

# Bids on transit center over budget

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Bids for construction of the Watsonville Transit Center will probably be rejected this Friday by the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District board of directors because all of the bids are too high.

District General Manager Scott Galloway and Ed Van der Zande, the district's redevelopment director, are recommending that the plans for the new Transit Center — at West Lake and Rodriguez Streets — be sent back to architect Robert D. Corbett for redesign.

If the directors accept the staff recommendation, the project will

be set back three months with the next bid award date set for Dec. 17.

The district had budgeted \$1.4 million to convert the old Crocker Bank building and the adjacent property into a transit center. But when the bids were opened, the lowest bid — from Daniels and House Construction Co. of Monterey was \$1.62 million.

The other bids included:

James Rosewall Construction of Watsonville — \$1.726 million.

Gary Thomas Construction of Gilroy — \$1.8 million.

Nibbi Brothers of San Francisco — \$1.806 million.

Watsonville Construction — \$1.875 million.

Tombleson, Inc. of Salinas — \$1.883 million.

Van der Zande said that even when all of the extra-bid items were removed from the bids, the lowest bid was still over budget.

The redevelopment director's memo to the transit director recommends that the project be redesigned with several items removed, including:

- Do not develop the Alexander parcel which is currently being used as the temporary transit center. The lot would be used, instead, for drive-through bus traffic to West Beach Street and for on-site parking without making improvements such as a pavilion,

south colonnade, south portal, shelter, planter, landscaping and sidewalk improvements.

- Reduce the thicknesses of the curb, sidewalk and pavement thicknesses throughout the project. Also eliminate concrete pigment.

- Reduce the maintenance building on the site.

- Eliminate air conditioning in the terminal. There will still be ventilation units and windows.

- Eliminate the landscape sprinkler system, if allowed by the city. Van der Zande said the drought-resistant landscaping only needs one or two years of watering before it is permanently established.