

Orange County's news source



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Governor halts bus strike in Orange County

Coach operators cannot strike for at least seven days.

By ELLYN PAK

THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

Citing a potential disruption of bus services, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger today ordered the investigation of a wage dispute between the Orange County Transportation Authority and its bus drivers.

By stepping in, the governor ensured that it would be illegal for a strike to occur for one week.

Members of union Teamsters Local 952 say the OCTA failed to meet demands over a new contract, which expires at midnight.

The OCTA had asked the Governor's Office to implement a cooling-off period and appoint a board to investigate the dispute.

Bus drivers had geared up for a potential strike on Tuesday, depending on the governor's response.

A strike would "significantly disrupt public transportation services and endanger the public health, safety or welfare for residents of the greater Orange County area," according to the governor, in a letter to board members he appointed to investigate the matter.

The OCTA offered its 1,100 coach operators a 13-percent increase in wages and benefits over a three-year span, a proposed increase that union members said was not sufficient.

The county's buses carry about 200,000 people per day.

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