



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

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REPORT TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

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For business meeting on November 19, 2021

Title

Trial Court Budget: Report on Disposition
Data

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Information Only

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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 workload that was not disposed of during the pandemic period 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 the 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 second \$25 million for COVID-19 backlog 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 workload not disposed of during the pandemic; this 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 2020 through August 2020) were compared to the workload minutes of the same time period from the previous year (March 2019 through August 2019). The total statewide workload minutes from this pandemic time period were 44.7% less than 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.

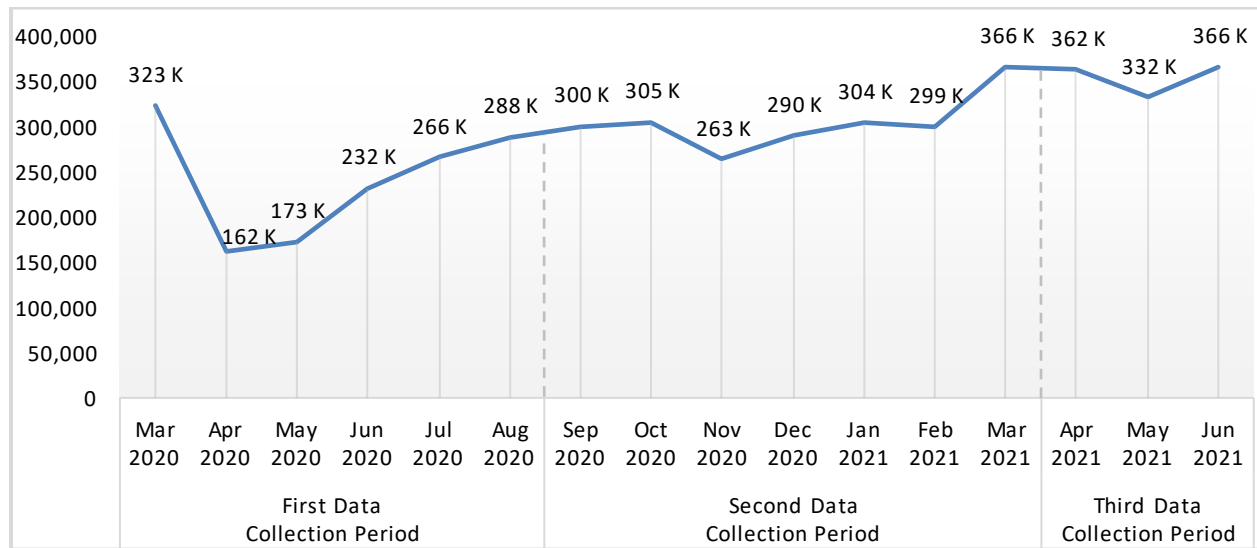
Along with the COVID-19 backlog definition and allocation methodology, a recommendation was adopted for quarterly reporting regarding the progress in reducing the COVID-19 backlog. A previous Judicial Council report was presented at the July business meeting displaying the results of a second round of data collection on dispositions from September 2020 through March 2021 to fulfill this reporting requirement (see Link C). This present report will similarly report on a third round of disposition data collection from April 2021 to June 2021 to continue to fulfill the reporting requirement. Attachment A displays a table of both disposition counts and weighted disposition minutes for the latest third round of data collection. To reference this data for the previous two data collections, see Attachment A in Link C.

Analysis/Rationale

In July 2021, courts were asked again to submit monthly disposition data for the period April 1, 2021, to June 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 July 20, 2021, and data submissions were accepted through August 20, 2021.

