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Lockheed submits new proposal

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SANTA CRUZ — Three months after being denied a grading permit, Lockheed Missiles and Space Co. has renewed its plans to construct a manufacturing building.

The Sunnyvale-based electronics firm submitted plans in March to the county Planning Department for a building permit, said senior planner Sue Williamson.

Lockheed's new application is for a permit to build a manufacturing plant of 15,600 square feet, said Williamson. The plans call for grading 7,300 cubic yards of material and removing about 30 trees, she

added.

Last July, Lockheed applied for a grading permit to clear an area at its Empire Grade facility, where officials hoped to build a manufacturing plant for a D-5 building. The company has a contract with the Navy to build a component of the Trident nuclear missile.

Lockheed had sought to grade about 14,600 cubic yards of material for a building approximately 31,000 square feet.

The plans generated organized opposition from a loose-knit group of peace advocates calling themselves Citizens for Industrial Accountability.

After two public hearings before the

Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors, the permit was denied.

Much of the environmental controversy centered on the 100 trees that would have been removed by the grading.

Although Lockheed's plans are smaller in scale than before, they could be just as controversial. Doug Rand, of the Citizens for Industrial Accountability, said, "We definitely plan on challenging this if it comes before the Board."

Because of the size of the grading, Williamson said, the project falls under a "level 3" permit, which only requires a decision by staff, not by public hearing.

However, Lockheed must overcome a county ordinance which prohibits substantially the same project from being reconsidered within 12 months of denial, she said. The Board of Supervisors voted to deny the project Jan. 9.

Williamson said she will advise the board within the month on the new application. Ultimately the board will have to decide whether the application is substantially the same as before or not, she added.

The board, however, also could take the issue up as a special consideration.