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CABAZON: Civic Center project could advance

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A construction contract for the Cabazon Civic Center is set to go before the Riverside County Board of Supervisors today.

County officials are recommending the board award the nearly \$12 million contract to a Bermuda Dunes company.

Construction might start in July or August, said Andy Frost, a regional manager at the county Economic Development Agency. Frost said he expected the center could be built in 14 months.

According to a county report, the civic center will include a library, child care center, an administrative building for the local water district, a skate park, basketball courts and play areas, a multi-use turf area, picnic shade shelters, restrooms, a maintenance building and parking.

The facilities will be built by the community center on Carmen Avenue.

The total price tag for the project is \$15.9 million. That covers the \$11,999,000 budgeted for construction as well as other costs. Redevelopment dollars are paying for the center.

As part of the project, the old Cabazon fire station will be razed, according to the report. Local firefighters moved into a new and bigger station in 2008. The old station, which the county abandoned, dates to the 1960s.

The Cabazon Water District has operated out of an 800-square-foot building, a former fruit stand, since 1954. Its new administrative building will be nearly four times as big.

The new library also will be larger than the existing one in Cabazon. That one, part of the Banning Library District, will close for good on July 1. Library director Nancy Kerr has said it makes financial sense to close the branch because it does not draw many visitors and a new one that the county wants to manage is on the horizon.

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