Superior Court of California COUNTY OF ALAMEDA



Tara M. Desautels, Presiding Judge Charles Smiley, Assistant Presiding Judge Chad Finke, Executive Officer

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, July 8, 2020

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA: Superior Court of Alameda County announces staff furlough days to address Fiscal Year 2020-21 budget reductions.

The Superior Court of Alameda County (Court) announced today that, effective immediately, it will implement staff furloughs to address the Court's share of the <u>\$167.8M reduction to general trial court operations</u> contained in the Budget Act of 2020. While the exact amount of the Court's budget reduction will not be final until the Judicial Council of California meets on July 24, 2020, the Court estimates that it will be well in excess of \$6M

Immediately after Governor Newsom issued the <u>2020-21 May Revision</u> on May 14, 2020, the Court implemented a hiring freeze as a cost control measure heading into Fiscal Year 2020-21. Now, as an additional way to address the significant cuts to its budget, the Court will furlough staff one day per month beginning July 17, 2020, and lasting through at least December 2020. In order to continue providing services to the public, and in an attempt to avoid further Court closures, even within the scope of ongoing Coronavirus-related constraints, the furloughs will occur on two different Fridays each month; approximately half of the Court's staff will be out on one Friday and the other half out on the other. The scheduled furlough days for July through December 2020 are as follows:

- July 17 and 31, 2020
- August 14 and 28, 2020
- September 11 and 25, 2020
- October 9 and 23, 2020
- November 6 and 20, 2020
- December 4 and 18, 2020

Because of the reduced staffing on the furlough days, the public should expect a corresponding service reduction, including longer response times and fewer hearings. The Court apologizes for any inconvenience, and looks forward to restoring services if and when funding to the trial courts is restored.

The Court will continue to monitor and evaluate its finances throughout Fiscal Year 20-21, including whether California receives federal aid that would allow some or all of the cuts to the trial courts to be restored, as

provided in the Budget Act. In doing so, the Court will assess if the furloughs can be suspended or must be extended through the remainder of the fiscal year.