



COLLEGE OF THE DESERT

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City of Palm Desert Public Safety Academy at College of the Desert Receives LEED® Silver Certification

PALM DESERT, CA—The City of Palm Desert, Public Safety Academy (PSA) at College of the Desert (COD) has achieved Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) Silver Certification. The complex was designed by HMC Architects. This is the second facility at COD to be LEED certified.

The College sought an architect who has a history with sustainable design strategies. Built with the environment in mind, sustainable features in the Public Safety Academy include the use of translucent skylights that provide day lighting to the classrooms and offices, PVC cool roofing to reduce heat gain, recycled denim jeans as insulation, optimized energy performance, and improved indoor air quality and thermal comfort.

The City of Palm Desert Public Safety Academy at COD on the Palm Desert Campus is a beautiful facility that creates a positive learning environment and is home to the administration of justice, Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST) Program, and fire technology classes. The Palm Desert Public Safety Academy at COD educates and trains peace officers and fire fighters. “This is the second of the District’s buildings to earn LEED certification and the second LEED Silver building,” said Director of Facilities Services Steve Renew. “Our Board of Trustees has now put in place a policy on Sustainability Stewardship (6850) which includes the development of guidelines for eight areas of facilities design and operation, and the District has developed Sustainability Performance Targets for all projects.”

With an established reputation as an award-winning design firm and thought leader for healthcare, education, and institutional facilities, HMC Architects is one of the most prominent California-based planning and design firms engaged in projects around the world. “It is great to work with a client like College of the Desert who is actively seeking sustainable design solutions for their projects,” stated Ken Salyer, principal at HMC Architects. “Many of the sustainable design

strategies we used—improved indoor air quality, thermal comfort, and classroom day lighting—are practices we would typically do for any education project.” With a mission to create high-performance architecture, the firm is focused on creating facilities that have a positive impact on the physical environment, while promoting human health and quality of life. HMC teamed with Bernard’s, Builders, Management Services, a full-service construction management company to corporations, schools governments and civic organizations, to construct the Public Safety Academy.

Developed by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), the LEED® Green Building Rating System™ is a framework for identifying, implementing and measuring green building and neighborhood design, construction, operations and maintenance. LEED is voluntary and designed for new and existing commercial, institutional, and residential building, including neighborhood development. Several categories are used in the LEED Green Building Rating System such as sustainable sites, water efficiency, energy and atmosphere, materials and resources, indoor environmental quality, awareness and education, location and linkages, neighborhood pattern and design, green infrastructure and building, innovation in design /operations, and regional priority. The LEED rating system is based on a 100 point scale with an extra 10 bonus points available for innovation in design, exemplary performance, or achievement of credits identified as having regional importance on a project’s location. LEED certification is awarded based on this scale: 40-49 points Certified; 50-59 points Silver; 60-79 points Gold; and 80+ points Platinum. There are four standard principal types of LEED requirements: prerequisites, core credits, innovation credits and regional priority credits. For more information about LEED® Certification and guidelines visit the U.S. Green Building Council website at www.usgbc.org/.

The City of Palm Desert endowed the PSA with a \$2 million gift obtaining naming rights to the facility, which expanded COD’s training programs. The Public Safety Academy is a \$14.9 million project funded by Measure B, a \$346.5 million bond issue approved by voters in 2004. The two-structure state-of-the-art training facility is a combined 19,600 sq. ft., designed to train fire fighters and police officers for the entire eastern side of Riverside County for the next generation. The facility opened for classes in January 2009. There is a large outdoor training area and a shaded area on the south side that completes phase 1.

Since January 2001, COD-PSA has been filling an increasingly important public safety need for the Coachella Valley and surrounding communities. From Banning to Blythe and from Yucca Valley to El Centro, COD’s PSA is an invaluable asset for training our peace officers, firefighters and emergency medical technicians.

Contributing to the success of the COD’s peace officer training program has been the support provided by the Riverside County Sheriff, all local and regional chiefs of police, the California Highway Patrol, CALFIRE, Riverside County Fire and the Palm Springs and Cathedral City Fire Departments. This long history of professional collaboration has the one united goal of providing the Coachella Valley

with the best possible training for our future reserve, full time peace officers and fire fighters.

The College's Policy on Sustainability states: All District buildings, in response to the policy, will be LEED certified, most at the Silver level and some at the Gold level. We've found that good, sensible planning that responds to the local climate and site puts us well within the range of LEED Silver certification. LEED certification from the USGBC is the benchmark of sustainable planning. Taking the extra step of registering our projects for LEED certification and commissioning both the construction process and the buildings adds very little cost to the project yet demonstrates our commitment to building and operating our facilities sustainably.

Look for more LEED certifications in our upcoming projects.

For more information about COD's Bond projects go to <http://codbond.eispro.com/index.aspx>.

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