

PUBLIC NOTICE- November 17, 2011

Superior Court of California, County of Ventura

REASSIGNMENT OF EAST COUNTY CIVIL LAW JUDGES AND CLERK'S OPERATIONS TO THE HALL OF JUSTICE IN VENTURA EFFECTIVE January 30, 2012

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 reassign its two East County Civil Law Judges (Courtrooms S3 and S5) and all related civil clerk's office operations at that Simi Valley location, except unlawful detainers, family law and small claims to its main courthouse located at the Hall of Justice, 800 South Victoria Avenue, Ventura, California on January 30, 2012.

This change is necessary due to the significant reduction in funding for the California court system. The Ventura Superior Court is facing a \$5.8 million dollar deficit for this fiscal year that began July 1, 2011, and is projected to increase to \$11.8 million for next fiscal year beginning July 1, 2012.

Court employees currently working at the East County Courthouse civil clerk's office are responsible for processing all civil, family and small claims matters filed at that location. Due to hiring freezes, mandatory furloughs and layoffs, staffing at the East County Courthouse has been so reduced that the clerk's office is unable to process the work in all these areas in a timely manner.

After January 30, 2012, the East County Courthouse will continue to hear and accept filings for Family Law, Small Claims, Unlawful Detainer, and Traffic matters. Parties may continue to submit general civil documents at the East County Courthouse. However, the documents will be "Received" Stamped and transported to the Hall of Justice in Ventura for processing and filing.

The court invited public comment pursuant to rule 10.620(d)(3). The court received fourteen comments from the public. Ten opposed relocation based upon the additional cost and inconvenience of being required to conduct court business at the Hall of Justice. Four supported relocation to assist with the current budget crisis. The Court recognizes and regrets that this decision will greatly inconvenience Ventura County residents. However, due to inadequate state funding, the Court cannot maintain the current level of services. Moving the civil courtrooms will allow for greater efficiencies by processing all general civil cases in one court location.