STATE BUDGET CUTS

Cabrillo continues
for future cuts

College will lose $4 million in state money

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APTOS — The Cabrillo College Board of Trustees and administration started the long process toward addressing the ramifications of severe budget cuts Monday.

In January, Gov. Jerry Brown proposed cutting $100 million from the statewide community college budget, in addition to many other cuts proposed to make up a projected $23.4 billion shortfall.

Cabrillo’s portion of that cut would be approximately $4 million.

To help offset that reduction, there would be a $10 per credit unit increase in student fees, bringing the total to $36 per credit unit. That increase would provide $1.1 million in additional revenue to Cabrillo, and $110 million to the community college system as a whole.

Planning ahead, however, is hampered by the fact the budget is in flux.

“The state budget is very volatile,” said to Victoria Lewis, Cabrillo’s vice president of administrative services. “We need to plan for several outcomes.”

Every Cabrillo department will prepare three proposals for reducing costs, for best case, mid-range and worst-case scenarios.

Under the best case scenario the 2011-2012 budget deficit at Cabrillo would be $4.2 million and more than $10 million in the worst case scenario, according to Lewis.

Even as more details of Brown’s budget become clear, much is still uncertain. Part of the governor’s plan involves asking voters in June to extend certain sales and income taxes for five more years. If the measure is not approved, the cuts to community colleges, and other services, could be much deeper.