

City Hall

City Officials, Employees — And Public — Take A Shine To New City Hall Annex

By Don Righetti
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Several Santa Cruz city departments, now into their second week in the new city hall annex, are beginning to get the feel of their new home.

And they like it.

There have been surprisingly few difficulties in the change to the handsome new building, and all the affected department heads are entranced with the spaciousness and arrangement of their new quarters.

Said Public Works Director Bill Fieberling, "It's just like we planned it. We finally have the proper amount of room, and I'm beginning to like it more and more.

"There's much more room for the engineers, inspectors and field people, and the conference rooms are a real convenience.

"The whole arrangement is much more convenient," Fieberling continued. "The engineers are separate from the surveyors now, so there aren't people walking through the offices all the time disturbing others who are trying to get some work done."

The director also noted that the new building contains quarters for the sanitation crew foreman, the general foreman of sewers and flood control and the superintendent of streets and equipment.

"There men had tiny desks or none at all in the old building," he said. "They often worked off cabinet tops."

Planning Director Neal Walton was enthusiastic in his praise of the new quarters.

"We have not so much more space, but a more effective use of space.

"I feel a new enthusiasm in my work and

think the other people do, too. We have facilities, such as the conference rooms, which we never had before. There is a library of technical publications and periodicals separated from the other offices.

"I think it's a fine addition to the civic center area from the standpoint of appearance — fitting in with the other buildings in the vicinity," he concluded. "And I think the people of Santa Cruz will enjoy it."

Walter Keller, superintendent of inspection services, said, "I'm very happy with the building itself and the amount of space we have here."

Keller's division has twice as much room as it did in its offices in the municipal auditorium building.

"The basic advantage is that the building division and planning department share the same facilities so that customers find it much more convenient to process applications.

"The layout of the building itself makes it much more usable by the public. People used to spend a lot of time running between the building, planning and engineering offices."

Keller thinks the public is well pleased with the new building, but he sees a time when complaining may arise from taxpayers who have to climb a flight of stairs to get to his office. There is no elevator in the two-story building.

Assistant Director of Finance and Records Ron Beach described the new facility in a word: "Great!"

He too is most pleased with the efficient arrangement of the building's space. He noted that financial documents which previously were carried to three different offices are now handed from one desk to another.

He said the new telephone arrangement is also

a help. Phone numbers at the new building are more selective with different extensions for specific offices.

The old system was more disruptive to work, he said, when "buzzers used to go off all over the place" each time the phone rang.

The financial section has uncovered some problems in the new building — such as a lack of some partitions — and its members are keeping systematic track of them. Beach said they wanted to make sure real problems existed before they attempted to correct them.

He said there was little difficulty in the move to the new building — most of the section's reams of records were packed well ahead of time, and there were only a few items even momentarily mislaid in the switch.

Beach said the biggest current problem in the new building was the lack of proper sign identification of the various sections. He said the public was having a tough time finding the different offices, but that the situation would be corrected shortly.

Water Department Director Weston Webber likes the building fine.

"We used to be jammed in with records and finance and had a lot of extra traffic through our offices that we don't have now. We even have a little room to expand over here."

He reported there were initial difficulties in adjusting the heating and air conditioning systems, but that those problems were presently being corrected.

Webber also stated the move to the new facility went very smoothly and there was little difficulty finding things after the switchover.

He said all the comments from the public he has heard have been favorable to the new building.

Bad Check