

Library—And Finances —In Tip-Top Shape

12-14-66

The financial status of two Santa Cruz city library projects is so rosy that city councilmen last night decided to match "first class" structures with "first class" interiors—and still have money left over when construction is completed.

Presented to the council was an extensive financial summary and change order report, prepared by City Manager David Koester.

In essence, the report stated there is more than enough money to include items dropped earlier in the fear costs would exceed funds.

Koester said the main library building in the downtown area "is progressing on schedule with a minimum of problems," but that "the eastside branch is not progressing as quickly as anticipated" and "is about six weeks behind schedule."

The financial picture for both, however, "is a bright one since more than enough funds are available to complete the projects with a surplus . . ."

Koester said that \$38,059 should remain in the central library contingency fund at the end of construction, and about \$18,412 in the eastside branch fund. In addition to the combined total of \$56,500, he said, "there is to be about \$70,000 in earned interest accumulated before the project is completed."

He suggested that the total of \$126,471 "be utilized to retire the bonds when the project is completed."

Koester explained the bright financial picture by stating: "We were lucky to advertise for bids after the bottom fell out of the money market due to interest rate increases. Construction, in general, took a severe dip which forced the bidders to be very competitive in their bidding. We were the beneficiaries."

Change orders approved and anticipated, he said, "for the most part are changes that add or improve items and materials that were changed prior to bid due to the belief of the architect that costs would exceed the budget."

The changes suggested, in Koester's opinion, "will enhance the beauty of the buildings, reduce long range maintenance costs and improve the functional use of these buildings." The total cost of change orders—for items such as earth fill, purely mechanical items, furnishings and the like—will be about \$71,219.

The council approved suggested change orders and also authorized Koester to handle future change orders that will cost less than \$8000, in order "to eliminate a lot of paper work, and to save council meeting time by keeping minor changes off the council agenda."

Washington (AP) — Former President Dwight D. Eisenhower, doing well after removal of his gall bladder, may be home for Christmas at Gettysburg, Pa.

A
a
p
co
8