



## JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

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# REPORT TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

*Item No.: 22-084*

For business meeting on March 11, 2022

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**Title**

Trial Court Budget: Report on Disposition  
Data

**Agenda Item Type**

Information Only

**Date of Report**

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### Executive Summary

At its January 2021 meeting, the Judicial Council approved a Judicial Branch Budget Committee recommendation of a Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee (TCBAC) proposal for reporting requirements regarding progress in reducing the COVID-19 backlog. The TCBAC also provided a definition of backlog as the difference between the amount of workload disposed of during the pandemic period as compared to the same time period one year prior. This report and attachment provide a quarterly update on disposition data reported by courts.

### Relevant Previous Council Action

At its July 2020 Judicial Council business meeting, the council adopted an amended recommendation to allocate \$25 million of the \$50 million appropriated to the judicial branch for COVID-19 backlog using a pro rata method based on the workload formula (see Link A). The remaining \$25 million was to be distributed based on a data-driven methodology developed by the TCBAC.

In January 2021, the Judicial Council approved a recommendation to define backlog as the difference between the amount of workload disposed of during a specified pandemic period as compared to the same time period one year prior; this definition served as the basis for allocating the remaining \$25 million (see Link B). The approved methodology required collecting recent disposition data from the trial courts. The dispositions were then weighted using the Resource

Assessment Study (RAS) time study caseweights to convert the disposition counts into workload minutes. These workload minutes (weighted dispositions) from the pandemic-specified time period (March through August 2020) were compared to the workload minutes of the same time period from the previous year (March through August 2019). The total number of statewide workload minutes from this pandemic time period was 44.7 percent lower than that from the same time period the previous year. This decrease in disposition minutes is considered workload backlog. Each court's proportion of the backlog was the basis for the distribution of the second \$25 million.

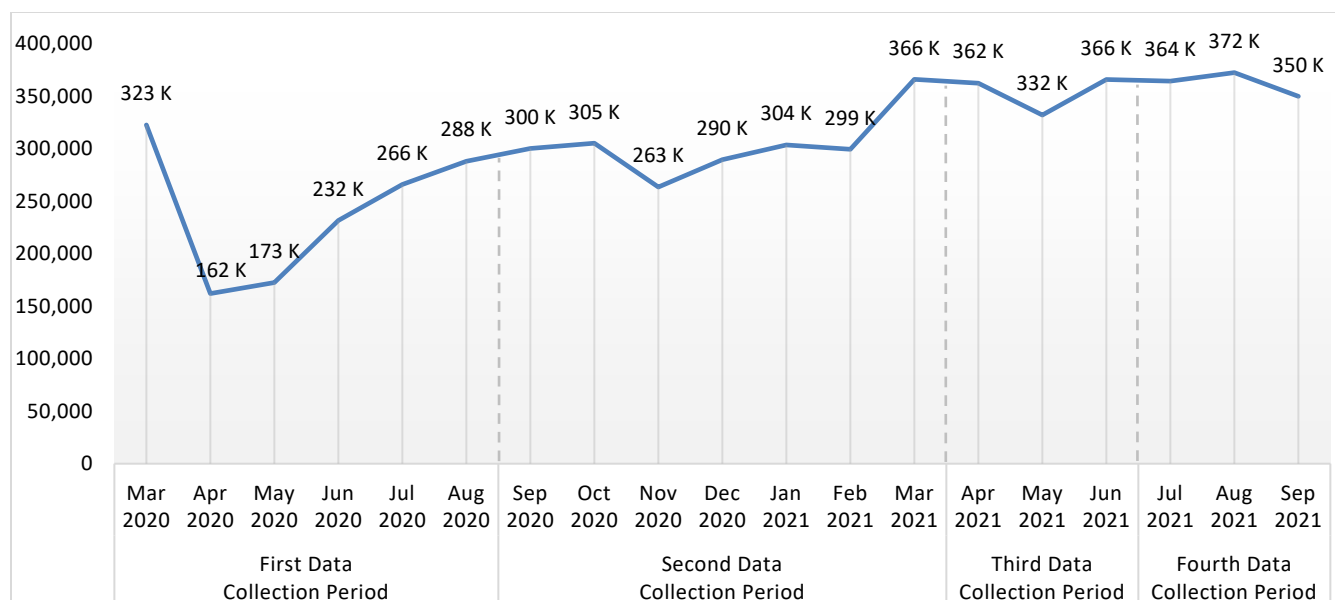
Along with the COVID-19 backlog definition and allocation methodology, a recommendation was adopted for quarterly reporting regarding the progress in reducing the COVID-19 backlog. This report contains the results of the latest disposition data collection (July to September 2021) at attachment A; previous reports to the Judicial Council regarding disposition data collection are at Link C and D.

