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Supervisors to take case to Sacramento

SANTA CRUZ — County supervisors will lead an assault on Sacramento next Tuesday in an attempt to convince legislators and the governor that cuts in state funds to local governments will result in severe hardship for many people.

Supervisors decided to cancel their meeting next Tuesday and head to Sacramento.

They plan to take with them a group of those who will be affected by the state budget cut of approximately \$3.4 million from county government — the seniors who will be denied free lunches and the sheriff's deputies who may lose their jobs.

County Administrative Officer George Newell told supervisors Tuesday that if the legislature doesn't do something to restore the money by the end of their session on Oct. 1, the county will have to lay off 11 percent of its employees — about 160 people.

Supervisors agreed they couldn't sit back and watch this happen.

In a unanimous vote, they decided to lead the attack on the state capitol even though they represent the smallest county — next to the city and county of San Francisco.

They are hoping other cities and counties throughout the state will join in and hound legislators and the governor until something is done.

Supervisors aren't supporting any one proposal to restore the money. Assemblyman Sam Farr, D-Carmel Valley, is backing a proposal to allow local governments to impose a one-cent sales tax increase to make up the cuts.

The County Supervisors Association of California is planning a massive rally Aug. 22 in Sacramento, but supervisors believe the assault should begin the week legislators return from their recess.

Supervisor Gary Patton, who suggested the move on Sacramento, said local governments have to tell legislators "that we know the programs that are going to be shut down that we

know about the law enforcement people who are going to be laid off and what citizens think about that....

"I think we have got to take that story to Sacramento and basically take the people to Sacramento to tell the story face to face with the governor, face to face with (Assembly Speaker) Willie Brown, face to face with (Senate President Pro Tem) David Roberti and every other member of the legislature...."

"Understand that for the next month, business as usual doesn't make sense," Patton added. "It doesn't make sense to sit here pretending and pretending to the people of the county that we are going to be able to continue to do the things for them that they've learned to expect...."

Supervisor E. Wayne Moore Jr. said supervisors also should ask the state government to come up with a long-term plan for financing local government.

Supervisor Dan Forbus suggested that if the state is going to cut funds to local governments, it also should drop some of the costly programs it mandates the local governments to administer.

The state budget passed earlier this summer and signed by the governor brought about a cut in motor vehicle in-lieu funds, cigarette taxes and business inventory reimbursements to the county totaling \$2.8 million.

The county also will face a \$125,000 cost for the special election on reapportionment set for Dec. 15 and an \$80,000 cost to implement the rolling lien date called for in the state budget.

Cuts made by Gov. George Deukmejian will take \$150,000 from local mental health services, \$79,500 from the county administration of welfare and \$89,600 from the public defender reimbursement going to the county.

In addition, the four cities here and special districts face cuts in state funds unless the legislature agrees on a way to restore these cuts.