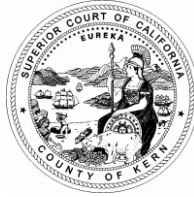


**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA  
COUNTY OF KERN**



**NOTICE of PUBLIC MEETINGS**

**East Kern Courthouse Facilities**

We want justice partner and public input in writing. Three public informational meetings will be held to discuss the East Kern Courthouse Capital Outlay project:

- 1) Kern County Superior Court Metro Department 1  
1415 Truxtun Avenue  
Bakersfield, CA 93301  
Thursday, June 1<sup>st</sup> @ 2:30 pm
- 2) Kern County Superior Court Ridgecrest Division B  
132 E. Coso Avenue  
Ridgecrest, CA 93555  
Friday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 10:00 am
- 3) Kern County Superior Court Mojave Division A  
1773 CA-58 BUS  
Mojave, CA 93501  
Friday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 3:00 pm

These three meetings will be held for the purpose of providing information and receiving justice partner and public input regarding the available courses of action for the Court regarding East Kern Courthouse Facilities. Your recommendation must be in writing to be considered. The alternative courses of action are:

- 1) First Alternative (Take No Action on Current Consolidation Plan - 4 and 1): Keep the New East County Courthouse project in the proposed FY 2024-25 five-year state capital outlay plan (four-courtroom courthouse in the Mojave/Tehachapi area); continue Ridgecrest services in Ridgecrest Division B Courthouse. This is the current plan, but it appears this project will not be considered for funding until the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

- 2) Second Alternative (Act to Amend Current Plan – 3 and 2): Request change of the current plan – re-scope/replace the proposed New East County Courthouse (4 courtrooms) in the proposed FY 2024-25 five-year capital outlay plan with a 3-courtroom facility in Mojave-Tehachapi area, and leave two existing courtrooms (Div. A & B) in operation in Ridgecrest. This alternative would be presented to the California Facilities Advisory Committee in June 2023.
- 3) Third Alternative (Request CFAC to Defer Funding): Request removal of New East County Courthouse from funding consideration to future fiscal year.

If you want your recommendation for one of the alternatives and input considered, you must respond in writing by June 2, 2023. Please deliver your written recommendation/input to us at one of the meetings, or respond by mail to:

Presiding Judge J. Eric Bradshaw  
Kern County Superior Court  
1415 Truxtun Avenue, Department 1  
Bakersfield, CA 93301

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## Information you may want to consider:

### ❖ Total Population (from 2020 Census Data)

Kern County – 909,235 from 839,631 in 2010 (8.5% growth)

City of Bakersfield – 403,455 from 347,483 in 2010 (16% growth)

City of Ridgecrest & surrounding areas including China Lake Naval Base, Inyokern, Johannesburg and Randsburg 29,105 from 28,480 in 2010 (2% growth)

