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HEADLINE: Trustee panel OKs crime lab, institute;  
Group approves of naming a public-service think tank after legislator Ken Maddy.

BYLINE: John G. Taylor, The Fresno Bee

DATELINE: LONG BEACH

BODY:

A state university panel Tuesday moved ahead two new projects for Fresno State -- construction of an \$ 11 million regional crime lab and creation of the Kenneth L. Maddy Institute for Public Policy.

The California State University Trustees' committee on finance endorsed a pact with the state Department of Justice that could lead to groundbreaking next year on a new, 36,000-square-foot lab on San Ramon Avenue west of Woodrow Avenue at the Fresno State campus.

It will be part of a science complex that includes Downing Planetarium, already under construction, and a proposed new science building. The lab, on 2.6 acres of land, would replace two cramped offices, totaling about 13,500 square feet, at Bullard and Cedar avenues. Since 1972, the lab has served law-enforcement agencies in Fresno, Madera, Kings, Tulare, Merced, Mariposa, Inyo and Mono counties. It analyzes weapons, drugs and other criminal evidence. The new facility would open in 2001.

The state will pay construction costs. California State University, Fresno will lease the site to the state for \$ 50,000 annually for 10 years and then \$ 1 a year for 30 years. The university will retain the right to approve plans, receive training and services from lab staff and take control of the lab when the lease expires. The lab will offer student internships and lab workers will get access to university facilities.

Another trustees' panel agreed to name the public-service think tank after retired Valley legislator Ken Maddy, who spent more than 25 years in public service. With a \$ 1 million endowment from the state, the institute will provide leadership seminars for students seeking a career in public policy and serve as a nonpartisan training ground on the legislative process for elected officials.

Fresno State President John D. Welty praised Maddy as a role model for public service.

William Hawck, chairman of the Board of Trustees, described Maddy as personal friend.

"Hopefully, this will make a big difference at Fresno State," Hawck said. "Personally, I know it's made a big difference on Ken."

Maddy, a 1956 Fresno State grad, is battling cancer. This year, he was given the Lifetime Achievement Award by the university's Alumni Council.

The approval of the lab and the institute will be taken up today by the full governing Board of Trustees, which normally rubber-stamps the committee's action.