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# MEMORANDUM

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Date: July 26, 2022

To: The Honorable Chair and Members  
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: Jan Leshner   
County Administrator

Re: **Update on Office of the Medical Examiner Project**

On [April 21, 2022](#), I provided an update on the new Office of the Medical Examiner (OEM) project located at the southwest corner of Country Club Road and Milber Street. Attached is a recent update from Facilities Management. Preparation of construction plans is proceeding and will be complete in November 2022 for submittal for permits. Efforts have occurred by the design and construction contractor team to lock-in pricing on utility and building foundation components, along with bidding for long lead-time materials, to mitigate risks related to price escalation.

The consultant team and Pima County are incorporating sustainability elements to reduce energy use and carbon emissions and promote building occupant health. The solicitation for a public art artist received over one hundred proposals that are under evaluation to choose candidates to participate in the interview phase of the process.

Building construction is scheduled to begin in February 2023 with completion by fall 2024.

JKL/dym

Attachment

c: Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator  
Francisco García, MD, MPH, Deputy County Administrator and Chief Medical Officer  
Gregory Hess, MD, Chief Medical Examiner  
Lisa Josker, Director, Facilities Management



Date: July 20, 2022

To: Jan Leshner  
County Administrator

From: Lisa Josker  
Director

Re: **Office of the Medical Examiner Project Update**

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The following information is an update to Office of the Medical Examiner (OME) Project since my April 13, 2022 memorandum regarding this project:

### **Design**

The design consultant team of Smithgroup and Poster Mirto MacDonald have completed the Design Development phase and have started the construction documents, the final phase of design. The final design workshops will be held in late July or August to review any remaining design elements. The construction documents will be complete in November 2022 and submitted for permits from the appropriate governmental jurisdictions and utility companies.

### **Cost and Bidding**

With guidance from the design consultant and Kitchell Contractors, the Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR), Pima County has strategized ways to mitigate two major risks with the current construction market: severe price escalation and material scarcity causing delivery delays. In order to handle price escalation, the CMAR bid the site development, utility and building foundation trades to lock-in pricing and limit price increases that might occur during the final phase of design. These bidding activities also allow construction to start earlier and reduces the overall construction schedule by five months. To prevent schedule delays with material availability, the design consultant and CMAR identified materials and equipment with lead times that exceed typical timeframes and put the completion date at risk. These site development and long lead material scopes were bid to subcontractor trades in June. The scopes are currently in review with an anticipated approval from Pima County by September 2022.

### **Sustainability**

The design consultant along with Pima County and the CMAR are incorporating sustainability strategies into the design to reduce energy use, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote building occupant health with the goal of LEED Silver. Below is a summary of the sustainable strategies currently included in the design.

- High-efficiency HVAC systems with energy recovery providing an estimated energy savings at 25 percent compared to the baseline building type;
- Installation of electric vehicle charging stations equal to 10 percent of the parking spaces, 10 total;
- 100 percent LED lighting with occupancy sensors;

Jan Lesher, County Administrator

**Re: Office of the Medical Examiner Project Status Update**

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- Infrastructure for the installation of a future photovoltaic solar system to offset the building's energy use, the future solar canopy can be located over the parking stalls, on the ground adjacent to the new building or on the roof of the future garage;
- Appropriately placed glazing to utilize natural light on the interior, reduce energy for artificial lighting and connect the building occupants to the exterior;
- High performance glazing and shading to reduce solar heat gain;
- Sub-metering of largest water and energy using systems in the building to track and monitor their use;
- Low water use plumbing fixtures;
- Appropriate plant selection to reduce water use and connect the building to the landscape, the project will utilize as many plants from the Pima County Native Plant Nursery as possible;
- Secured bicycle parking for staff with showers to encourage alternative transportation;
- Pedestrian connection to two separate bus stops to encourage alternative transportation; and
- Interior finish materials selected to increase durability, include recycled content, reduce transportation distances, and reduce volatile organic compounds (VOCs) off-gassing to support quality indoor air.

**Public Art**

On May 2, 2022, the public art "Call to Artists" was published in both English and Spanish on the Arts Foundation's website, blog post and social media. The response from the artist community was immense, as the Arts Foundation received a total 118 proposals for this Call. The Artist Selection Panel is currently being assembled. The Panel will consist of community stakeholders and members of the arts community. The community stakeholders will include a staff member of the OME and a member from a group (to be determined) that works with the OME to support the mission to respectfully identify and return remains of migrants who do not survive crossing the U.S. border. The next step is evaluation to select the finalists for the interview phase. The art will focus on the important work that the OME provides to Pima County as well as other Arizona counties and will complement the OME's mission to provide accurate, timely, compassionate investigative services.

**Project Schedule**

The project is still on schedule with building construction start in February 2023 and project completion by fall 2024. This facility is projected to be open to the public in October 2024.

LJ/MK/lsm

c: Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator  
Francisco García, MD, MPH, Deputy County Administrator and Chief Medical Officer  
Greg Hess, MD, Pima County Medical Examiner