### **Analysis/Rationale**

In November 2021, courts were asked again to submit monthly disposition data for the period of July 1 to September 30, 2021. Courts submitted data electronically via the Judicial Branch Statistical Information System (JBSIS) or the JBSIS Web Portal. Courts unable to submit disposition data electronically or to collect certain disposition data not available in JBSIS used an Excel template developed for this purpose. Data collection began on November 29, 2021, and data submissions were accepted through January 14, 2022.

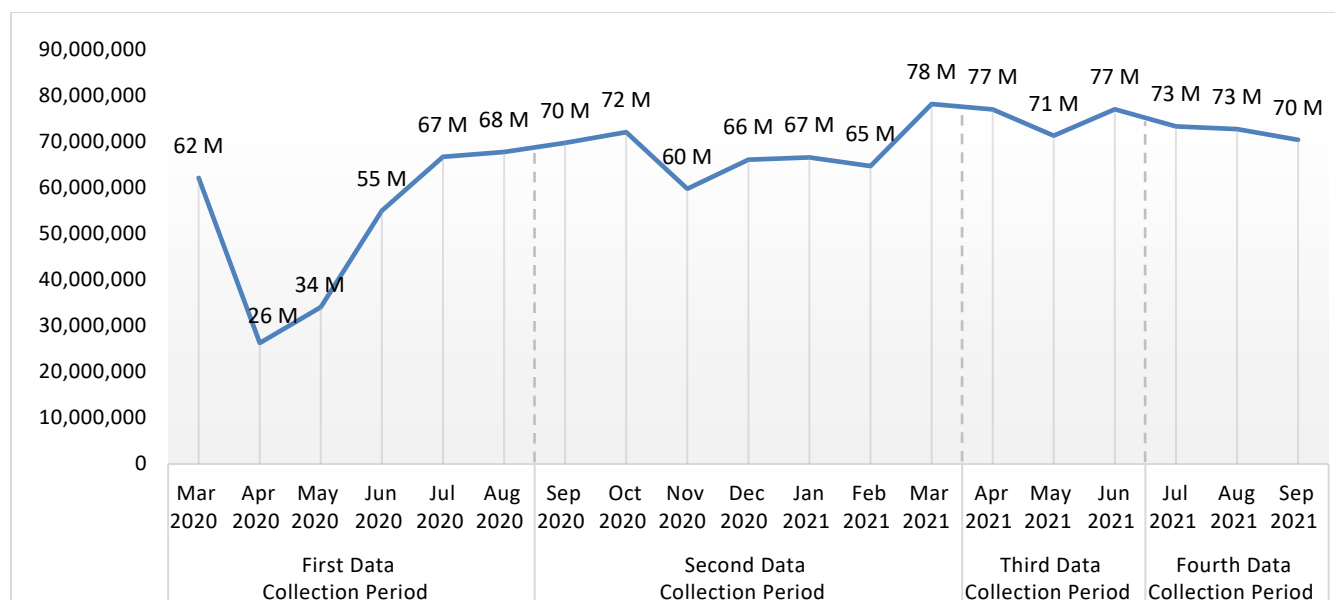
Figure 1 shows the statewide count of dispositions for previous data collection periods (March 2020 to June 2021), and the most recent data collection period (July to September 2021). As shown in the figure, statewide monthly dispositions in April 2020 dramatically declined following the statewide shelter-in-place orders implemented in March 2020. Monthly disposition counts then increased steadily through most of 2020. In November 2020, a modest decrease in dispositions is observable, coinciding with surging COVID-19 cases throughout the state and the reissuance of statewide stay-at-home orders. From December 2020 to February 2021, dispositions were mostly flat, increasing again in March 2021. Dispositions then remained steady through September 2021, with a minor dip in May 2021. The general trend since April 2020 has been steady monthly increases in statewide dispositions.

