



# NEWS RELEASE

Contra Costa County  
**JOHN GIOIA** (joy-a)  
District One  
Board of Supervisors

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Contra Costa County Firefighter's Wage Agreement Expected to Save County Millions

**Contra Costa County, Calif.**, Contra Costa County Professional Firefighters Local 1230 voted to save the County \$6.2 million per year. At a vote taken this week, firefighters approved an amendment to their contract that will cut their salaries by 5% and will waive their right to a previously negotiated 5% salary increase. This contract will be extended through June 2014 and will have pension benefits up for discussion during summer 2012.

The agreement has received praise because it allows the County Fire District to maintain its same level of high service while preventing lay-offs. The department includes 300 firefighters and 29 fire engines, all of which will be kept because of the agreement. The agreement also helps close gaps in the budget.

"We commend our County firefighters for reopening their contracts in order to prevent stations from closing," said Supervisor John Gioia. "This helps the Fire District cut costs and will save more than \$6 million annually."

"I am proud of the willingness of our members to reach into their own pockets to help maintain our current level of service," President of Local 1230 Vince Wells commented. "We hope to continue to work with the Board of Supervisors as we find a way to replace the revenue lost by the decrease in property taxed to the District."

"Once again, our rank and file firefighters have collectively negotiated their own pay and benefit cuts to help meet the pressing financial need of our county fire district," said former County Supervisor and Assemblywoman Susan Bonilla. "Next time you see a firefighter, thank them for protecting your safety and for being personally committed to keeping your neighborhood fire station open."

The agreement is expected to go before the Board of Supervisors at their June 28<sup>th</sup> meeting to be voted on for final approval.

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