



By JENNIFER DENEVAN, Needles Desert Star  
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## NAT may move near El Garces

NEEDLES — No action was taken, but city council members appeared to be in favor of having the Needles Area Transit system moved close to the El Garces intermodal transportation facility, though not necessarily inside the building. Council members discussed the possibility during their regular meeting Jan. 28.

The NAT operations are looking to be moved to the northwest corner of the public works yard as part of a relocation project that will be funded through Proposition 1B funds and San Bernardino Associated Governments funds. Proposition 1B was approved by voters in 2006 for improvements on the state highway system or major access routes to the state highway system.

**City manager Rick Daniels inquired about the possibility of moving it to the El Garces building as it's designed to be an intermodal transportation facility.**

Terry Campbell, vice-mayor, said he liked the idea but he wanted to be sure that the plans coincide with the anticipated use of the El Garces for tourism buses that are hoped to start coming. He said he wanted to be sure that the NAT operations wouldn't interfere with that.

It was suggested that perhaps the empty lot by the Needles Chamber of Commerce would be a better place for the NAT operations. It makes sense for NAT to be close to El Garces but perhaps not in the same building or taking up some of the planned parking area.

Tony Frazier, council member, made the suggestion that the NAT building be placed near what used to be River Street, where the old railroad crossing used to be.

Jim Lopez, council member, said he felt he preferred the NAT operations to be placed nearby but not in the El Garces. He said he thinks NAT can have their own self-contained building.

Lopez said when a metal building is purchased, usually the plans are included. It shouldn't take too much to get it done, he said.

**Council members directed Daniels to further look into options for a NAT office.**

