



Sutter union OKs one-day strike

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Article Launched: 10/08/2008 08:33:23 AM PDT

A one-day strike by Sutter Solano Medical Center's non-nurse union members is likely inevitable, union officials said this week.

A Sutter Solano spokeswoman said the hospital can't afford to meet some of the union's demands.

"We understand that the vote was about 77 percent in favor of a strike, but we haven't gotten a strike notice, yet," said Chief Nurse Executive Kim Trumbull.

Angie Apodaca, Service Employees International Union United Healthcare Workers West member and Sutter Solano medical assistant, said about 80 percent of Sutter Solano's union members voted Oct. 1 to authorize a one-day strike. The next step is to select a strike date, she said.

"It looks inevitable," Apodaca said. "The only way to stop it would be for Sutter to move, but we've been bargaining since June."

Trumbull said there have been four bargaining sessions since June, and two more are scheduled.

At issue are "retirement with dignity, quality health care for employees," and other matters not addressed in the union's last contract, Apodaca said.

"We have goals we have not reached," she added.

Trumbull said that like the nurse's union before them, SEIU UHW members are trying to make all Sutter affiliate contracts the same, and that won't work.

"Some of their requests just aren't financially feasible for Sutter Solano," Trumbull said.

Also, minimum contracts with replacement worker agencies require a three-day minimum, so any one-day walk-out will actually wind up meaning a minimum of three days off the job for strikers, Trumbull said.

Sutter Solano joins several other Northern California Sutter affiliates in authorizing the walk-out, according to a union flyer. Several others were expected to vote this week, the flyer notes.

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