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County workers approve offer

The threat of the first formal strike of Santa Cruz County employees in history evaporated yesterday when workers approved a tentative agreement by a 3-1 margin.

Tim McCormick, general manager of Local 415 of the Service Employees International Union, said last night that nearly 700 of the local's 1,600 members cast votes on the new agreement, which was worked out with the aid of a mediator after the employees had rejected an earlier offer by the county and had vowed to strike if a new agreement wasn't

reached by last Friday.

McCormick said the agreement approved yesterday — which should be approved officially by the Board of Supervisors Tuesday — calls for a 6.7 percent raise over a period ending in April, 1993.

McCormick said it also calls for no increase in employee contributions to the health plan until next July, when the contribution of employees for dependents' coverage will go up 8 percent. McCormick said the contract also provides for additional holiday pay and longevity pay.