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Judge derails Screen Actors Guild-studios negotiations

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A judge denied a request Tuesday by **Screen Actors Guild** president and three board members to block talks between the union and the **Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers**.

SAG President Alan Rosenberg and three other board members, Anne-Marie Johnson, Diane Ladd, and Kent McCord, hope to overturn a board of directors vote last week that ousted the union's top negotiator, Doug Allen, and disbanded the SAG's negotiating committee.

Rosenberg and the three other board members contend that the actions taken by the board violated California's corporate code. SAG has not released any word on whether it is funding the petitions Rosenberg and the three other board members are taking to court.

SAG intends to file again on Thursday morning, correcting what the Los Angeles Superior Court judge called procedural errors in SAG's filing. Variety reported Wednesday that SAG will call a meeting on Sunday. No word was given on the content of the meeting. But with SAG's New York and Los Angeles offices in strife and a pending strike that has been brewing for months, any meeting among SAG board members may be heated.

SAG said earlier this week it intended to meet with the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers in Sherman Oaks to discuss labor contracts. But the court proceedings brought by Rosenberg and the three board members are pushing that meeting back.

SAG represents more than 120,000 actors who work in the film and television industry. The union was established in 1933 and has 20 branches in the U.S. Its national headquarters is in Los Angeles. The Alliance of Motion Picture & Television Producers is based in Sherman Oaks.

Santa Clarita reports good filming news, but a SAG strike would have impact

The news comes just as The City of **Santa Clarita Film office** reported more film days and higher economic impact in January 2009 than in any month on record.

The office reported Tuesday a total of 84 film days in the month, a 265 percent increase when compared to January 2008 when the city hosted 23 film days.

Location filming for the month resulted in more than \$2.3 million in economic benefit to Santa Clarita businesses, compared to January 2008 when \$367,500 in economic impact was reported. The City of Santa Clarita Film Office issued 25 permits in January 2009, compared to 24 permits in January 2008.

Location filming in Santa Clarita contributes to an estimated \$13.5 million in economic impact locally in the first seven months of Fiscal Year 2008-2009, which runs from July through June.

In a written statement, Santa Clarita stated that it is happy about the January numbers but remains realistic about the looming SAG strike and the weakening economy.

Currently, HBO's "Big Love," CBS's "NCIS" and "The Unit," and Discovery Channel's "Doing Da Vinci" are being shot in Santa Clarita. "24," "Heroes," "House," "Wipeout," and "My Name is Earl," regularly film on location in Santa Clarita. In January, Santa Clarita hosted several small budget feature film days and commercials.

Should SAG union members strike, Santa Clarita figures will decline as the industry is impacted.