

# Del Mar agreement ratified

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A new contract with wage cuts will go into effect at Del Mar Frozen Foods even though a majority of the workers at the plant voted against the new contract this morning.

The vote of 64 against, 44 in favor, and two void, fell short of the required two-thirds majority vote required to reject the contract.

Sergio Lopez, secretary-treasurer of Teamsters Local 912, said the contract is ratified because of a provision in the International Teamsters bylaws which require a two-thirds vote when the company has declared the proposal to be its "final offer."

Lopez said 67 no votes would have been enough to reject the contract.

The new contract drops wages from \$7.06 to \$5.90 an hour. Lopez said the new three-year agreement keeps the Teamsters pension plan, maintains most benefits and slightly improves medical coverage.

Del Mar is the second company to gain concessions from workers. Richard A. Shaw Inc. recently settled the five-month-old strike against the plant with an agreement in which workers took a 17 percent wage cut to \$5.85 an hour, but also got a profit-sharing plan.

Prior to the final offer Lopez had said he believed the Del Mar operation would leave town if wages were not lowered. Lopez would not comment on how the Del Mar contract will affect other pending contracts in the frozen-food industry.

One such contract is with Watsonville Canning and Frozen Food Co., where 1,000 workers remain on strike after six months.

Del Mar, which processes fruit at its West Beach Street plant, employs 400 at its peak during autumn harvest. Lopez said the turnout for today's vote was so low because the plant is not operating at capacity at this time of year.

Prior to the vote this morning, a group of people opposing an immediate settlement gathered outside Del Mar at 8 a.m. and handed out literature urging a no vote and continued negotiations.

Police stood by, but there was no violence.