Sutter County Employees Delay Pay Raises to Reduce Drawdown on Reserves

Three more bargaining units, including the two largest, have agreed to delay pay increases for one year to help improve Sutter County’s budget outlook for 2009-2010.

The Sutter County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, Nov. 10, approved amendments to contracts with the General, Supervisory and Professional units. The amendments extend the existing contracts for one year, delay a pay increase of three percent for one year for each of the units, and guarantee no additional out of pocket costs for health insurance for the employees in the three units during the contract extension.

Combined with a previous decision by the Sutter County Sheriff’s Deputy Association to defer a pay increase, the vote by Sutter County Employees Association members to delay their pay increase will save the county approximately $2 million.

The pay increase would have gone into effect in December of this year.

“Because of the selfless decision of the employees in the General, Supervisory and Professional units, Sutter County is in a better financial position and will have to draw down less of its reserves in 2009-2010,” said Board Chairman Jim Whiteaker. “This action will put the county on better footing as we prepare for 2010-2011 and beyond. It cannot have been an easy decision for the employees, and the Board is grateful to the employees, not only for their sacrifice in these very difficult economic times, but for the hard work they do on behalf of the residents of Sutter County each and every day.”

“Sutter County employees have set aside their personal interests to help ensure job security for their coworkers and continuation of the current level of service to the public,” said Gary Stucky, Executive Director of SCEA Local #1.

All of the represented bargaining units have now agreed to either give up pay increases and/or agreed to extend their contracts for one year in response to requests by the county.
The Deputy Sheriff’s Association in June agreed to defer a pay increase and extend their contract by one year. The Fire Unit in August agreed to extend their contract by one year without a pay increase.

There are approximately 337 employees in the General Unit, 232 in the Professional Unit, and 47 in the Supervisory Unit.

Using reserves built up over 18 years, Sutter County balanced its budget without layoffs, furloughs or cuts in services in 2009-2010.

###