

SCOTTS VALLEY

Cabrillo College pulls out of Town Center expansion plans

Board agrees now is not time for growth

By **KIMBERLY WHITE**

kwhite@santacruzsentinel.com

SCOTTS VALLEY — Talks about building a new satellite campus at the planned Town Center in Scotts Valley died Monday night after Cabrillo College's Board of Governors agreed now is not the time to move forward with an expansion.

"The new space is a casualty of the budget cutting from Sacramento," Brian King, the college's president, said Tuesday. "The board decided that, as great as the city was to work with, it's not the time to expand facilities with the looming specter of budget cuts."

Gov. Jerry Brown's budget plan includes trimming \$400 million from the state's community college system, although those cuts could double if tax extensions don't make it to the ballot or are voted down.

Mayor Dene Bustichi said he was "disappointed and surprised" at the news that Cabrillo has decided not to move forward with the plans, saying that college representatives had not previously said anything about financial

problems during talks about the lease agreement, which started last fall.

Until recently, it appeared likely the college and city would sign an agreement for

the roughly 9,000-square-foot site on Kings Village Road, next to the new library that's expected to open this summer.

If an agreement had been

signed, the college would've closed its smaller satellite campus on Whispering Pines Drive, which opened in fall 2007. Councilman Randy Johnson, who sits with Bus-

tichi on the city's economic development subcommittee, estimated Cabrillo leases that space for \$161,000 per year. It's not clear if the state budget crunch will affect that

campus.

Meanwhile, Bustichi said other entities have expressed interest in the Town Center site, but "there are no solid leads yet."