

Superior Court of California
County of San Bernardino
PUBLIC NOTICE
July 7, 2009



Pursuant to California Rules of Court 10.620, the Superior Court of California, County of San Bernardino, hereby gives notice that it will commence hearing cases only on the first full week of each month in its Needles Courthouse, commencing September 8, 2009.

Any matters which cannot be heard during the first full week of each month, including all criminal matters and time-sensitive matters, will be heard in the Barstow district court commencing September 8, 2009. The Needles district of the San Bernardino court clerk's office will remain open from 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. during the first full court week of each month and from 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. the remaining court weeks of each month. The office will be closed on court holidays.

The decision to reduce the hours and case types heard in Needles was made by Presiding Judge James C. McGuire

During the public comment period, the court received over 50 written and e-mail responses. All of the responses received by the court objected to the reduction of services provided by the Needles Court. The Court also met with representatives of the community of Needles and Supervisor Brad Mitzelfelt who also expressed opposition to the reduction of services.

The four reasons mentioned most frequently were:

1. Having deputies appear in court in Barstow would reduce the amount of time they were on patrol thus creating a public safety issue as well as increasing the costs of overtime for the deputies to travel to Barstow for hearings;
2. Driving to Barstow was a burden and an expense on Needles residents;
3. The court provided a sense of identity for the Needles community which was deserving of a certain level of services from all governmental agencies and;
4. Without the convenience of a local court many legal matters which might otherwise be pursued would go unresolved.

There are no written factual materials that have been specifically gathered or prepared for review at the time of making the decision to limit operations at the Needles Courthouse.