

# News Update

May 2015

Representing Public Employees in City of Colusa,  
City of Williams, City of Yuba City, Sutter and Yuba Counties

Volume XXX Issue V

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### Mission

### Statement

To represent and assist public employees in their quest to improve their wages and working conditions and to ensure their rights are protected.

## YUBA CITY CONTRACT DISPUTE

By Gary Stucky, Executive Director

Contract negotiations in Yuba City remain unresolved after a year of bargaining and good faith compromises by the Negotiations Committee. The City unilaterally imposed furloughs last year, even after Local #1 objected and reminded the City Council of their 3-year agreement. Now the City may impose retirement costs, a cap on the employer's health insurance contribution and also continue a portion (5%) of the furloughs. The City's initial economic proposal to provide no salary increase and for employees to pay retirement costs has not changed since

negotiations started. The City has also been unwilling to negotiate non-economic issues important to our members.

State mediation did not resolve the impasse. A majority of the City Council remains unwilling to negotiate in good faith even after a Fact-finding Panel determined that the City has adequate financial resources to stop the imposed furloughs without further concessions. Employees agreed to furloughs, starting back in 2009; they were scheduled to end last year. **Our members have a right to feel that their employer has been**

**dishonest in their dealings with employees regarding the furloughs.** The Council refused to stop the furloughs and have used the employees' goodwill against them by insisting that employees pay retirement costs in exchange for stopping the furloughs.

Further, the City claims to have a budget deficit; and therefore, cannot afford to treat their employees fairly. "The City has a history of creating budget deficits based upon projections to justify their position." Executive Director, Gary Stucky stated.

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## Pension changers' new term: 'crowd-out'

The State Worker by Jon Ortiz, April 29, 2015

**ATTENTION: THIS TIME THEY ARE COMING AFTER YOUR RETIREMENT BENEFITS.**

The next buzzword in California's episodic public

pension debate: "crowd-out." As in, "California Crowd-Out: How Rising Retirement Benefit Costs Threaten Municipal Services." It's the title of a new report issued by the conservative Manhattan Institute.

Leaders of the state pension-

change movement, including former San Diego City Councilman Carl DeMaio and Dan Pellissier, president of California Pension Reform, earlier this month met at Sacramento's Sterling Hotel for a presentation by the report's author, Stephen

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## SCEA Board

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Verena Garvin

**Vice President**

Pete Jensen

**Secretary/Treasurer**

Lorie Thomas

**Past President**

Ray Hogan

**Directors****Agriculture**

Michael Berry

**Assessor's Office**

Bob Buckner

**Auditor/Clerk/Treasurer**

John Floe

**Child Support Services**

Linda Trigueiro

**Development Services**

Vacant

**DA/Sheriff (Food Service)**

Clint Curry

**General Services**

Vacant

**Health Department**

Joyce Pope

Carrie Ozeran

**Mental Health**

Robert Ahu

Don Abel

**Probation Department**

Hayley Thompson

**Regional Housing Authority**

John Guanzon

**Social Services**

Susan Johnson

**Superior Court**

Melanie Inguanzo

## CCEA Board

**President**

Mitchell Maxwell

**Vice President**

Jeremy Cain

**Secretary/Treasurer**

Christa Drawver

**Director**

Mitchell Maxwell

**Director**

Phil Calkins

## Pension changers' new term: 'crowd-out'

(Continued from page 1)

Eide. DeMaio, a Republican, is teaming up with Chuck Reed, the Democratic former mayor of San Jose, on a yet-to-be-detailed pension overhaul for next year's ballot.

Eide writes that crowd-out happens when "retirement benefit costs grow at a rate above that of taxes, fees, and charges." Fewer cops on the street? Local park lawn a mess? Local library hours cut? Blame crowd-out, Eide says.

Sure, California's economy has rebounded. State government has a surplus. But cities, counties and schools statewide haven't seen the bounty, Eide writes, citing federal statistics that show local governments have added jobs and increased pay much more slowly than the private sector.

Now they face significantly bigger payments to the California Public

Employees' Retirement System and the California State Teachers' Retirement System to make up for fund investment losses and pensioners' longer-than-expected lifespans. Stockton and San Bernardino foreshadow that "when the next recession hits, more municipal bankruptcies will come," Eide's report states.

Don't be surprised if pension-change advocates seize on the local impact angle. Previous attempts to put pensions to a statewide vote took shots at union influence (tough in pro-union California), highlighted pension fund shortfalls (an eye-glazing accounting debate) and blamed pensions for school cuts (hard to prove during the Great Recession's widespread slash-and-burn budgets).

But versions of the crowd-out message worked in San Diego and San Jose, where DeMaio and Reed both backed voter-approved pension rollback measures in

2012. Their message: Core city services are giving way to pension costs.

Unions want none of it. Cut pensions, they contend, and the quality of employees will go down just as if you slashed wages. Beyond that, pensions, like pay, should be settled at the bargaining table, the unions say.

That's why about 150 union pickets marched outside the hotel during Eide's presentation and chanted, "Pension busting! That's disgusting!" The show of organized force at what amounted to an informational meeting may be enough to keep potential initiative underwriters from cutting checks to Team DeMaio-Reed. Nobody wants to spend \$10 million, minimum, on a loser.

Or maybe this time, the reformers are onto something: turning a statewide ballot measure into a vote on local budget priorities.

### Free Notary Services for Members

Business Agent Marie Clark

530 674-0185

The Union offers free notary services for members when you make an appointment. **I will not do signing documents (bank loans)**, but retirement paperwork, power of attorney, and requests for birth certificates are a few examples of the documents that I will notarize.

