

Valley Press

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Library planning gets underway

The future Boulder Creek Library moved one step closer to realization last week when the County Administrative Office sent Requests for Qualifications (RFQs) to licensed architects, relative to design of the library building.

Architects responding by Nov. 2 will be eligible to participate in the selection process, which will terminate on Nov. 24, when the Board of Supervisors and City Council select the winner. The RFQ details the basic guidelines for consideration in the design of the library.

It will be a 4,600 usable square-foot building, fully accessible to the handicapped, with expansion provisions for additional stacks and study areas, on a site of approximately 40,000 square feet. A parking minimum of 40 spaces for staff, handicapped and delivery, with shelf provisions for 20,000 volumes are specified.

There will be 3,075 square feet serving the public. This will include the entry and circulation desk areas, the adult reading room and the children's room. The remaining 1,525 square feet will be devoted to service areas, which will include 600 square feet for a meeting room and 225 square feet for rest rooms.

The RFQ emphasizes that the 800 square foot children's section "is the gateway to a lifelong friendship between children and books" and must therefore be as inviting and friendly as possible. The room should be designed to a scale appropriate to the size of children, it should be sound-proof,

and a story hour space should be provided.

At the direction of Fifth District Supervisor Joe Cucchiara the RFQ specifies that the expanding audio-visual state-of-the-art must be taken into consideration in the building design, so that future advances may be accommodated without major renovation.

The RFQ also directs the attention of interested architects to the septic constraints existent at the building site on Highway 9 at West Park, stating that the design must provide for maximum water conservation, possible graywater recycling, and eventual sewer hookup.

Additionally, it must provide maximum energy efficiency through the use of natural light and the application of solar techniques, and also must provide for future expansion through modular design. The RFQ further states that landscaping, pedestrian access and interiors, exclusive of moveable furniture, are part of the design contract.

Community participation in the design process is ensured by the requirement that the selected architect will conduct three public workshops and will respond appropriately to the needs and desires of the community with respect to functional and aesthetic aspects of the project.

Final design approval by the city and county is tentatively scheduled for March 9, 1982, with ground breaking by July 14, 1982.