

PUBLIC NOTICE- September 23, 2011

Superior Court of California, County of Ventura

November 23, December 23, 27, 28, 29 and 30, 2011- Partial Closures

Pursuant to Government Code §68106 and California Rules of Court, rule 10.620, the Superior Court of California, County of Ventura, is providing 60 day notice of the decision of the Presiding Judge to institute partial closure days on the above designated dates.

The majority of the courtrooms and all clerk's offices will be closed on November 23, 2011, December 23, 27, 28, 29 and 30, 2011 to mitigate the impact of additional unpaid employee furlough days on court operations.

These partial closure days are not court holidays, so statutory deadlines will not be extended. However, drop boxes are currently provided outside each clerical office for filing papers or submitting payments. Documents placed in the boxes by 5:00 p.m. are deemed deposited for filing that same business day. Most cases already calendared for hearing will be rescheduled and the affected parties notified by the court. An exterior walk-up window on the north side of the Hall of Justice, Government Center, 800 South Victoria Ave., will be open between 8:00 a.m. and 6:45 p.m. for handling criminal/traffic and collections payments only. Limited courtrooms will be open to hear urgent matters, and a judge will be available to sign any other necessary documents on an emergency basis at the Hall of Justice. A courtroom will also be open at the Juvenile Justice Center for urgent juvenile matters. All Simi Valley courtrooms will be closed.

These dates were selected to minimize the impact on the public and court staff as court business is generally the slowest during the holiday season. The court invited public comment pursuant to rule 10.620(d)(3). The court received nine comments from the public. Seven supported closure to assist with the current budget crisis. Two opposed closure but offered no alternatives to address the budget shortfall.

The court has instituted various cost saving measures, including: unpaid employee furloughs, freezing vacancies, layoffs, reengineering court processes for efficiencies, and reduction of expenditures for services and supplies.

The above actions are required to address the continued reduction in funding to the California court system. Since 2008, the Governor and Legislature have approved \$652 million in ongoing budget cuts to the judicial branch. For fiscal year 2011-12, \$2.7 million has been cut from the budget of the Ventura Superior Court. When added to prior reductions, the Ventura Superior Court faces a \$5.8 million deficit for 2011-12, along with the prospect of even deeper cuts in 2012-13.