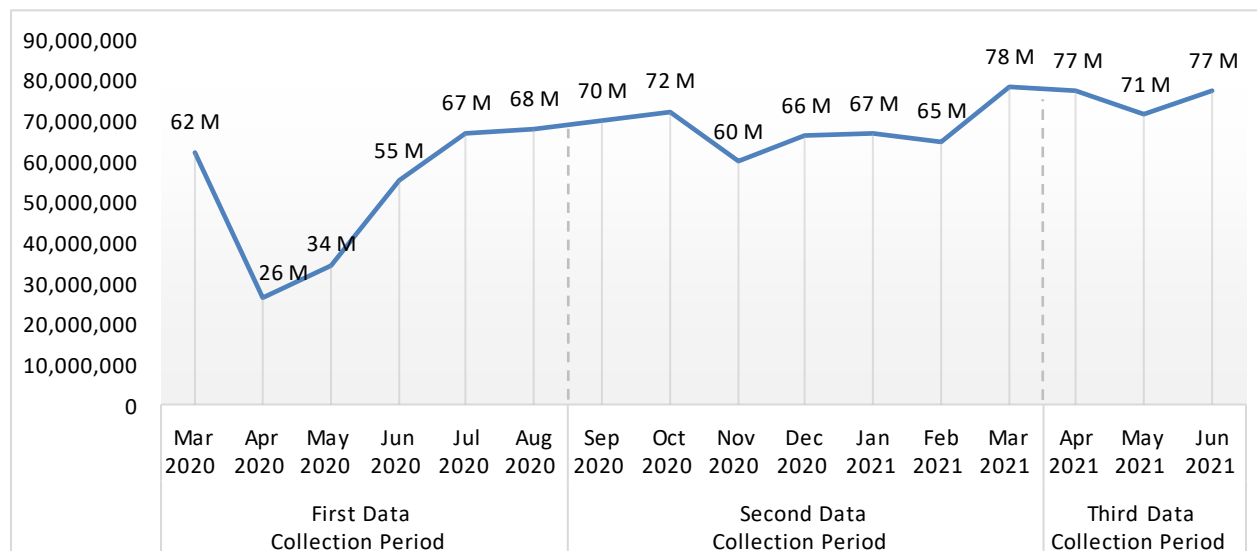
Figure 1 below shows the statewide count of dispositions for the first data collection period (March 2020 to August 2020), the second data collection period (September 2020 to March 2021), and this most recent third data collection period (April 2021 to June 2021). During the first data collection period, there was a dramatic decline of monthly unweighted dispositions in April 2020 following the statewide shelter-in-place orders implemented in March 2020. Monthly disposition counts then increased steadily, continuing into the second data collection period. In November 2020, there was a modest decrease in dispositions observed, 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 continued to remain steady through June 2021, with a minor dip in May. The general trend since April 2020 has been steady monthly increases in statewide dispositions.

Figure 1. Statewide Count of Dispositions, March 2020 through June 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 dispositions remained steady from December 2020 to February 2021, reaching their highest level in over a year by March 2021. April 2021 through June 2021 remained consistent with this peak, but with a small dip in May 2021.

Figure 2. Statewide Calculated Disposition Minutes (Weighted by RAS Caseweights), March 2020 through June 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 24, 2020), www://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. 22, 2021), www://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* (July 9, 2021), www://jcc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=9499529&GUID=91D6ED5D-CF6F-42AA-9788-E2D6D8C7AF3F

Attachment A: Disposition Data Tables 1 and 2

Disposition Data Table 1

August 2021

Court	# of Dispositions, April 2021 through June 2021		
	Apr 2021	May 2021	Jun 2021
	A	B	C
Alameda	16,973	14,062	18,276
Alpine	120	121	171
Amador	618	496	594
Butte	2,458	2,261	2,394
Calaveras	401	405	375
Colusa	334	264	346
Contra Costa*	5,806	5,758	3,310
Del Norte	625	755	727
El Dorado	1,307	1,370	1,150
Fresno	7,760	7,782	8,667
Glenn**	-	-	-
Humboldt	1,862	1,578	1,374
Imperial	2,640	2,487	3,014
Inyo	794	601	829
Kern	11,614	10,228	10,678
Kings	2,025	1,934	1,855
Lake	689	714	890
Lassen	399	381	319
Los Angeles	89,401	86,609	89,189
Madera	1,816	1,469	1,793
Marin	2,481	2,393	2,791
Mariposa	238	153	118
Mendocino	442	470	616
Merced	6,332	3,377	3,264
Modoc	151	128	145
Mono	681	596	601
Monterey	5,220	4,849	5,090
Napa	776	785	962
Nevada	1,320	994	1,016
Orange	33,254	30,424	33,816
Placer	4,794	5,996	6,310
Plumas	214	193	238
Riverside	20,917	19,726	21,444
Sacramento	12,130	10,750	26,011
San Benito	471	443	451
San Bernardino	21,253	17,684	20,830
San Diego	21,317	20,478	21,024
San Francisco	3,287	3,086	3,535

