

# Green Sheet

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## County's about to lose \$1.2 million jail grant

By BOB SMITH

The state may strip Santa Cruz County of a \$1.2 million grant to build a new county jail.

County supervisors voted Tuesday morning to delay action on a proposal from Sheriff Al Noren to convert the old County Hospital complex on Emeline Street into a detention facility and offices for the Sheriff's Department until architectural and engineering studies are completed.

The action prompted Richard Cunningham, executive director of the California Council on Criminal Justice, to warn supervisors that he will recommend Friday to the council that it revoke the \$1.2 million grant made to Santa Cruz County last year to build a detention facility across Water Street from the county governmental center in Santa Cruz.

Cunningham had met with supervisors earlier Tuesday, discussing the impending action by the state council to revoke the Santa Cruz County grant and allocate the money to other counties with projects ready to go to bid.

Cunningham said he is acting under a federal deadline to use the money before Oct. 1, 1979 — one year from now.

The only project Cunningham said he feels can be underway in time to beat the federal deadline is the Water Street facility.

But even if the county retains its

original \$1.2 million grant, the county is still short an estimated \$1.2 million to build the \$7.1 million Water Street project.

Cunningham outlined a strategy for the supervisors to follow. On Oct. 11, the county could make a plea to an allocation committee, asking that the original grant be restored and additional money from a \$1.6 million funding pool now held by the state council be given to Santa Cruz County.

Supervisors were receptive to Cunningham's proposal, but wanted to delay one week to give architect John P. Manacheck time to complete engineering studies on the possibility that the old county hospital could be renovated into a jail.

"The present building could contain all programs required in the original detention facility (Water Street), plus 10,000 square feet for sheriff's offices and 1,250 square feet for the sheriff's patrol bureau," Manacheck said.

The top floor of the two-story building could be remodeled into cells or dormitories for 70 beds. The ground floor would contain 33 beds, plus a small courtroom for arraignments, and offices for the Sheriff's Department.

The basement would continue to house the kitchens, the patrol bureau, cafeteria, program activity rooms and outdoor recreational areas.

But there is a problem with the

conversion of the building into a jail.

The building was originally built using federal Hill-Burton funds and if the building is converted from a medical facility, the county has to repay the money.

County Supervisor Dan Forbus said the idea was briefly explored in 1975-76 and it was learned that the cost then would be \$2.3-\$2.4 million in county money repaid to the federal government.

Supervisor Marilyn Liddicoat also asked Manacheck why his firm wasn't considering the possibility of adding another floor to the building and putting the jail on top of the present medical center.

Manacheck said jail building costs were currently \$150 a square foot and for the 17,000 square feet on one floor, the cost would be prohibitive — \$2,550,000.

Forbus rejected the idea of converting the hospital. "When we have it done, we still don't have a jail, only something we would pass off as a jail and it would cost as much as one."

Cunningham also suggested that the Santa Cruz county supervisors explore the idea that the new Monterey county jail be expanded into a regional jail, serving both counties.

If Santa Cruz County was willing to do that, he said, he would try to retain the \$1.2 million federal grant in the two county area.

The idea was quickly rejected by the supervisors.

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