**Figure 1. Statewide Count of Dispositions, March 2020 through September 2021**



Statewide weighted dispositions (see Figure 2) followed a similar trend as the unweighted dispositions. April 2020 saw a sharp decline in weighted dispositions and a considerable rebound from May 2020 to July 2020, with more modest monthly increases until November 2020. Weighted monthly dispositions remained steady from December 2020 to February 2021, reaching their highest level in over a year by March 2021. April through September 2021 remained consistent with this peak, with relatively small dips in May 2021 and again in September 2021.

**Figure 2. Statewide Calculated Disposition Minutes (Weighted by RAS Caseweights), March 2020 through September 2021**



## Fiscal Impact and Policy Implications

This data fulfills a reporting requirement set by the Judicial Council at its January 2021 meeting. There are no fiscal impacts.

## Attachments and Links

1. Attachment A: Disposition Data Tables 1 and 2
2. Link A: Judicial Council of Cal., *Trial Court Budget: Allocations from the Trial Court Trust Fund and Trial Court Allocations for Fiscal Year 2020–21* (July 2, 2020), [www://jcc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=8651228&GUID=27A3B6D8-9783-4865-8C5A-F6697EB58734](http://jcc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=8651228&GUID=27A3B6D8-9783-4865-8C5A-F6697EB58734)
3. Link B: Judicial Council of Cal., *Trial Court Budget: \$50 Million COVID-19 Backlog Funding* (Jan. 12, 2021), [www://jcc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=9054988&GUID=54812C82-983E-4812-848C-2F4FD9F6F97A](http://jcc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=9054988&GUID=54812C82-983E-4812-848C-2F4FD9F6F97A)
4. Link C: Judicial Council of Cal., *Trial Court Budget: Report on Disposition Data* (June 17, 2021), [www://jcc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=9499529&GUID=91D6ED5D-CF6F-42AA-9788-E2D6D8C7AF3F](http://jcc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=9499529&GUID=91D6ED5D-CF6F-42AA-9788-E2D6D8C7AF3F)
5. Link D: Judicial Council of Cal., *Trial Court Budget: Report on Disposition Data* (Oct. 29, 2021), <https://jcc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=9933920&GUID=388AE79C-B8E3-4F85-97FA-2CB299A6C425>

## Attachment A: Disposition Data Tables 1 and 2

### Disposition Data Table 1

January 2022

Court	No. of Dispositions, July through Sept. 2021		
	July	Aug.	Sept.
	A	B	C
Alameda	16,936	18,182	16,397
Alpine	111	146	122
Amador	530	506	451
Butte	2,203	2,090	2,169
Calaveras	411	507	396
Colusa	301	288	300
Contra Costa*	7,011	7,721	7,693
Del Norte	759	710	658
El Dorado	1,128	1,210	1,052
Fresno	8,743	9,214	8,481
Glenn†	—	—	—
Humboldt	1,679	1,836	1,468
Imperial*	3,146	3,329	3,174
Inyo	509	638	839
Kern	10,215	10,182	9,662
Kings	1,910	1,993	1,755
Lake	762	776	755
Lassen	396	347	325
Los Angeles	90,704	93,448	87,157
Madera	2,040	1,747	1,874
Marin	3,857	3,411	3,623
Mariposa*	92	92	17
Mendocino	398	706	449
Merced	3,039	3,302	3,001
Modoc	168	178	135
Mono	648	736	734
Monterey	5,360	4,864	4,935
Napa	968	1,140	1,169
Nevada	797	801	882
Orange	30,565	32,025	30,993
Placer	5,138	4,242	2,728
Plumas†	—	—	—

