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ConFire chooses general contractor for Fire Station 16

By *Nick Marnell*

Contra Costa County Fire Protection District Assistant Chief Aaron McAlister announced that D.L. Falk Construction of Hayward submitted the winning bid for the Lafayette Fire Station 16 construction project. Falk's bid came in at \$3.43 million, just under the \$3.5 million estimate, a minor miracle of sorts considering the sky-high construction costs in the Bay Area. Five other bidders were prequalified by the county, but only Falk submitted a number.

ConFire has four fire stations in various stages of construction or design, but because of its small size and location, Fire Station 16 will be the only station of the four with a back-in apparatus bay. The district prefers a drive-through bay because it lessens the probability of damage to its trucks and engines. "This station will not become a future ConFire template," McAlister said at the Feb. 26 Advisory Fire Commission meeting. The general contractor appeared undaunted by the unique specifications of the Lafayette fire station. "We've built fire stations the size of a house, within a housing development," said Greg Schmidt, Falk director of operations. Schmidt said the company has also built a fire station in San Jose with a back-in apparatus bay. The formal award of the bid for Fire Station 16 should occur at the March board of directors meeting. Kitchell Northern California remains the station construction manager.

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