

✓ CABRILLO COLLEGE r 12 6/24/87

Cabrillo campus at La Manzanana approved

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Cabrillo College won the approval yesterday of the Watsonville City Council for its plans to open a satellite campus at the La Manzanana complex downtown.

Mayor Betty Murphy and Councilman Vido Deretich had both been concerned about the college moving into buildings designed for commercial use, but after discussing their concerns with Cabrillo President Robert Agrella, went along with the rest of the council in approving the college's plans.

Agrella told the council, which was meeting as the Redevelopment Agency, that Cabrillo plans to lease 2,600 square feet of La Manzanana office space to be used as three classrooms, offices and a reception area. The Cabrillo administration and board thought the college would be an asset to downtown redevelopment, he said.

La Manzanana is a perfect location for college classes, Agrella said, because it has adequate parking, offers favorable rental rates and has good security and a pleasant ambiance. The downtown location should also

help Cabrillo's recruitment of Hispanic students, he said.

Councilman Tony Campos, calling La Manzanana a "white elephant," said he supported Cabrillo's plans, and sees the addition of the college classes as "a big step forward" for redevelopment because it will create more activity downtown.

Councilman Rex Clark said he thinks Cabrillo will help to attract more businesses to La Manzanana.

But Councilman Deretich told Agrella he was worried that if the college expands its Watsonville program, students and staff will use all the available

parking in the area, leaving no spots for customers and employees of nearby stores.

"It would be better that if you are going to grow that you go elsewhere," Deretich said. He asked Agrella for the "common courtesy" of agreeing not to take up everyone else's parking.

Agrella agreed.

The mayor was concerned about how big the college's La Manzanana program might get. She said she was afraid the city would lose a substantial amount of sales and property taxes if the college ends up taking over much of La Manzanana.

"I don't think looking at La Manzanana as eventually becoming a college campus does anything for the funding of the redevelopment district," Murphy said. She asked Agrella how much space the college might be expected to use down the line.

If the Watsonville program is successful, Cabrillo could use 3,600 square feet within three years, Agrella said. Beyond that, he said he couldn't make any commitment without discussing it with the Cabrillo governing board.

Agrella then offered a commitment that the college would

not expand more than 4,500 square feet at La Manzanana without coming back to the city for support.

"You would do that?" Murphy asked.

"Absolutely," Agrella responded.

"We can put that in the minutes?" the mayor asked, somewhat in disbelief.

"Absolutely," Agrella said.

With that, Murphy was satisfied, and called for the vote on a motion to allow the college to put its classrooms in La Manzanana.

The council was unanimous in its support.