

## Sen. Marchi gives OK to \$\$ for CUNY

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Satisfied that the College of Staten Island (CSI) will get money for consolidation after all, state Sen. John Marchi last night voted to approve a \$583 million public borrowing plan for city university construction.

After five hours of negotiating and waiting, Marchi said he withdrew his threat to veto the funding and joined two other members of the Public Authorities Control Board, which met in Albany and approved the proposal.

The borrowing is the first installment of a massive, \$1.3 billion plan involving 12 campuses of the City University of New York (CUNY). Included in the first installment is \$20 million to begin creating a consolidated CSI campus in Willowbrook.

At present, CSI has buildings in St. George and Sunnyside.

Marchi's threatened veto last Thursday held up the plan for nearly a week, since unanimous support from the board was required. Last night's vote in the state Capitol came shortly after 10 p.m., when Marchi said he was given the assurances he sought.

"It's green light, all go," Marchi said by telephone after his vote was cast. "I feel very satisfied and good about it."

Marchi said that in a telecopied message sent from Manhattan, he and the rest of the board received a written assurance that an envi-

ronmental impact statement on the CSI project would be done by the state Dormitory Authority. That cleared the way for Marchi.

Marchi had objected when he learned that the City Planning Department was to be the lead agency in conducting the study.

"That was the breaker," Marchi said. After receiving that assurance and getting confirmation that the CSI project was included in the funding package, Marchi said he authorized an aide to cast his vote.

The Dormitory Authority, citing the lack of an environmental study, had omitted the CSI money from the CUNY borrowing list. The money will be returned, provided a study is done, Marchi said.

The Dormitory Authority provides financing for CUNY construction.

The state senator said he believes the Dormitory Authority would act "more quickly and expeditiously" to complete the study than would the city.

The \$20 million set aside for CSI will be used to design the consolidated CSI campus on the grounds of the Staten Island Developmental Center in Willowbrook, which is to be closed next year, Marchi said. That design isn't expected at least until October.

The Public Authorities Control Board actually has five members, but only three of them can vote. Their approval is necessary before the state Dormitory Authority can sell the bonds.

Last night's vote climaxed a negotiating effort aimed at winning Marchi's support. Those talks included the senator, the Dormitory Authority and the City Planning Department.

"We have been working with the senator to try to find a way to give him the assurance that CSI would not be unduly delayed," Theodore A. Holmes, the general counsel for the Dormitory Authority, said hours before yesterday's vote.

The market is good for bond sales now, Holmes said. The state tries to coordinate all its bond sales so agencies do not have bonds for sale in the market at the same time. "We had hoped to sell this week," he said.

The CSI design already has been delayed until at least October because once an environmental study is completed, the public has 60 days in which to submit comments.

Marchi said the city usually relinquishes responsibility for the environmental study to the Dormitory Authority, Marchi said. But Marchi said that, when he asked why the city held onto the CSI project, he was told that this job is more complex and bigger than most CUNY jobs, so the city preferred to handle it.

Normally the Dormitory Authority takes about three months to process an environmental study application, he said. The city has been working on the environmental impact statement now for almost 1½ years.