

SC Convention Center Plans



Members of the Santa Cruz Convention Center's Joint powers authority appeared pleased with preliminary drawings of the facility presented by Architect Al Dreyfus. To the right in the pictured drawing is the convention center proper. At left is a theater building which may be added in the future.

Members of the Santa Cruz Convention Center's joint powers authority took a look at preliminary drawings of the facility Thursday and appeared to be pleased with the plans.

Architect Al Dreyfus was at the meeting to explain the drawings.

Dreyfus noted an "outside feeling" will be achieved in the big building by wide use of glass and numerous outdoor entrances.

The entire building will enclose 50,000 square feet, and the 24,000-square-foot exhibit hall will seat some 2000 persons for dining or 3000 at meetings.

The remainder of the floor space would be taken up by a lobby, which would contain administrative offices; four smaller meeting rooms divisible into various areas; a catering kitchen and storage space.

Tentative future plans call for construction of a separate theater building to augment the center, Drefus pointed out, but the center is being designed to serve as a functional unit by itself.

One area of indecision is the point at which to construct the hall's main entrance and lobby. Dreyfus said the structure would look best on the Pelton Avenue side of the structure to break up the massive appearance of the big building's south wall. He noted, however, there are obvious advantages in having the entrance face the site of the proposed theater.

Until such time as the theater is built, its five-acre site probably will be used for parking.

Authority members made no suggestions for major changes in the plans.

In general, Santa Cruz City Manager Dave Koester told the meeting, progress on the center is proceeding rapidly. One big hangup, however, is a decision on the \$900,000 federal grant which the authority has requested.

Local officials have received no word on the application from federal representatives, and planning on the center has reached the point at which a ruling is essential.

County Supervisor Russ McCallie said, "It's becoming a critical thing in our timetable."

Koester said federal representatives are due in Santa Cruz within a few days to look over the convention center site, and that further word of the application might be available at that time.

The local authority approved the second draft of the over-all agreement between the authority and the Lighthouse Point Development Company and agreed to meet next Tuesday to sign the final draft. (See story on Page 5.)

