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Ready to strike

Mike McCollum

About 100 Santa Cruz County employees rallied yesterday in front of the Watsonville Municipal Courthouse on Freedom Boulevard, threatening to strike Tuesday unless a contract agreement is reached. Talks between the Service Employees International Union, Local 415, and

county negotiators stalled last week, with employees voting to reject a 'final offer' by the county of a 2 percent increase. A state mediator was called in yesterday afternoon, and the two sides were still at the negotiating table at press time last night.