

# SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

## PUBLIC NOTICE

(Pursuant to Government Code section 68106)

### REDUCED CRIMINAL CALENDARS/SERVICES

### NORTHERN BRANCH

**Effective July 15, 2013**, the following changes will be implemented at our Northern Branch located at 1050 Mission Road in South San Francisco:

- Four of our six courtrooms will be closed and only criminal preliminary hearing calendars for northern jurisdiction cases will be held at this location. All other northern criminal calendars will be consolidated and heard at the Hall of Justice in Redwood City.
- The Northern Criminal Clerk's Office will close and consolidate with the Criminal Clerk's Office on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of the Hall of Justice in Redwood City.
- All requests for domestic violence and civil harassment restraining orders (TRO's) will need to be submitted to the Family Law or Civil Clerk's Office in Room A on the first floor of the Hall of Justice in Redwood City.
- All Traffic and Small Claims trials will be heard only in the Southern Branch in Redwood City.

This change is a result of the unprecedented and ongoing State budget cuts to the trial courts of more than \$1 billion over the past five years. The San Mateo County Superior Court has seen a dramatic reduction in its budget as a result of these State cuts to the judicial branch and unfunded cost increases. As a result of these State cuts, the San Mateo Superior Court has been forced to reduce its workforce by over 30% to-date. Going forward, the court has been informed by the Governor and the State Legislature that they must absorb additional State budget cuts. Further, changes in trial court funding methodology will result in added reductions to the San Mateo Superior Court over the next 5 years if the State does not fully fund the trial courts. These State cuts and funding reductions will require further workforce reductions, necessitating further reductions in court services, unless these cuts are eliminated and essential, complete trial court funding is provided.

**Effective July 15, 2013** all criminal filings and documents must be submitted to the Criminal Clerk's Office at the Hall of Justice-400 County Center-4<sup>th</sup> floor, Redwood City, CA 94063 either in person during public counter hours (8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. on Fridays) or by mail. A drop box is also available at the Redwood City location outside the Criminal Clerk's Office on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor.

The public is invited to comment on these changes prior to implementation. To ensure prompt review and consideration, comments should be submitted electronically through the Court's website at [www.sanmateocourt.org](http://www.sanmateocourt.org) (click on "Invitation to Comment"). For those without easy internet access, comments may be mailed to:

Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo

Attn: Rodina Catalano, Deputy Court Executive Officer

400 County Center, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

Redwood City, CA 94063

**All comments must be received no later than July 12, 2013.**