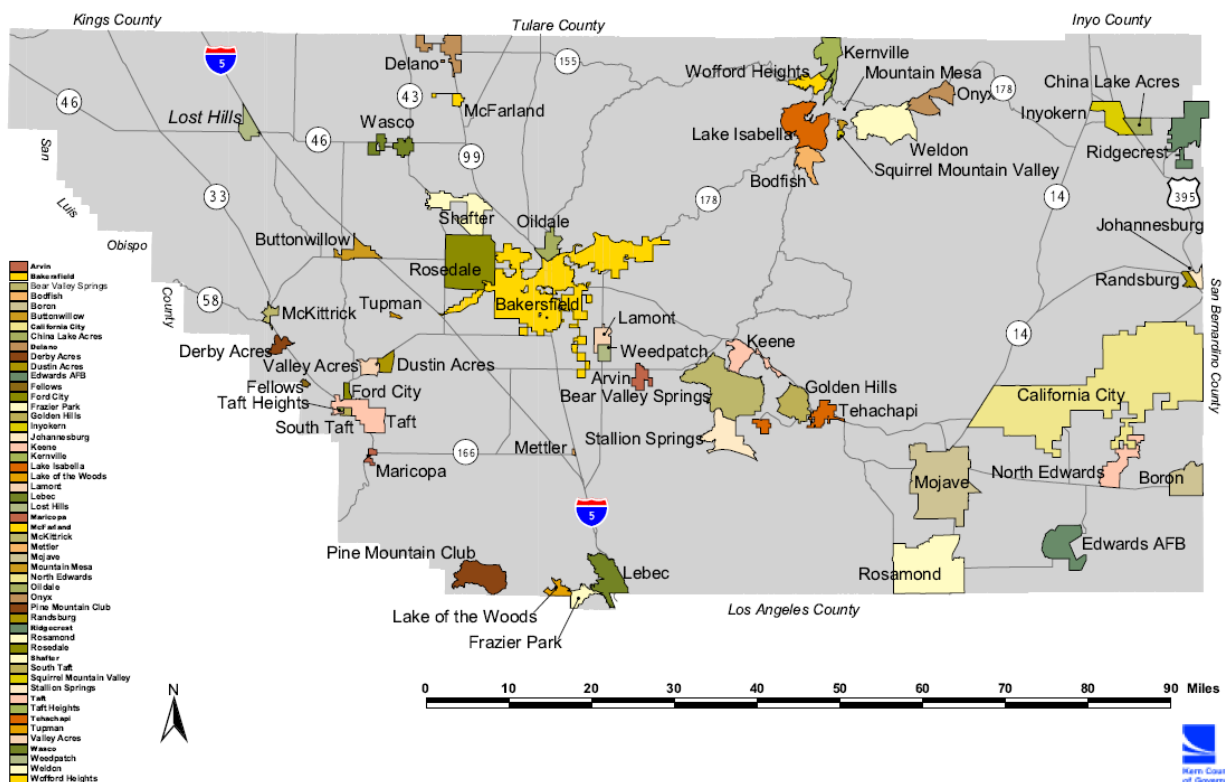
California City – 14,973 from 14,120 in 2010 (6% growth)

City of Mojave & surrounding areas including Rosamond, Edwards AFB, Boron and North Edwards – 30,935 from 28,012 in 2010 (10% growth)

Cities of Shafter & Wasco – 47,000 from 42,899 (10% growth)

City of Tehachapi & surrounding areas including Golden Hills, Bear Valley Springs, Stallion Springs, Mountain Meadows and Keene – 32,020 from 31,294 (2% growth)

## *Kern County, California* Cities and Census Designated Places Census 2000



❖ **Case Filings**  
 ▪ **(by location and Countywide)**

Countywide		Ridgecrest		Mojave	
FY	Total Case Filings	FY	Total Case Filings	FY	Total Case Filings
2011/12	240,214	2011/12	9,611	2011/12	26,499
2012/13	213,920	2012/13	6,440	2012/13	21,984
2013/14	211,878	2013/14	7,317	2013/14	23,354
2014/15	198,387	2014/15	7,094	2014/15	22,386
2015/16	199,961	2015/16	6,184	2015/16	18,798
2016/17	190,268	2016/17	5,901	2016/17	16,145
2017/18	185,858	2017/18	6,962	2017/18	17,315
2018/19	184,519	2018/19	7,434	2018/19	16,563
2019/20	150,694	2019/20	6,564	2019/20	11,635
2020/21	136,176	2020/21	6,554	2020/21	10,461
2021/22	122,235	2021/22	6,352	2021/22	9,071

❖ **Judicial Officers (Judges & Commissioners)**  
 ▪ **(by location and Countywide)**

Countywide		Ridgecrest		Mojave	
Year	# of Judicial Officers	Year	# of Judicial Officers	Year	# of Judicial Officers
2013	42	2013	2	2013	2
2014	40	2014	2	2014	2
2015	43	2015	2	2015	2
2016	42	2016	2	2016	2
2017	43	2017	2	2017	2
2018	42	2018	2	2018	2
2019	43	2019	2	2019	2
2020	41	2020	2	2020	2
2021	40	2021	2	2021	2
2022	42	2022	1.5	2022	1.5
2023	45	2023	1.5	2023	1.5

❖ **Jury Trials (by location)**

Ridgecrest		Mojave	
Year	# of Jury Trials	Year	# of Jury Trials
2011	0	2011	6
2012	14	2012	10
2013	8	2013	7
2014	4	2014	8
2015	3	2015	6
2016	1	2016	4
2017	2	2017	7
2018	0	2018	6
2019	0	2019	8
2020	3	2020	2
2021	0	2021	0
2022	0	2022	2
2023	-	2023	0

