The San Diego Community College District’s governing board has adopted an $293 million operating budget for 2011-2012, but officials note there still is a great deal of fiscal uncertainty.

The district’s budget includes plans for midyear cuts that could be activated by the State Department of Finance and the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office.

The district’s operating budget is $11.5 million smaller than the 2010-11 budget and $31 million less than it was several years ago. It includes plans for $3.6 million in midyear cuts that would be triggered if state revenue projections fall short.

Student enrollment fees, which rose from $26 per unit to $36 per unit this year, could rise to $46 per unit at midyear if revenue projections are not met.

If midyear cuts become necessary, officials anticipate they will come in the form of state-mandated reductions in student enrollment levels, known as a workload adjustment.

“This is a time when California should be investing in educational and employment training, not turning people away from these opportunities,” Constance Carroll, chancellor of the three-college district, said in a prepared statement.

Workload adjustment cuts already have affected the district and its 130,000 students, with thousands of students being turned away from classes.

The district eliminated 1,500 classes over the summer and fall. More than 12,000 students were put on waiting lists for classes at City, Mesa and Miramar colleges and the district’s continuing education program this fall.

“This is the most difficult budget situation I have ever encountered,” Carroll said in the statement, “especially since enormous budget cuts are being made by the state in the face of increased student and community demand for classes and programs. Despite these challenges, the ... district has developed a balanced budget that puts education and services to students first, protects permanent employees, and maintains strong reserves ... ”