

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Supervisors' pay increase takes effect

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SANTA CRUZ — They didn't announce it at their weekly meeting Tuesday, but the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors got a pay hike this week. As part of an annual, mandated adjustment, the five supervisors saw their salaries rise by 8.4 percent, from \$38,812 in 1987 to \$42,072 in 1988.

In accordance with a board-passed law, supervisors' pay is pegged to Superior Court judges' — with one difference. The supervisors' annual increase is the same dollar amount as the judges', but is not necessarily the same percentage increase.

For instance, the judges, who are paid by the state, were granted a 4-percent pay raise for 1988 by the state legislature. Their annual salaries rose from \$81,505 to \$84,765. The increase of \$3,260 is the amount of the supervisors' automatic increase.

In 1987, Santa Cruz County supervisors' pay — which worked out to \$3,234 per month — ranked about mid-range among other Northern California counties, according to a survey by an association of taxpayers in Alameda County. In Santa Clara County, with nearly seven times the population of Santa Cruz County, supervisors were paid \$4,968 per month. In Monterey County — with an estimated 1987 population of 333,200 to Santa Cruz County's 220,000 — supervisors were paid \$3,434 per month. But in Marin County, with roughly the same population as Santa Cruz, supervisors were paid \$2,784 per month in 1987. In Contra Costa County, with an estimated population of 724,000, supervisors made only \$3,021 per month in 1987.

Santa Cruz County supervisors got an 11-percent pay increase in 1987.