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El Dorado supervisors agree to cut budget by district

Published Friday, Feb. 06, 2009

El Dorado County supervisors agreed to cut the board's budget on a district-by-district basis, saying they hope to set an example as county departments face midyear budget reductions.

The board chose the individual approach over two other cost-cutting options, a 5 percent reduction in supervisors' salaries for the remainder of the fiscal year or a 7 percent reduction in services and supplies, either of which would have resulted in less than a 1 percent reduction in the total board budget.

Suzanne Allen de Sanchez, clerk of the board, said individual supervisors had identified cuts in their district budgets totaling nearly \$82,617, for a 5.21 percent reduction in the board's \$1.58 million 2008-09 budget.

Most supervisors said they will not seek reimbursement for mileage, conferences and other travel expenses. Some also have chosen to forgo various benefits or equipment purchases.

The board also supported a recommendation by Supervisor Jack Sweeney to develop uniform district budgets for 2009-10, with a differential for the District 5 supervisor, who must travel from the Tahoe basin. This year's district budgets range from \$191,407 to \$245,320. Establishing a uniform amount of \$200,000 or less, Sweeney said, would reduce the board's overall budget by about 6.5 percent.

– Cathy Locke

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