

Chronology

Groundbreaking: September 11, 2006

Dedication: May 1, 2010

Open for business: May 24, 2010

Construction

Essential Services Facility

Site: 6.6 acres

Building Square Footage: 115,371 sq. ft.

Parking: 148 public spaces; 204 spaces in employee parking structure

Architect: Larry Wolff, WLC Architects

Construction Manager: Samuel McCuskey, McCuskey Group

Funding

The budget for the Police and Fire Headquarters was estimated in 2005 at \$60 million. It was funded primarily by Proposition P, an \$84.3 million General Obligation Bond approved by voters in November 2004. Proposition P also funded the construction of Fire Stations 1, 3, 6 and 7. \$50.6 million in Prop P funds was used to construct the headquarters with additional funding provided by bond interest earnings, as well as the Public Safety Facility Expansion Capital Improvement Project account.

Architectural Design

Designed in the Post-Modern style, the building borrows elements from the classical motifs and reinterprets them in an eclectic and contemporary style. The interpretation is characterized by a large entry rotunda and a layered exterior with colonnades, its detailing taking cues from the City Hall building.

The building consists of three floors, linked by a multi-story atrium in the center. The first two floors house the Police Department and provides space for the following functions: Patrol, Investigations, Records, Juvenile Crime, Domestic Violence, Community-oriented Policing, Communications and 911 emergency response services, Crime Lab, Property and Evidence, short-term custody of prisoners, and community meeting space. The third floor houses the Fire Department Administration and includes Fire Prevention services, Paramedic Services management, and the Emergency Operations Center. It is the design intent that the Atrium is the unifying force that links these two public agencies who often work closely together in the interest of the City and its citizens.

The building was designed to accommodate future growth needs for the next 40-50 years.

Building Highlights

Tribute Plaza

In a tribute that is unique to Escondido, Artists T.J. Dixon & James Nelson have created a space that represents both the Fire and Police Departments. Water falls from underneath the pedestal caps into a pool where it merges and flows as one force down the center of the mound. The flowing water symbolizes the unified forces of the Police and Fire Departments in protecting our community. The shape of the raised mound also emulates the shield of both departments and reflects the rotunda design on the building. Functionally, the design provides a natural setting with seating for departmental ceremonies in the round. Additionally, as an integrated part of the design, it creates an opportunity to pay tribute to fallen police and firefighters. A name can be engraved in any large stone around the memorial as a lasting and individualized remembrance.

Community Interface

The needs and concerns of citizens were taken into account with the inclusion of a first floor Community Meeting Room. It was designed to accommodate after-hours access while maintaining security building. The room is equipped with the latest in audio/video technology.

There also are "soft interview" rooms where victims of crime, both adults and children, can meet with police to provide information and evidence. These victims can sit in comfort and security while suspects are processed in another part of the building.

Temporary Holding Facility

The new adult prisoner holding area has been designed to enhance prisoner and officer safety featuring a staff control room centrally located to view all prisoner intake and processing procedures. The control room is equipped with two-way intercoms to jail cells, lighting control, alarm monitoring, and visual safety surveillance of prisoner movement and holding.

The holding facility not only met but exceeded all State of California Department of Corrections requirements for temporary prisoner holding and care, and received compliments from inspectors as a model facility.

Crime Lab

Escondido's new forensic science crime laboratory is one of the most technically intensive spaces in the new building. The forensic services area will help investigators solve crimes and support prosecutors in determining truth and fact during critical trials.

The laboratory layout will greatly assist technicians with fingerprint processing and comparisons, footwear comparisons, imaging in audio, video and crime scene photography, firearms and ballistics analysis, trace evidence identification and collection, as well as evidence drying and preservation processes.

The crime laboratory's design includes all physical features to ensure staff safety and safeguards against cross-contamination.

Communications Center

The new dispatch center is a blending of high technology and the art of design for a communications center that will handle all fire and police 9-1-1 and all calls for police and fire assistance needs for Escondido for the next 50 years.

The new communications system will better accommodate future growth and changing technology including allowing dispatchers to receive 9-1-1 calls sent as text messages, video and photos from phones, and provide greater interoperability between neighboring dispatch centers.

The dispatch center is equipped with flat screen wall monitors to include security viewing of vehicle access points, parking, public interface areas, the prisoner holding areas, and key staff operational areas. Monitor viewing will also include field video of critical incidents, police pursuits and future selected security camera locations dedicated to crime prevention as well as crime detection.

Escondido Police & Fire Headquarters Information (Continued)



Property and Evidence

This vital police function was greatly improved with building an area that will take care of property and evidence organized and stored under secure and climate controlled areas designed to preserve critical crime investigation evidence and properly maintain found or recovered property until owners are located.

The evidence area has two vehicle bays for examination of vehicles involved in injury and fatal accidents and vehicles involved in serious crimes, a climate controlled room for biological evidence, fortified and advanced alarms systems for controlled substance and firearms storage, a well designed evidence viewing room, and public access and property release point located adjacent to the customer lobby and reception area.

Emergency Operations Center

The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is designed to be a center point of coordination and information dissemination in the event of a disaster. This state-of-the-art center provides citywide departments with real-time mapping, interactive displays, and other leading-edge technologies by providing a single location to develop a unified response to emergency planning. It also allows the City of Escondido to coordinate efforts with its partners at the County, State, and Federal levels. Escondido's EOC is a "Dedicated EOC" which allows it to always be in a state of readiness. Most of the EOCs in San Diego County are multi-purpose rooms. Those EOCs are usually set up as classrooms or meeting rooms and then converted to the EOC during an emergency. Escondido's EOC can still provide these options but will be left in the EOC set up, saving valuable time in responding quickly to an emergency.

Technology

The building network is a State of the Art Network providing enhanced network capacity to support Voice, Data and Video. Cat 6e cabling was used throughout the facility to provide flexibility and to support high volumes of traffic. The facility is connected to City Hall via City owned fiber, providing low cost high volume communication between facilities.

Network integration with building security systems, audio visual systems, heating/ventilation/air conditioning systems, and electrical systems, provides system data and system operational notifications to support the function and maintenance of the building.

The Computer Server room was designed with the capacity to serve as a "Disaster Recovery" Server room, in the event the City Hall Server Room is rendered inoperable.

Cisco Voice Over Internet Protocol (IP) phone technology provides telephone communication.

Security

The building has high-tech security surveillance monitoring both inside and out for complete security. Doors have to be swiped with an electronically coded key card to gain access.

Fitness Room

Public safety personnel are required to be in their best physical fitness condition. To help ensure this readiness, a modern fitness center with adequate space and equipment is included in the building design.

Energy Efficient Features:

Rainwater from the parking lots and roofs are diverted through landscaped bio-swales that filter contaminants from the water before entering into the storm water system.

The landscaping employed native and adaptive plants along with high efficiency drip heads and reclaimed water to reduce water-use on the outside.

To further reduce water-use on the inside, ultra-efficient water fixtures were installed throughout the building.

Large window openings equipped with light shelves and a dramatic skylight in the center of the building bring natural light deep into the building, reducing the need for electrical lighting and power. Lighting throughout the building is connected to motion sensors that turn the lights off when the rooms are not in use.

