

Retrofitting project on tap at fire stations

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A \$900,000 project to retrofit the three fire stations in Aptos and La Selva Beach to withstand earthquakes will get underway next month with the opening

APTOS of a new round of construction bids for the "seismic retrofit" of 65-year-old Station No. 3 in La Selva.

Directors of Aptos/La Selva Fire Protection District voted unanimously earlier this month to move ahead with the La Selva project, budgeted to cost around \$425,000. Work will take place over the summer with completion scheduled for Aug. 6.

Because the work involves removal of the firehouse roof, fire-fighters, fire engines and other equipment will be moved to temporary quarters for about three months, according to Fred Malm-lund, district business manager. District staff members are seeking a suitable rental house.

The fire station was built in 1930 for the largely volunteer La Selva Beach Fire Department, which merged with Aptos in 1985.

This is the second attempt to get construction off the ground. Work originally was scheduled for last year, but bids came in higher than expected and the county building permit process took longer than anticipated.

The project has been reengi-

neered to cost less, Malm-lund reported. In addition, work will take place without a general contractor, saving a 10-15 percent markup, he said. DCMI, a Capitola construction management firm, will oversee individual contractors.

The La Selva station is located within a heavily used community clubhouse-library complex in a residential area. Director Michael Weatherford urged Fire Chief Tom Crosser to conduct the project with minimal disruption to neighbors.

Directors also authorized Mesi-ti-Miller Engineering Inc., of Santa Cruz to prepare final construction and bidding documents for similar work on Station No. 1 on Soquel Drive in Aptos, built in 1968.

The project, initially planned for

2005, now will take place this year for an estimated \$300,000. Construction bids will be accepted and a contract awarded by June 28. Completion is planned for Nov. 26.

Station No. 2, built in 1978 on Bonita Drive in Aptos, will undergo a seismic analysis by the same structural engineering firm this year to determine the extent of necessary work to take place next year, the district board decided.

Some \$175,000 has been budgeted for that project.

Cost of the three projects will be financed over 10 years, Malm-lund said.

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