

**CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
BARGAINING UPDATE****D E C E M B E R 3 0 , 2 0 0 9****Critical Juncture**

Negotiations with the County took a turn for the worse this week. We felt progress had been made and had reached a critical juncture in negotiations where we expected an answer from the County decision makers on whether they would consider our informal proposal that would provide a framework for full agreement “sooner rather than later.”

Decision Makers Out of Town

The County’s representatives at the bargaining table said they could not respond to our concept proposal because anyone with authority in the County was out of town and not reachable. We were livid.

After hearing the County representatives repeat over and over again that they were confident a first MOU could be negotiated from scratch with us before January 1st, we proposed, and they agreed, to a very heavy bargaining schedule that included two full days of bargaining Christmas week and bargaining everyday the week before New Years, including bargaining on New Years Eve. What we didn’t understand when that schedule was agreed to, was that anyone with authority to reach a settlement would be out of town and unreachable the entire week between Christmas and New Years.

Bargaining On Hold

Without a response from the County to our proposals, negotiations were unable to move forward. At that point we told the County to let us know when we could go forward with any answers. The County told us not to expect a response until after the New Year Holiday. Bargaining for the rest of this week has now been cancelled while we await word from those on high. Negotiations will resume after the New Year holiday.

**IFPTE Local 21**

1182 Market Street

Phone: 415-864-2100

Suite 425

Fax: 415-864-2166

San Francisco, California 94102

E-mail: ccc@ifpte21.org