



MEMORANDUM

Date: November 21, 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 [July 26, 2022](#), I provided an update on the new Office of the Medical Examiner (OEM) project. Attached is a recent status update from Facilities Management. Construction plans are complete and have been submitted for permits. The site and building foundation permits are approved with the remainder anticipated in December 2022.

Grading and other site work has begun, and a formal groundbreaking ceremony is planned for December 8, 2022. Procurement of equipment with longer lead times is occurring. Construction completion is scheduled for September 2024. The project budget is \$45 million.

JKL/dym

Attachment

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



Date: November 18, 2022

To: Jan Leshner
County Administrator

From: Lisa Josker
Director

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

The following information is an update to the Office of the Medical Examiner (OME) Project, located at 3050 E. Milber Street, since my [July 20, 2022](#) memorandum:

Design Completion

SmithGroup, the design consultant, completed the final Construction Document package in early November 2022 and submitted permits to the appropriate governmental jurisdictions and utility companies. Permits associated with the site and building foundations are approved. The building permits are currently in review with approvals anticipated by the end of next month.

Construction Costs

Kitchell Contractors, Inc., the Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) contractor, has provided staff the final construction bid package for review and approval. The team worked to align the scope to bring the total construction cost within the project budget. Appropriate contingencies are included in the construction budget to address potential price escalation, supply chain issues and other unforeseen challenges that may affect the construction phase.

The project budget is \$45 million and approximately \$2.2 million of the total budget has been expended to-date.

Schedule

Kitchell Contractors has mobilized onto the site and is in the process of preparing for site grading and utility work—clearing the land, surveying, setting up the contractor’s site office, installing perimeter security fencing, etc. Kitchell Contractors is also assisting in the preparation for the groundbreaking ceremony on December 8. Equipment with longer-than-usual lead times are in the process of being procured so they are ready to be installed per the schedule. Construction completion is scheduled for September 2024 with the OME’s operations transitioning to the new facility by November 2024.

Sustainability

At the direction of the Pima County, the design consultant and the CMAR incorporated a LEED Silver performance goal. The County promotes livability, longevity, and occupant health by investing in sustainability upfront. The design combats carbon emissions with EV charging, passive solar, renewables infrastructure, and native plantings. Performance exceeds the International Energy Conservation Code requirement of 15-percent past average. In fact, modeled, the energy performance is 28 percent better than using average materials and equipment.

Jan Leshar, County Administrator

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Public Art

The Arts Foundation published the “Call to Artists” on May 2, 2022, and the response from the artists community was immense. The Artist Selection Panel met to review the 118 applicants on October 27, 2022. The Panel successfully selected three finalists who will be interviewed on December 13, 2022. The Panel consists of Community Stakeholders and members of the Arts Community. The Community Stakeholders include a member of the OME and a member from a group that works with the OME to support the mission to respectfully identify and return remains of migrants that do not survive crossing the border. The art will focus on the important work 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.

I am available for additional information and questions regarding this project.

LJ/MK/Ism

c: Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator
Francisco Garcia, MD, MPH, Deputy County Administrator and Chief Medical Officer
Steve Holmes, Deputy County Administrator
Greg Hess, MD, Pima County Medical Examiner
Monica Perez, County Administrator’s Chief of Staff