

Symons loses first attempt to cut government spending

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Santa Cruz County Supervisor Walt Symons, who ran on a platform of cutting government spending, lost his first bid to reduce costs this morning.

Symons, who took office last week, suggested a report on the county's solid waste management program would be done by the county staff instead of by an outside consultant for \$33,000.

"I think it can be performed by our own employees," said Symons of the report, which requires some technical data for development of a program to inform the public about changes in the county's solid-waste dis-

posal programs.

"We don't have the resources to do it" in-house, Planning Director Dan Shaw said. The contract already calls for the county staff to help the consultant, which helps keep the cost to \$33,000, Shaw said.

Supervisor Fred Keeley, who has served on committees about solid-waste programs, said the \$33,000 for the consultant is "money well-spent. There will be some real-world changes" in solid-waste disposal.

Supervisors voted 4-1 to give the contract to Christine Macias, of La Selva Beach.

— Lane Wallace