

VCF Board of Supervisors

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# County supervisors to forego pay raise

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Although it's only a pittance when compared to Santa Cruz County's quarter-billion dollar budget, county supervisors yesterday afternoon decided to forego a 4.5 percent pay raise.

Altogether, the move will save the county slightly more than \$11,000 a year — \$5,500 for the remaining six months of the 1990-91 budget year.

Under a salary ordinance approved last summer, supervisors were entitled to a raise equal to 45 percent of that approved for Superior Court judges by the State Legislature. That increase would have raised the supervisors' annual pay from \$49,699.78 to \$51,930.06.

The unanimous vote came several hours after the board granted the county's top executives a 5 percent — and in some cases higher — pay raise, plus a doubled expense account.

The move to forego their own

pay raise was led by Santa Cruz-area Supervisor Gary Patton, who voted earlier against the management pay raise.

"I have been feeling in a frugal mood lately and I personally feel it is not the time to raise our own salaries," Patton said.

"I concur," said San Lorenzo Valley Supervisor Fred Keeley. "Although, perhaps, the funds have been budgeted, it is important to consider the fiscal perils counties find themselves in these days."

The perils Keeley referred to include the worsening state budget picture. The state is the source of a lot of the county's revenue and the Legislature controls the counties' ability to raise local taxes and other revenues.

"I'm concerned that we are in difficult times and this is a small contribution to government," Supervisors' chairman Robley Levy said.