

AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

AB 233 PROGRAM2012

MEREDITH FORD, Auditor-Controller

AUDITOR-CONTROLLER’S BUDGET UNITS

AB 233 Program..... 2012
 Court Collections..... 2010

PROGRAM DISCUSSION

Programs: This budget unit contains revenues and expenditures under the control of the County, but are generally related to Court ordered debt. Under Government Code 77003 and California Rule of Court 810, certain programs are not allowed as Court expenditures and are thus found in this General Fund Budget Unit. Other expenditures are payments to the State for their portion of fine collections required by Government Code section 77201.3. Under the Trial Court Funding Act of 1997, certain fees were not identified as County or Court revenue and, as such, are undesignated fees. Existing law requires counties to remit to the State, an undesignated fee payment. AB 139, effective July 1, 2005, extends this obligation over five years. In addition, this bill redirects civil assessment revenue from counties to the State and provides for a reduction to the County Maintenance of Effort (MOE) payment based on fiscal year 03/04 civil assessment revenue. AB 145, effective January 1, 2006, establishes a uniform civil filing fee schedule for Courts and identifies previously undesignated revenue as State revenue. This bill also provides for a reduction to the County’s MOE payment.

Revenue in this budget unit is largely comprised of revenue from court fines. This revenue offsets the MOE payment obligation to the State. Other non-court programs, supported by the County, such as Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) and Mendo-Lake Alternative Services (MLAS) are included in this budget.

Public Trust: Maintain compliance with relevant laws regarding court-ordered debt collection, payment application and distributions.

Practices: Keep up to date on changing legislation and the impacts to the department.

People: Update staff regarding changing legislation, interpretation of such legislation and the application of these changes to the work product. Ensure that staff has knowledge of legislation changes and can make informed decisions and convey this knowledge to the public.

BUDGET UNIT 2012 SUMMARY

Fund: 1100

	Actual 2005-06	Actual 2006-07	Adopted 2007-08	Actual 2007-08	Recommend 2008-09	Adopted 2008-09
Services & Supplies	57,616	57,953	61,100	62,189	61,700	61,700
Other Charges	979,163	1,114,056	1,021,115	1,061,197	1,105,667	1,105,667
Net Appropriations	1,036,779	1,172,009	1,082,215	1,123,386	1,167,367	1,167,367
Revenues	1,895,155	2,180,842	2,053,489	2,175,526	2,286,288	2,286,288
Total	-858,376	-1,008,833	-971,274	-1,052,140	-1,118,921	-1,118,921
Net County Cost						

AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

AB 233 PROGRAM2012

MEREDITH FORD, Auditor-Controller

FINAL BUDGET ~ MAJOR BUDGET CHANGES

(2008-09 Recommended Compared to 2008-09 Adopted)

During the Final Budget Deliberations the Board of Supervisors approved the Recommended Budget from the Executive Office for AB 233 Program.

Services & Supplies

- ✧ Acct. 2110 Provides for jury parking.
- ✧ Acct. 2189 Provides for Alternative Services Program and Small Claims Advisory Service.

Other Charges

- ✧ Acct. 3113 Provides for \$50,000 for CASA. Balance of account is the payment to the State for fine collections.

Revenue

- ✧ Acct. 6504 Provides for revenue for traffic school fines and fees. Increase of \$211,537 from prior year.
- ✧ Acct. 6261 Provides for revenue for recording fees. Decrease in revenue of \$23,516 from prior year.

AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

COURT COLLECTIONS 2010

MEREDITH FORD, Auditor-Controller

PROGRAM DISCUSSION

Programs: The Collections Department under the Administration of the County, administers the Enhanced Collections Program for the collection, billing, monitoring, and enforcement of Court orders relating to delinquent or installment plans for fines, fees, penalties, and restitution. The department operates and recovers costs under the Enhanced Collections Program authorized by Penal Code 1463.007. In addition, the department collects fees to reimburse costs incurred by various governmental agencies including the Probation department, Public Defender, and Superior Court.

It is the aim of the Collections Department: to be increasingly effective in the collection of court ordered fines, fees, and restitution; to assist clients in payment plans, debt consolidation, and create an action plan with the client to satisfy the debt; to generate a higher debt recovery rate; and, provide various payment or debt satisfaction options; to recover costs incurred by the Probation Department for services provided to Adult Probationers such as supervision fees, drug testing fees, pre-sentence investigation reports, work furlough and electronic monitoring fees; to recover costs in delinquent Juvenile Hall fines and fees due by the juvenile's guardian; to recover costs incurred by the Superior Court, County of Mendocino, for services provided to Drug Court participants; and to review and report the participant's payment history thereby assisting the Court in keeping the participant on track to graduate the Drug Court program.

Public Trust: Offer a variety of payment options for debtors, provide accurate account information, ease of accessibility for account inquiries, and courteous service to the public.

Practices: Provide a thorough examination of accounts to inform debtors of their options and convey this information in a knowledgeable, informative, and courteous manner.

People: Develop highly capable, knowledgeable and professional staff. Cultivate and sustain a productive work environment while encouraging a team atmosphere.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2007-08 FISCAL YEAR

Programs: Collections worked with the Superior Court to obtain a grant to fund a software enhancement for an automated collection process which allows for the intercept of a California tax refund or lottery winnings. The grant was awarded and the departments worked together, along with the software vendor, to develop the program. The software program successfully generated over 8,500 tax intercept warning notices and electronically referred those accounts for intercept.

