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# Santa Cruz Supervisors Get Jolt on Rising Welfare Costs

SANTA CRUZ — Santa Cruz County Supervisors this week got another jolt concerning the county's mounting social welfare dilemma.

A new state Medi-Cal cut-back may cost the county \$400,000 a year, supervisors were told.

This comes on the heels of another crisis caused by a recent court decision ordering counties to give 21 per cent cost of living increases to welfare recipients under welfare family programs.

Raymond Ansell, county social welfare director, said this could increase the total cost of the family welfare program by \$750,000, of

which the county would pay about \$150,000.

County officials also are alarmed over a sharp increase in the number of persons going on welfare. The welfare department reports that its aid to families with dependent children program has increased the past six months from 1,000 to 1,600 families.

This situation is expected to worsen in the winter months ahead, when jobs aren't available in agriculture and tourism, the county's two economic mainstays.

County Supervisors voted to start a statewide campaign to urge the counties to

oppose the new Medi-Cal regulations.

William Derrick, analyst with the county administrator's office, told supervisors that the state regulation says that the county hospital can charge the state \$13.50 a day for patients under the program. Derrick noted that actual hospital costs are much higher, up to \$40 a day.

He estimated that the new ruling would cost the county about \$25 a day for 60 patients, amounting to about \$400,000 a year.

Supervisors ordered preparation of a resolution which will be sent to all counties in the state urging the state to rescind its regulation.