



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Interdepartmental Correspondence

DATE: December 20, 2000
HEARING DATE: January 23, 2001

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: Paul T. Scannell, Assistant County Manager
Don Horsley, Sheriff

Handwritten signature of Paul T. Scannell in black ink.

Handwritten signature of Don Horsley in black ink.

SUBJECT: Construction of a New Sheriff's Forensic Sciences Laboratory and Coroner's Offices at San Mateo County Tower Road Complex, Belmont, CA

Recommendation:

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the County Manager and Sheriff to proceed with the construction design of a new Sheriff's Forensic Sciences Laboratory and offices for the Coroner at the San Mateo County Tower Road site

Background:

On July 13, 1999, by Resolution No 62958, your Board approved an Agreement with Turner Construction Company for a Needs Assessment/Design Program/Cost Budget/Site Evaluation for Replacement of the Sheriff's Forensic Sciences Laboratory and related Emergency Services functions in the amount of \$193,500. Turner was selected as the result of an RFP process that determined the Turner team was the best qualified to provide the service. In the 1999 Agreement, Para 3.1 Intent reads in part "The intent of this Agreement is that Turner will have full responsibility for the Project as if Turner would be awarded the design and construction phases. The construction work is not part of this Contract, but County may, at its option, continue Turner's services into design and construction phases upon successful acquisition of funding."

Turner completed the Needs Assessment Study in November of 1999, establishing the Redwood City Government Center as the optimum site for a Forensic Laboratory/Coroner, if it were combined with an Emergency Services complex including 911 Dispatch. The Tower Road site was selected as the optimum site for a stand-alone Forensic Laboratory/Coroner Office.

On February 29, 2000, by Resolution No 63450, the Board adopted a Resolution authorizing the County Manager to execute Amendment No 1 to the existing Agreement with Turner Construction Company in the additive amount of \$52,400, for continuation of design work on the Forensic Laboratory, pending outcome of financing options evaluation.

The design efforts resulted in unanimous agreement on functional layout of the laboratory and its support offices. This product could become a point of departure for a shortened schematic design phase.

Discussion:

The Board of Supervisors sought the approval of General Obligation Bond Measure B in the November, 2000 election to construct the Forensic Laboratory/Coroner Office at the Tower Road site. Despite winning almost 66% of the vote, the Measure failed to achieve the necessary two thirds majority. The Sheriff is concerned about the deteriorating status of the current Laboratory and its ability to meet the ever-increasing standards required to analyze and prepare evidence for prosecution. State certification will soon be required. Consequently, he is prepared to move forward on the construction of the Laboratory using a combination of funding sources. If the Board of Supervisors approves proceeding with the project, a new negotiated contract with Turner will be returned to the Board of Supervisors for approval and at that time a financing plan as developed by the Sheriff and the County Manager's Office will be presented.

The Coroner Administrative Office is in leased space of 3,200 square feet on Veteran's Boulevard in Redwood City. The intent is to include those offices in the new building. The 24/7 operation of the Coroner would be compatible with the Forensic Laboratory and the proposed mid-County location would improve response time for the Coroner's Investigators. The Coroner, using conservative estimates, is projected to be spending over \$11 million during the next 30 years. That amount could be used to pay a portion of the debt on a new building.

Fiscal Impact:

Turner's recent updated construction estimate includes \$8,785,000 for construction, \$1,136,000 for design fees and \$1,054,200 for general conditions and fees. The fees are subject to negotiation.

In addition, County "Soft Costs," which include other consulting fees, administrative costs, furnishings, telecommunications and contingencies, brings the grand total project budget to \$15,048,220. This estimate does not include financing costs.

The Sheriff has set aside \$5,000,000 from his budget for funding portions of the project. That will fund design fees, geotechnical and environmental consulting fees and County administrative costs, estimated to be approximately \$2,000,000 prior to a final bid estimate anticipated in July of 2001. The Governor has announced that his recommended State Budget will include funds to assist local jurisdictions in building crime labs. The County will apply for those funds. The amount is unknown at this time. The County Manager's Office will finalize the amount of debt service to finance the remainder of the project, if that is the recommended approach.

This recommendation will have no new or additional fiscal impact.

- c Sheriff Donald Horsley
- Coroner Adrian C (Bud) Moorman
- Lee Lazaro, Sheriff's Office
- Sara Medina, County Manager's Office
- Chris Motley, County Counsel
- Frank Battipede, County Manager's Office

RESOLUTION NO. _____

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MANAGER AND SHERIFF TO PROCEED WITH CONSTRUCTION DESIGN FOR FORENSIC SCIENCES LABORATORY AND CORONER'S OFFICES

RESOLVED, by the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo, State of California,

that

WHEREAS, this Board previously approved an Agreement with Turner Construction Company for studies related to the replacement of the Sheriff's Forensic Sciences Laboratory and related Emergency Services, and

WHEREAS, the Turner studies identified Tower Road as the optimum site for a stand-alone Forensic Laboratory and Coroner Office; and

WHEREAS, the deteriorating status of the current Laboratory and the impending requirement for state certification make the construction of a new Laboratory vital and the Coroner's office should be included in light of the new location and compatibility of operation, and

WHEREAS, projected total costs for the combined Forensic Laboratory and Coroner Office are \$15,048,220 not including financing costs and the Sheriff and the County Manager's Office will cooperate in the development of a financing plan for the construction of the facility, and

WHEREAS, this Board wished to adopt as policy that the Forensic Laboratory and Coroner's offices will be constructed at Tower Road

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY DETERMINED AND ORDERED, the Sheriff and the County Manager are authorized to proceed with design of the new Forensic Sciences Laboratory and offices for the Coroner at the San Mateo County Tower Road site

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