❖ **Cost Comparison/Savings**

The estimated 2019 costs of two new courthouses in Ridgecrest and Mojave were \$59.389 million and \$86.890 million respectively, for a total estimated cost of \$146.279 million. The estimated 2019 cost per courtroom for the New Mojave Courthouse plus an additional courtroom ( $(\$86.890/3 = \$28.963 \text{ million}) \times 4 = \$115.853 \text{ million}$ ), the New East County Courthouse has the potential to save approximately \$32.7 million (PV \$40.1 million with an average 6% per year): \$30.4 million in capital costs and \$2.3 million in other (operational and deferred maintenance) costs.

## ❖ Transit Resources

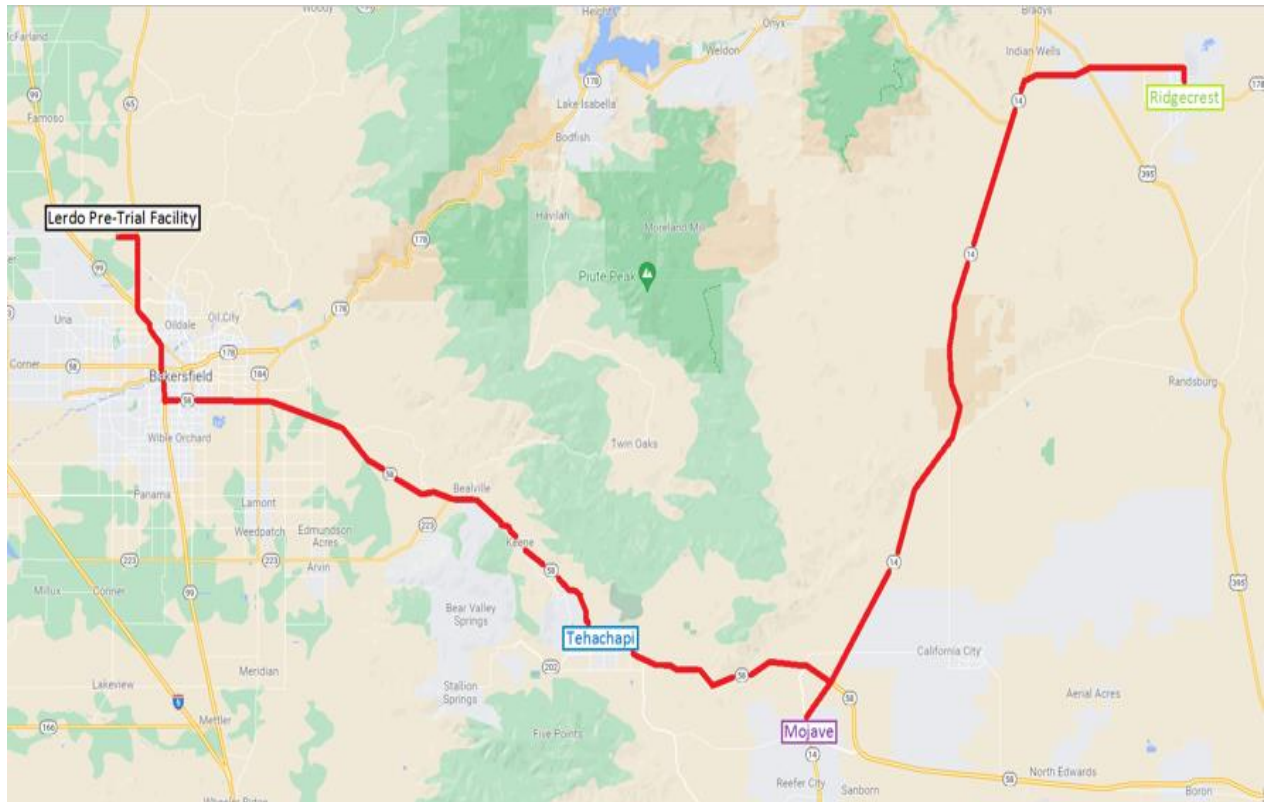
Kern Transit currently offers various routes throughout East Kern County. Fares typically run from \$2 to \$3 one way with services connecting Lancaster, Mojave, California City, Inyokern, North Edwards, Boron, Rosamond and Ridgecrest. They also offer Dial-A-Ride through fares in Mojave, Rosamond and Tehachapi. Schedules, routes, and fares can be viewed at [www.Kerntransit.org/routes-and-schedules/](http://www.Kerntransit.org/routes-and-schedules/)

