



MENDOCINO COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE

NEWS RELEASE

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***THE MENDOCINO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
ACTS TO ACHIEVE WAGE CONCESSIONS FROM REMAINING EMPLOYEE BARGAINING UNIT***

Following 15 months of good faith negotiations, and several sessions with a State-appointed mediator in the past two weeks, on November 1, 2011, the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to move forward with a 12.5% wage reduction for employees represented by the County's largest bargaining unit, SEIU Local 1021.

The Board Chamber was filled to overflow capacity this morning as the Board of Supervisors took up the agenda item. *"This is a difficult day for everyone in Mendocino County. The financial condition, not only the present, but the future, is about to get worse,"* stated John Pinches, 3rd District Supervisor, and maker of the motion. Supervisor John McCowen seconded the motion stating, *"the County is still in a position where we are very seriously at risk financially. This action is necessary for the County to maintain its financial solvency."*

Also before the Board on today's agenda was a report from the Executive Office regarding the County's credit rating, impacted in part due to the County's delay in achieving the cost-reduction measures associated with projected employee wage concessions, potentially risking the County's ability to achieve cost-savings through the refinancing of the County's Certificates of Participation (COPs).

Today's action represents closure on wage concessions with the County's one remaining bargaining unit; all other bargaining units adopted wage concessions starting over a year ago. Under the terms of the agreement, SEIU members will experience a 12.5% ongoing reduction in salary.

In taking today's action Board members recognized the dedicated service provided by County employees and sought their understanding of the County's dire financial condition in light of the ongoing economic recession.

Released by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carmel J. Angelo".

Carmel J. Angelo, Chief Executive Officer