Board OKs Green Technology Center bid

Cuts made to bring project closer to budget

By TOVIN LAPAN
tlapan@santacruzsentinel.com

APTO'S — After details of the design for the planned Green Technology center in Watsonville were adjusted to lower the total cost, the Cabrillo College Board unanimously approved a bid for construction Monday.

In September bids were received for the 14,000 square-foot student education center, which the board estimated would cost $5 million to build. The plan for the building called for it to be a LEED platinum-level green building, which because of the cost of special materials among other things, added between $500,000 and $1.5 million to the cost of construction, according to the nine bids received.

The lowest bid, from Dilbeck & Sons of Salinas, came in at just over $6.08 million and was approved by the board with the understanding that $500,000 in cost-cutting measures had been identified.

Cabrillo’s Facilities Development Senior Project Manager Paul Anderson worked with the architect, Peter Kasavan of Salinas, and the departments who would be most involved with the center’s use to adjust the plan to reduce costs without sacrificing the building’s green certification or functionality for the students and teachers.

“We did not cut any of the items that contributed to our points for our submission for LEED certification,” Anderson said. “You don’t know until you submit all the paper work if you’ll get the certification or not, so we wanted to keep the little cushion there was.”

Instead of a metal roof that should last a lifetime, the building will now have a light-colored asphalt shingle roof that has an expected life span of 20 to 30 years. Additionally, plans to install wind turbines on top of a trellis in an arbor between two buildings at the site have been cut, among other reductions.

“We worked the plans so that if additional funds become available we can add things back into the design as long as we haven’t passed that point in construc-

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tion,” Anderson said.

In all $340,000 in cuts were identified to be removed from construction, while Cabrillo staff pinpointed an additional $220,000 in reductions to the original overall budget that can be made.

Cabrillo College and Watsonville officials closed escrow on the purchase of the old Union street Watsonville Library site in July 2008. The library, which is now located in the city’s new Civic Plaza on Main Street, has since been demolished and the land is prepared for construction of the Green Technology Center that will be used to educate students on the practices of green building.

The district received a $2.5 million grant from the Economic Development Agency for the project, and the grant was augmented by $865,000 to help fund the project to achieve a LEED platinum level green building certification. The budget will be augmented $520,000 from Measure D funds, a bond passed in 2004.

In other business the board approved increasing the amount of a temporary fund transfer request from the Santa Cruz County treasurer from $8 million to $10 million. The change was made in light of the continued delays in passing a state budget, which has left Cabrillo without state funding to start the current fiscal year.