95336	(209)239-9188
		Manteca Court Branch or Main	315 E. Center Street, Manteca, CA 95336	(209)239-9188
Passports	Accepts passport applications	Stockton Courthouse	222 E. Weber Avenue, Stockton, CA 95202	(209)468-2826/468-2355

With the closure of DEPARTMENT L-2 of the LODI COURT BRANCH, the cases from this location will now be heard has follows:

Case Type	Services provided	Will now be heard at	Address	Phone Number
Civil Limited	Accepts filings and holds hearings	Main Stockton Courthouse	222 E. Weber Avenue, Stockton, CA 95202	(209)468-2933
	Accepts filings and counter transactions, and holds first court appearances	Main Stockton Courthouse	222 E. Weber Avenue, Stockton, CA 95202	(209)468-2966
Traffic		Main Stockton Courthouse	222 E. Weber Avenue, Stockton, CA 95202	(209)468-2966
Small Claims	Accepts filings and holds hearings	Main Stockton Courthouse	222 E. Weber Avenue, Stockton, CA 95202	(209)468-2949
Domestic Violence	Accepts filings and holds hearings	Stockton Courthouse - Annex	540 E. Main Street, Stockton, CA 95202	(209)468-8116
Civil Harassment	Accepts filings and holds hearings	Main Stockton Courthouse	222 E. Weber Avenue, Stockton, CA 95202	(209)468-2933
Unlawful Detainer (Landlord-Tenant)	Accepts filings and holds hearings	Lodi Court Branch	217 W. Elm Street, Lodi, CA 95240	(209)331-2101
	Holds traffic case court trials and counter transactions	Lodi Court Branch	217 W. Elm Street, Lodi, CA 95240	(209)331-2134
Traffic		Lodi Court Branch	217 W. Elm Street, Lodi, CA 95240	(209)331-2134
Criminal	Criminal matters up to the time of preliminary hearing	Lodi Court Branch	217 W. Elm Street, Lodi, CA 95240	(209)331-2121
Juvenile Traffic Cases	Accepts filings and holds hearings	Juvenile Justice Center	535 W. Mathews Road, French Camp, CA 95231	(209)468-4275
Passports	Accepts passport applications	Lodi Court Branch	217 W. Elm Street, Lodi, CA 95240	(209)331-2121