The screenshot displays the Kern Transit website's 'Routes & Schedules' page. The header features the Kern Transit logo with the tagline 'We Connect Kern County' and navigation links for 'ROUTES & SCHEDULES', 'DIAL-A-RIDE', 'FARES', and 'HOW TO RIDE'. Below the header, a breadcrumb trail shows 'Home > Routes & Schedules'. The main heading 'Routes & Schedules' is followed by a 'Select a Route' dropdown menu. On the left, a list of routes is shown with toggle switches and 'see schedule' links:

- ☐ 150: Lake Isabella-Bakersfield
- ☐ 227: Lake Isabella-Ridgecrest
- ☒ 230: Mojave-Ridgecrest
- ☒ 240: Boron - Mojave
- ☒ 250: California City-Lancaster
- ☒ Dial-A-Ride
  - ☐ Bakersfield Medical Dial-A-Ride
  - ☐ Frazier Park Dial-A-Ride
  - ☐ Kern River Valley Dial-A-Ride

The right side of the page features a map of East Kern County with route lines color-coded to match the route list. A search bar at the top right of the map area prompts the user to 'Enter address or locati...'. The map includes labels for various locations such as Arvin, Tehachapi, Palmdale, Lake Los Angeles, and Edwards Air Force Base, as well as major highways like 15, 99, 14, 178, 155, 202, 395, and 58.

### ❖ In-Custody Transportation



<u>Leardo Pre-Trial Facility to CRF/Ridgecrest</u>	= 127 Miles 2 hours 30 minutes
<u>Leardo Pre-Trial Facility to CRF/Mojave</u>	= 74 Miles 1 hours 30 minutes
<u>Leardo Pre-Trial Facility to Tehachapi</u>	= 53.7 Miles 55 minutes
<u>Ridgecrest to Tehachapi</u>	= 74.3 Miles 1 hour 14 minutes
<u>Ridgecrest to Mojave</u>	= 59.8 Miles 59 minutes
<u>Tehachapi to Mojave</u>	= 21.7 Miles 22 minutes

### ❖ Initial Investment for Expansion of Ridgecrest Division B

Intra-Branch Agreement No. FY 22-23/ 15-CFR038 / 15-J2 was funded on March 1, 2023 for the purpose of design services to expand Ridgcrest Division B Courtroom to a full service court. The initial amount of \$57,000 was encumbered then an additional \$43,000 was added for a total of \$100,000 towards this effort. The firm of Fraser Seiple Architects was contracted and scope of work has already started.

## ❖ **Staffing & Recruitment Challenges**

The Court has continued recruitment efforts for the Ridgecrest and Mojave locations. Since December 14, 2020, the Court has completed 28 recruitments for the Ridgecrest Court, which has produced seven (7) currently employed individuals. Since December 14, 2020, the Court has completed 25 recruitments for the Mojave Court, which has produced eight (8) currently employed individuals. At least 50% of staff at both the Ridgecrest and Mojave locations have less than five (5) years of service with the Court.

All transfer eligible recruitments are posted internally for one week. All open and promotional recruitments are posted internally and externally for at least two weeks. Recruitment notifications are sent internally via the Court's e-mail system and externally posted to Facebook, Twitter, Government Jobs, and LinkedIn. Occasionally, recruitments are also posted to Indeed.

This year the Superior Court of California, County of Kern has attended eight (8) job fairs, including Ridgecrest JobFest on April 6, 2023 which produced zero qualifying candidates. All currently open recruitments are promoted at job fairs. Recently, at the Taft JobFest on May 4, 2023, the Mojave Court Services Specialist recruitment was promoted and at the Shafter JobFest on May 18, 2023, the Mojave Judicial Courtroom Assistant recruitment were promoted. These recruitments were also promoted on the JobFestKern Instagram page.