Architect's drawing of the new W. M. Keck Engineering Laboratories to be located at San Pasqual and Chester. Construction is scheduled to get under way late this summer.

The Month at Caltech

Engineering Building

The Institute has received a gift of $2,500,000 from the W. M. Keck Foundation and the Superior Oil Company for the construction of a new engineering building. This is the largest gift received to date in Caltech's Development Program, and the largest the Institute has ever received for building purposes.

The new building will be located at the northwest corner of San Pasqual Street and Chester Avenue. A five-story structure, with two floors below ground, its major units will be a laboratory of engineering materials, a laboratory of sanitary engineering, and a laboratory of hydraulics and water resources. It will be named the W. M. Keck Engineering Laboratories. Mr. Keck is founder and Chairman of the Board of the Superior Oil Company.

The new laboratories will provide the Institute with excellent facilities for teaching and advanced research in several rapidly growing fields.

The new engineering materials laboratory will be equipped with an electron accelerator for the study of materials involved in nuclear engineering. It will also provide space for increasing instruction and research in physical metallurgy – particularly with respect to the high-temperature properties of materials, which are of special significance in the development of missiles.

The new laboratory of sanitary engineering will facilitate the investigation of some of southern California's most pressing problems, such as the intrusion of salt water, the need to reuse waste waters in industry, and the disposal of air pollutants and sewage. It will also make possible the chemical, bacterial, and biological analyses of water and liquid wastes.

The new hydraulics and water resources laboratory will include space for a flume, about 120 feet long, to be used in extending the studies of sediment transportation that have gone on at Caltech for 25 years. There will also be space for settling tanks used in studying methods of water purification and the mechanics of water flow in soil. Studies of coastal engineering problems, such as those caused by wave action, will be resumed. This work was interrupted several years ago when outdoor facilities on the campus were razed to make way for permanent buildings.

Construction of the new building should get under way by late summer.