

Wage Resentment Still Rankles City Employees

Willis Dick, representative of the Santa Cruz City Employees Association, reported city employes in general are dissatisfied with the salary increases recently approved by the city.

The association now is awaiting the outcome of legal action in Alameda County on the refusal of mediation by county supervisors following a salary dispute there.

"We will act accordingly," said Dick.

He pointed out that "it is our opinion that when the Myers-Milias-Brown Act was passed, the legislators' intent was to bring employe associations and public agencies into a mediation situation. Why should the public employe be denied the same rights as those employed in the

private sector?"

He said the association did not agree to the salary increases and reserves the right to request further salary adjustments in the near future.

Dick said the average city employe received about a 6.7 per cent increase while the personnel director received 20 per cent and other city officials got considerably more than the average.

"If money was available to take care of the officials, it is available for the average employe. We believe the city does

not want an employe association and the constant rumors of intimidation and coercion of city employes by officials only increases dissatisfaction," Dick declared.

There is further unrest over the council's refusal to collect payroll deduction for association dues.

"We will continue to have strife as long as the city council pursues its antagonistic approach to our association and if its antiquated employe-employer relationship policies persist," Dick concluded.

County May Form Arts Commission