

State okays money for wharf

Capitola won a \$597,400 commitment from the state Wildlife Conservation Board Thursday to rebuild the city wharf.

City manager Steve Burrell told the city council Thursday night that the board approved the city's application for a 75 percent share of the wharf renovation costs.

Under the agreement, Capitola will have to pay up to \$149,350 of the project costs, with the state and federal governments paying the remainder of the total construction costs, up to a ceiling of \$597,400.

Burrell went to Sacramento earlier Thursday, armed with

a preliminary engineering estimate of the wharf's condition and a rough estimate of the repair costs, all prepared by the Southern California engineering firm of Brown and Caldwell.

The survey shows that 68 or approximately one-quarter of the existing pilings should be replaced, along with pile caps stringers, decks, handrailing, and the utility systems.

Burrell said the engineers believe that 30 percent of the deck — 8000 square feet — needs to be replaced.

The estimate also includes money for a public restroom on the wharf, to be included in one of the concession

buildings, but paid for and maintained by the city.

"To someone going out there to fish," Burrell told the council, it will look like a new wharf."

Burrell said the initial estimates prepared by Brown and Caldwell were more than \$700,000. "They were inflated because they included engineering estimates for Phases II and III — yet to be negotiated — plus a very large contingency.

Cost of the actual construction, Burrell said, is \$497,000 with the remainder of the \$597,400 estimate consisting of engineering costs and contingencies.

"I feel confident that we can do it for under \$600,000," Burrell said.

The city manager has worked on wharf renovation projects before, coming from the city of San Clemente where the municipal wharf was completely reconstructed with a WCB grant.

The San Clemente wharf was a larger project, but with inflation, the Capitola grant is "the third largest grant they have ever made," Burrell said, referring to the state action.

"They were quite impressed with our ability to use the

shuttle bus.

"The report from the Department of Fish and Game showed 'good' fishing' when rated on a scale of excellent, good, fair and terrible," Burrell said.

Burrell wants to negotiate for two weeks with Brown and Caldwell on the price for Phase II — preparing the detailed construction drawings — before making any recommendation to the council.

But even with the delay, he believes the project can be ready for bid by the end of April.

The council agreed with Burrell's request for a delay.