Court	No. of Dispositions, July through Sept. 2021		
	July	Aug.	Sept.
	A	B	C
Riverside*	17,807	17,331	17,337
Sacramento	23,417	24,505	24,318
San Benito*	427	409	428
San Bernardino*	19,779	20,255	20,350
San Diego	22,082	21,296	20,284
San Francisco	6,102	4,595	5,765
San Joaquin*	7,745	8,529	6,830
San Luis Obispo	2,681	2,864	2,631
San Mateo	8,665	9,278	8,107
Santa Barbara	4,358	4,821	4,315
Santa Clara*	8,796	8,943	7,127
Santa Cruz	2,376	2,526	2,230
Shasta	2,499	2,578	2,527
Sierra	47	53	37
Siskiyou	306	745	231
Solano	6,035	5,111	4,448
Sonoma	6,088	6,359	6,095
Stanislaus	4,690	4,958	4,862
Sutter	1,194	1,069	1,112
Tehama	907	955	855
Trinity	177	290	171
Tulare	5,607	6,601	4,963
Tuolumne	596	575	571
Ventura	8,709	8,589	8,284
Yolo	2,130	2,229	1,940
Yuba	628	600	586
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>364,372</b>	<b>372,431</b>	<b>349,798</b>

\* Court missing some disposition data.

† Court missing all disposition data.

## Disposition Data Table 2

January 2022

Court	Calculated Disposition Minutes (Weighted by RAS Caseweights), July through Sept. 2021		
	July 21	Aug. 21	Sept. 21
	A	B	C
Alameda	2,253,182	2,403,287	2,361,601
Alpine	5,563	6,388	7,298
Amador	103,089	115,914	91,527
Butte	623,773	592,321	607,807
Calaveras	87,201	117,478	112,473
Colusa	43,477	45,840	47,985
Contra Costa*	1,127,053	1,118,638	1,190,596
Del Norte	240,193	225,910	242,087
El Dorado	282,835	254,607	245,196
Fresno	1,706,512	1,730,880	1,639,977
Glenn†	—	—	—
Humboldt	386,075	343,884	396,405
Imperial*	517,267	613,161	495,641
Inyo	59,405	89,383	99,870
Kern	2,089,377	2,074,199	1,976,865
Kings	525,412	495,469	443,838
Lake	197,259	233,160	215,415
Lassen	59,630	53,037	60,921
Los Angeles	21,078,986	20,438,943	19,286,757
Madera	424,320	428,147	379,367
Marin	404,893	512,650	450,361
Mariposa*	16,912	19,334	8,196
Mendocino	183,459	187,376	223,576
Merced	485,581	597,418	574,876
Modoc	21,440	19,923	26,226
Mono	39,101	47,864	47,327
Monterey	969,998	897,636	893,394
Napa	226,279	282,448	294,201
Nevada	127,463	132,418	138,981
Orange	5,926,951	6,211,419	6,404,708
Placer	876,154	714,662	567,600
Plumas†	—	—	—
Riverside*	2,707,499	2,994,157	2,790,587

Court	Calculated Disposition Minutes (Weighted by RAS Caseweights), July through Sept. 2021		
	July 21	Aug. 21	Sept. 21
	A	B	C
Sacramento	4,095,718	4,100,983	4,029,040
San Benito*	68,872	76,407	70,601
San Bernardino*	4,717,426	4,930,724	5,083,213
San Diego	5,063,399	4,733,137	4,506,453
San Francisco	1,452,755	1,266,628	1,495,077
San Joaquin*	1,862,987	1,786,901	1,705,984
San Luis Obispo	519,196	551,364	536,960
San Mateo	1,134,232	1,129,695	1,049,791
Santa Barbara	755,226	829,550	717,766
Santa Clara*	1,807,121	931,156	823,702
Santa Cruz	442,733	496,554	505,569
Shasta	585,963	633,472	576,056
Sierra	7,435	11,884	9,506
Siskiyou	116,461	150,865	107,370
Solano	871,503	749,996	724,670
Sonoma	739,333	824,721	817,057
Stanislaus	1,248,952	1,282,456	1,365,497
Sutter	258,949	251,027	259,407
Tehama	197,087	229,415	218,850
Trinity	43,391	35,997	26,840
Tulare	1,234,830	1,513,436	1,224,810
Tuolumne	170,711	162,310	154,852
Ventura	1,504,258	1,435,126	1,526,350
Yolo	395,138	418,345	361,348
Yuba	232,702	216,598	194,220
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>73,322,715</b>	<b>72,746,697</b>	<b>70,412,644</b>

\* Court missing some disposition data

† Court missing all disposition data