

Supervisors want own budget plan

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SANTA CRUZ — At least two county supervisors want the county to come up with its own alternative to Gov. George Deukmejian's budget proposal.

But while Supervisors Dan Forbus and Gary Patton this morning complained that the state legislature is all talk and no action, supervisors didn't take any decisive action themselves.

The legislators are simply reacting and not acting on an alternative to the budget proposal that will mean huge losses in state funds to local governments, Forbus said.

"And we're sitting here this morning doing the same thing...If we're ready to support something, let's set something underway," Forbus said.

Patton agreed, saying, "I believe Santa Cruz County should take a leadership role and bring forth a positive program."

He complained even the County Supervisors Association of California hasn't done anything to come up with an alternative to the governor's proposal.

County Administrative Officer George Newell this morning detailed what those cuts in the governor's proposal could mean to the county, pointing out that approximately 25 percent of the county's budget is made up of state funds.

If the state pays the county in warrants, as the governor is suggesting, then the county would have to pay welfare recipients with warrants, Newell also said.

"People will be going to the grocery stores with state warrants and I don't know if the stores are going to accept those warrants," Supervisor Robley Levy worried aloud.

Patton further suggested the county propose to the state that tax increases be allowed through a majority vote. Under Proposition 13, it takes a two-thirds vote for most tax increases.

But Supervisor E. Wayne Moore Jr. said he's opposed to any suggestion for the repeal of Proposition 13.

The problem with the state budget, Moore said, has been caused by the state government refusing to cut back as was mandated in Proposition 13. They've been living off a huge surplus that's now been depleted, he said.

The governor's proposal to cut \$56 million in state funds going to county governments this year could mean this county losing up to \$400,000, Newell said.