

New low bid for Aptos cityhood EIR \$51,773

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The report required for the drive toward incorporating Aptos will cost \$51,773, a number cityhood proponents said is within their reach.

"I didn't expect it much lower than this," Aptos Incorporation Group chairman Kelly Walker said this morning after hearing the low bid for the environmental impact report required for the incorporation process.

Incorporation proponents, who have had trouble raising money in the past, said the \$94,000 low bid submitted in 1991 was more than they could raise.

They asked for new bids this year, hoping a consulting firm could use the "free" information in the recently completed county General Plan and submit a lower bid.

"We're being given an opportunity," Walker said. "This is a number we can possibly raise." And if the money can't be raised, Walker said, it will be an indication that people are not interested enough in cityhood to donate.

The \$51,773 bid is from Quad Consultants of Sacramento, the same firm that submitted the low bid two years ago. There were two other bids: \$61,600 from Duncan and Jones of Berkeley, and \$74,920, from LSA Associates of

Point Richmond.

The bids were opened today by Pat McCormick, executive director of the Local Agency Formation Commission, which oversees the incorporation process.

McCormick said he was pleased the bids were so low. "It means the value of the existing EIR (for the county General Plan) is about \$40,000," he said.

It will be up to LAFCO commissioners to determine how much time the Incorporation Group will have to raise the money, McCormick said. LAFCO's next meeting is Jan. 5.

McCormick has not reviewed details of the bids, but he "pre-qualified" all nine firms he asked to submit bids. Quad Consultants has done a number of studies in the Central Valley, McCormick said.

LAFCO charges a 10 percent processing fee, so the Incorporation Group will have to raise \$56,950. McCormick will prepare a financial feasibility study at the same time the consultants work on the EIR.

Both studies are required before the question of incorporation can be submitted to the voters in the proposed city of 25,000.

Walker said the Incorporation Group plans to solicit donations in a door-to-door campaign, beginning in early January.