

Employees - City

SC Employes Okay 'Package'

City of Santa Cruz employes gave approval Wednesday night to an 8.2 per cent salary increase for fiscal 1974-75, approving a 'memorandum of understanding' with the city which also gives them an updated fringe benefits package.

The City Employes Assn. had asked a 12.5 per cent salary increase. Association President Fred Bettencourt called the tentative agreement a "fair package", estimating that between 80 and 85 per cent of the approximately 290 association members had voted in favor of the offer.

"I'm very pleased we've reached agreement without any major hassles," commented City Manager Dave Koester. "It was arrived at in a spirit of cooperation and good faith, and due to the rising cost of living

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it's only fair that the city employes do receive this compensatory adjustment," he said.

The city council is expected to finalize the agreement Tuesday. As a two-year memorandum of understanding, it is not yet a contract.

The association's requests were received Friday, and negotiations with Bettencourt, association attorney Robert Ludlow Jr. and city personnel director Kent Rice took place

Thursday.

Both sides called the agreement "adequate." It includes health program improvements with dental coverage in the second year of employment, improved vacation benefits, a new maternity leave clause, a 20-cent per hour night shift differential and other benefits.

The agreement doesn't include management, police or fire employees of the city.