



Sutter, SEIU reach tentative accord

By Rachel Raskin-Zrihen/

Posted: 11/26/2009 01:30:18 AM PST

After a year and a half of sometimes bitter negotiation, officials of Sutter Solano Medical Center and its Services Employees International Union reached a tentative contract agreement late Monday.

The two sides issued statements expressing happiness over the results. Members of SEIU's United Healthcare Workers-West (SEIU-UHW), have been without a contract at Sutter Solano for 18 months.

"Our employees work hard to provide exceptional patient care," Sutter Solano CEO Terry Glubka said in a prepared statement. "We're pleased to reach tentative agreement on a new contract so they can get their well-deserved wage increases, especially in these tough economic times."

Sutter Solano workers will vote next Thursday on whether to ratify the contract, said union spokeswoman Adriana Surfas.

Surfas said the new contract "maintains high standards for patient care by retaining the facility's quality staff with 9.27 percent wage increases, compounded over the next three years." The contract also secures jobs with subcontracting protections and protects employer-paid health care, she said.

The agreement will cover nearly 200 SEIU-UHW members in a variety of positions, including operating room technicians, certified nurse assistants, certified phlebotomists and environmental services workers.

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