



SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA

COUNTY OF MONTEREY

240 Church Street • Salinas, California • 93901 • (831) 775-5400

Contact: NONA MEDINA

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

PRESS RELEASE

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COURT RESTORES PUBLIC SERVICE HOURS

The Monterey County Superior Court (Court) will restore public service hours to 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday* at the Salinas, Monterey and Marina courthouse locations effective Monday, October 6, 2014. Public service hours will be restored for the public filing windows, Self-Help Center services and telephones. Public file viewing room hours will also be restored to 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday at these Court locations. Despite the impacts of the catastrophic fiscal reductions over the past six years, the Court will restore public service hours at the remaining court locations to minimize the impact to South County residents who were previously able to access court services at the King City Courthouse prior to its temporary closure in September 2013.

Court Executive Officer Teresa A. Risi said, "Our fiscal situation remains the same, but the Court is here to serve the public and we are committed to ensuring access to all Monterey County residents. This County is expansive in size, which already limits convenient access to Court services only exasperated by the temporary closure of the King City courthouse. Our hope is that restoring service hours to all remaining courthouses will give South County residents in particular, who have to drive or take the bus in excess of 110 miles roundtrip to some court locations, additional time during the day to access the family law, self-help, traffic, civil, criminal Court services they need," Teresa continued, "We have done a great deal of planning and restructuring to ensure we are able to restore service hours to a 4 p.m. closure time, thereby providing an additional 40 hours per month so that all Monterey County residents, law enforcement agencies, attorneys and others can have timely access to services."

Reduced public service hours were announced in May of 2012 in response to the drastic state budget reductions and the resulting significant decrease in workforce to ensure the

It is the mission of the Monterey County Superior Court to serve the public in a respectful, courteous and efficient manner promoting trust and confidence in the legal system by providing fair, equal and open access to justice.

Court could maintain appropriate paperwork processing times for orders, judgments and other documentation filed with the Court. Previous measures to streamline and automate processes, reduce operational expenses by renegotiating contracts, implementing additional procurement restrictions, restructuring and consolidating divisions, and reducing personnel proved insufficient in mitigating the cumulative trial court funding reductions. Although there has been *some* reprieve with a modest reinvestment in the judicial branch over the last two years, the additional revenues still fall short of restoring funding to trial courts state-wide. Funding to the Monterey County Superior Court has been reduced from \$25.5 million to \$20.7 since July 2009 resulting in a drastic staffing reductions of approximately 22% over the same period; 238 employees in July 2009 to 186.2 during the current period.

Due to the facility's limitations combined with the need to maximize resources, the temporary closure of the King City Courthouse was announced in September 2013 pending restoration of funding by the State for the new South County Courthouse project.

*Except State recognized holidays. A list of holidays is available on the Court's public website at: http://www.monterey.courts.ca.gov/General_Information/Court_Holidays.aspx

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