Court	# of Dispositions, April 2021 through June 2021		
	Apr 2021	May 2021	Jun 2021
	A	B	C
San Joaquin	8,562	7,261	6,359
San Luis Obispo	2,745	2,485	2,996
San Mateo	14,344	7,643	8,464
Santa Barbara	4,395	3,756	4,293
Santa Clara	8,259	7,533	8,280
Santa Cruz	3,005	3,130	2,782
Shasta	2,475	2,441	2,410
Sierra	66	63	77
Siskiyou	453	608	239
Solano	4,550	3,993	4,003
Sonoma	6,440	6,323	6,299
Stanislaus	5,186	5,123	5,252
Sutter	1,101	882	1,151
Tehama	945	869	859
Trinity	278	231	293
Tulare	5,032	5,579	5,326
Tuolumne	373	451	436
Ventura	8,874	8,607	8,873
Yolo	1,837	2,655	2,634
Yuba	582	570	573
TOTAL	362,422	332,003	365,812

* Court missing some disposition data

** Court missing all disposition data

Disposition Data Table 2

August 2021

Court	Calculated Disposition Minutes (Weighted by RAS Caseweights), April 2020 through June 2021		
	Apr 21	May 21	Jun 21
	A	B	C
Alameda	2,574,571	2,006,163	2,639,101
Alpine	6,403	6,359	9,626
Amador	102,430	94,609	105,314
Butte	660,527	672,951	743,342
Calaveras	102,200	97,458	99,842
Colusa	50,722	58,447	54,359
Contra Costa*	1,248,486	1,113,105	1,250,607
Del Norte	212,001	210,493	232,853
El Dorado	285,258	333,421	332,971
Fresno	1,682,839	1,721,750	1,827,424
Glenn**	-	-	-
Humboldt	335,022	330,681	309,972
Imperial	456,279	399,326	501,528
Inyo	85,397	67,882	82,719
Kern	2,098,033	1,929,643	2,196,535
Kings	468,595	464,008	457,201
Lake	226,931	205,136	217,020
Lassen	78,155	73,349	70,445
Los Angeles	21,031,614	20,905,169	20,391,599
Madera	413,924	363,011	426,180
Marin	433,943	377,343	445,222
Mariposa	53,266	24,056	12,940
Mendocino	166,224	185,193	217,414
Merced	831,803	551,746	569,837
Modoc	18,319	17,725	23,970
Mono	78,774	55,349	51,537
Monterey	965,430	858,025	946,010
Napa	254,946	248,419	269,800
Nevada	186,173	160,676	159,530
Orange	6,317,489	5,580,210	6,947,025
Placer	899,122	817,287	897,909
Plumas	52,172	41,824	41,229
Riverside	4,214,469	4,073,744	4,497,625
Sacramento	2,599,076	2,292,119	4,184,349
San Benito	117,680	106,195	92,207
San Bernardino	5,971,166	5,021,460	5,353,534
San Diego	4,763,316	4,910,159	4,671,111
San Francisco	1,507,576	1,165,890	1,386,429

Court	Calculated Disposition Minutes (Weighted by RAS Caseweights), April 2020 through June 2021		
	Apr 21	May 21	Jun 21
	A	B	C
San Joaquin	2,068,520	1,756,414	1,706,322
San Luis Obispo	550,022	491,122	613,316
San Mateo	1,382,970	944,198	1,093,013
Santa Barbara	761,942	636,764	668,503
Santa Clara	2,157,844	1,884,135	1,850,829
Santa Cruz	697,701	680,747	529,274
Shasta	568,840	607,130	599,315
Sierra	19,455	15,080	19,491
Siskiyou	124,240	108,003	108,967
Solano	780,591	731,399	758,174
Sonoma	887,725	809,140	836,966
Stanislaus	1,402,173	1,258,539	1,369,299
Sutter	236,940	218,988	261,997
Tehama	226,909	193,649	236,751
Trinity	37,926	26,100	42,380
Tulare	1,231,189	1,234,789	1,294,957
Tuolumne	130,845	140,516	147,617
Ventura	1,631,302	1,412,935	1,508,669
Yolo	368,353	385,300	409,379
Yuba	199,424	218,585	264,948
TOTAL	77,015,239	71,293,911	77,036,480

* Court missing some disposition data

** Court missing all disposition data