Public Trust: The software program afforded accuracy and cost savings by receiving bulk postage rates, and allowed staff to focus on other collection efforts.

Practices: Prepped accounts for intercept by skip-tracing for social security numbers and submitted accounts for tax intercept.

People: Encouraged staff to seek and explore innovative ways to improve technologies and enhance collection efforts through cost-effective methods.

GOALS/OBJECTIVES FOR 2008-09 FISCAL YEAR

Programs: Develop enhancements and/or custom changes to the accounts receivable software.

Public Trust: The use of reliable and effective software technologies provides for accurate account information, reduces staff workload, and permits staff to concentrate on other collection efforts.

Practices: To build on and develop software technologies to increase productivity and enhance efficiencies.

People: Enable staff to perform daily tasks quickly and efficiently through automated programs or enhancements to the software.

AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

COURT COLLECTIONS 2010

MEREDITH FORD, Auditor-Controller

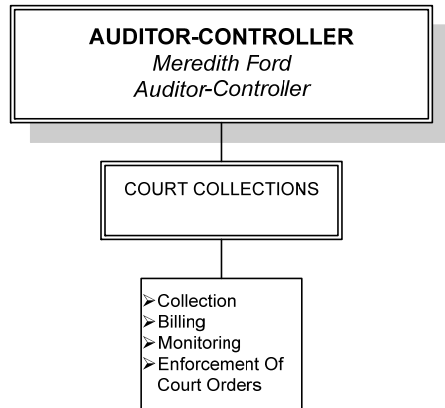
Programs: Reduce reliance on outside collection agencies.

Public Trust: Through further communication with debtors via client calling; collection notices; and, full examination of debtor’s financial position, offer realistic payment solutions considering the debtor’s financial status and/or limitations.

Practices: Allow the debtor to meet Court requirements while satisfying payment obligation.

People: Encourage staff to continue to pursue payment solutions with delinquent debtors, and to examine and exhaust all payment options or debt satisfaction opportunities before referring to an outside agency.

PROGRAM CHART



BUDGET UNIT 2010 SUMMARY

Fund: 1100

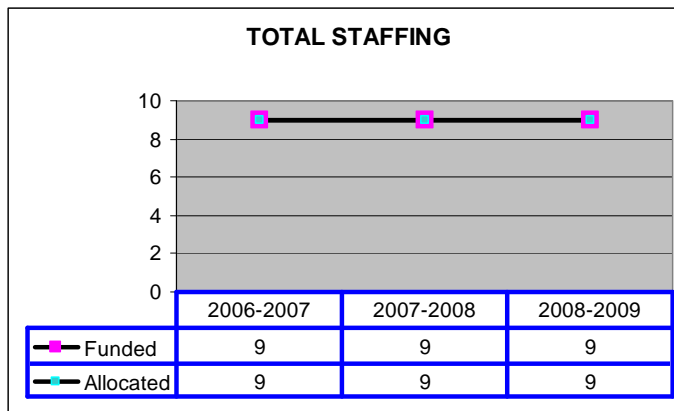
	Actual 2005-06	Actual 2006-07	Adopted 2007-08	Actual 2007-08	Recommend 2008-09	Adopted 2008-09
Salaries & Employee Benefits	501,548	530,176	593,578	571,852	573,654	573,654
Services & Supplies	50,263	58,943	72,339	73,861	74,557	74,557
Other Charges	176,593	252,008	227,901	206,627	221,498	221,498
Expenditure Transfer and Reimbursement	-2,464	-2,522	-2,719	-3,361	-3,378	-3,378
Net Appropriations	725,940	838,605	891,099	848,979	866,331	866,331
Revenues	725,942	838,606	891,099	848,979	866,331	866,331
Total	-2	-1	0	0	0	0
Net County Cost	-2	-1	0	0	0	0

AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

COURT COLLECTIONS 2010

MEREDITH FORD, Auditor-Controller

STAFFING CHART



FINAL BUDGET ~ MAJOR BUDGET CHANGES

(2008-09 Recommended Compared to 2008-09 Adopted)

During the Final Budget Deliberations the Board of Supervisors approved the Recommended Budget from the Executive Office for Court Collections.

Salaries & Employee Benefits

- ◇ Acct. 1011 Provides for 9 collections employee. No vacancies exist at this time.

Services & Supplies

- ◇ Acct. 2196 Provides for payments to private collection agency (GC Services and Wiggins Adjustments, Ltd.) for the collection of delinquent fines, fees, restitution, and civil assessments.
- ◇ Acct. 2239 Provides for replacement of 3 computers, credit and debit card transaction fees, and reference materials.

Other Charges

- ◇ Acct. 3113 Provides for payment to the Franchise Tax Board Court Ordered Debt Program and Tax Intercept program for the collection of fines, fees, civil assessments, and restitution.

Revenues

- ◇ Acct. 5490 Provides for 10% rebate returned to the County, by the State, for restitution payments received and remitted to the State.
- ◇ Acct. 6380 Provides for retention of base fine revenue to cover collection expenses as authorized under Penal Code section 1463.007.
- ◇ Acct. 7700 Provides for fees charged for authorizing time payments on court ordered debt.

County of Mendocino

2008-09

FINAL BUDGET

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