Please contact Marie Clark at the S/YCEA office if you would like further information or would like to **schedule an appointment** to have something notarized.



# New Prop 13 Reform with Promise: It Splits Business Interests

CityWatch by Danny Feingold, May 8, 2015

A broad-based coalition has launched an effort to reform Proposition 13, the 1978 law passed by voters that many critics believe imposed a fiscal stranglehold on the Golden State.

The strategy of the **“Make It Fair” coalition** is clear – to split the business community while keeping homeowners on the sidelines. In doing so, advocates have put themselves in a strong position to challenge what has been called the third rail of California politics.

“Make It Fair” is proposing a critical change to the state’s tax law: closing loopholes that have allowed commercial properties to be taxed at nearly the same level as they were in 1975 (tax rates for residential property would remain unchanged). The coalition claims that California could gain **an additional \$9 billion a year** if these loopholes are eliminated – revenue that could be used for schools, social services, affordable housing and a range of other needs that have been starved of funds since Prop. 13 went into effect.

And with homeowners protected from any tax increases, defenders of the status quo may find themselves in the uncomfortable position of arguing the case for why huge commercial property owners should continue to be taxed at rates that have hardly changed since Gerald Ford was president.

*For the full story and more information:*

<http://www.makeitfairca.com/>

## YCEA Board

**President**

Robin Timoszyk

**Vice President**

Ramona Mallonee

**Secretary**

Melinda Mangum

**Treasurer**

Stephanie Smith

**Past President**

John Houston

**Directors**

**Professional Unit**

Michele Kocher-CWS

Alex Hadley-Health Dept (Alternate)

**Supervisory Unit**

Vacant

**Technical Unit**

Norma Stone - Admin/Finance

**Court Unit**

Vacant

**Clerical/Office Unit**

Alicia Phillips-CWS

**Maintenance/Service Unit**

George Boyd-Bldg & Grounds



## Yuba City Board

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David Calonder

**Vice President**

Stephen Desa

**Secretary**

Greg Garvin

**Treasurer**

Tim Bybee

**City Hall Director**

Jose Villalobos

**Corporation Yard Director**

Harry Rodriguez

**Water/Waste Plants Director**

Dan Poe

## Paul & Deirdre Katz Scholarship

**Deadline: JUNE 12, 2015**



Paul and Deirdre Katz were two of the finest examples of Americans who lived lives of service to their communities and their country. At the same time they helped raise the American Labor Movement they raised a fine family and were still involved in community service as their grandchildren entered college. Public Employees Union Local One is proud to sponsor a limited number of scholarships each year in their name to distinguished applicants.

**For a scholarship application packet and a list of eligibility rules please visit our website and download an application today:**

<http://www.peu1.org>

*All entries must be postmarked on or before June 12, 2015 to be considered eligible for selection for a scholarship award for July 2015.*



**SYCEA**

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Yuba City, CA 95991

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Email: Local1@sycea.org

[sycea.org](http://sycea.org)

[peu1.org](http://peu1.org)

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- SCEA Site Rep Meeting**—*Thursday at noon* May 07  
*Held at the S/YCEA Union Office—SCEA Site Reps attended*
- YCEA Site Rep Meeting**—*Tuesday at noon* May 12  
*Held at the S/YCEA Union Office—YCEA Site Reps attended*
- SCEA Board of Directors' Meeting**—*Monday at noon* May 18  
*Canceled at this time. May be rescheduled at a later date.*
- Yuba City Rally**—*Tuesday at 5:15 PM* May 19  
*Held at City Hall in Yuba City—Local 1 members to attend (wear Local #1 T-shirts)*
- Local 1 Board Meeting**—*Tuesday at 7:30 PM* May 19  
*Held at the Walnut Creek Union Office—Local 1 Board members attend*
- Yuba City Board of Director's Meeting**—*Wednesday at 2:00 p.m.* May 20  
*Held at the S/YCEA Union Office—Yuba City Board members attend*
- YCEA Board of Directors' Meeting**—*Wednesday at noon* May 27  
*Held at the S/YCEA Union Office—YCEA Board members attend*



**SJVIA**

San Joaquin Valley  
Insurance Authority

[www2.co.fresno.ca.us/1010/sjvia/](http://www2.co.fresno.ca.us/1010/sjvia/)

## YUBA CITY CONTRACT DISPUTE

*(Continued from page 1)*

He noted further, "They are spending hundreds of thousands of dollars on consultants, new equipment, trips to Washington D.C., new vehicles and just about anything except our members."

We have attempted to resolve our differences through the bargaining

process. Since these efforts have failed, we will now battle the City publicly and through concerted activities. The Local #1 Board of Directors granted strike sanction at their meeting on April 21, after the City failed to provide justification for not granting the sanction. Subsequently, the membership voted to strike, while retaining authority to determine when and where.

Local #1 is holding a **Membership Rally at City Hall, 1201 Civic Center Blvd., Yuba City on Tuesday, May 19, starting at 5:15 PM. All Local #1 members are invited to attend and demonstrate your support for our Yuba City members (this is a Local #1 T-shirt event).** Staff will be addressing the City Council that evening, at the City Council meeting that starts at

6:00 PM. Please plan to attend. We need a strong show of support to demonstrate our members are seriously committed to securing a fair contract. We must ensure other employers in our area do not follow this employer's despicable example of bad conduct and mistreatment of employees.