



True Progress Takes Partnership, Collaboration and Teamwork

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF JENNA TYNDALL, WRD ARCHITECTS

The newly renovated Schilling Place-Monterey County Government Center is now home to more than 300 county employees. Schilling Place Center is housed in the former Capital One building in the heart of the Salinas Valley. The new facility is the result of an almost three-year project that allows the county to reduce expenses over time by reducing leasing costs and consolidating county functions. The Leed Certified "Gold" facility also helps the county meet the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB32) mandated goals, and creates a variety of much-needed efficiencies.

The Schilling Place complex was purchased in 2014, after a challenging search for a facility that would meet the requirements of the county's expansion plan. The former Capital One center was the ideal site to provide the permanent office space the county so des-

perately needed. The center definitely had potential, but the project was an ambitious one. Converting the 300,000 square-foot facility from a drab and dated facility into a vibrant workspace took vision and creativity. The renovations feature an employee fitness

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center, a new healthy food choice cafeteria for employees and visitors to the facility, and an abundance of parking for the public and county employees. When asked about the project, architect Peter Silva, of Wald Ruhnke &

Dost Architects said, "Our design objective was to transform a cheerless 1980's style corporate campus into a dynamic office space that would better serve today's users. Using a striking color pallet and bold geometric patterns, we've created an environment by which the general public and county employees alike will feel refreshed and enlivened."

Assistant Administrative Officer, Dewayne Woods managed the Schilling Place project. In his view, one vital element was necessary. "Any successful project completed on time and on budget requires talented people," says Woods. "We were fortunate to have such talented people working on this project."

When Ausonio Incorporated began work on the renovation last August, the complex had been vacant for a number of years. Now, less than one year later, they are pleased to have another successful project with Monterey County completed. Ausonio's Project Manager, Justin Pryer, says cooperation was key. "You need great cooperation to bring a renovation of this size to completion. We have that with the county."

Because of the size of Monterey County, various offices throughout the area will be maintained in order to serve constituents across the region. Many employees and departments will remain in the County Government Center and other county facilities, but the new Schilling Place Center houses multiple offices; each benefitting from an array of unique improvements the new complex provides. Among those improvements, The Auditor-Controller's Office Enterprise Resource Planning Program now has a well-designed, long-term working environment to support collaboration amongst County departments within all phases of the program. The Resource Management Agency and Water Resource Agency are now co-located at the facility, to provide a one stop Permit Center. The Economic Development and Workforce Development Board is more accessible to the public and enhances service delivery, and The Elections Department now has increased transparency, confidentiality, security, and improved public access.

“In addition to the many benefits to residents, the new Schilling Place-Monterey County Government Center offers county employees a real step up, while consolidating government services people need to access,” said Monterey County Supervisor Mary Adams. “The setting is as visually attractive as it is practical. It is situated in a way to provide breathtaking views of some of our county’s most fertile areas.”

Possibly the most exciting feature for many county employees and residents, is the new Crescita Early Education Center at Schilling Place. Operated by Early Development Services, the new daycare program for county employees and the general public is housed in a 4,500 square foot stand-alone building, conveniently located within the Schilling Place complex.

“The addition of this modernized facility is a perfect example of creative problem solving that will benefit the residents of Monterey County,” said Supervisor Simon Salinas. “Concentration of crucial county services and the creation of a customer service driven



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campus will provide services ranging from land use, water resources, health, and election services. This facility will continue to strengthen service delivery and improve all our constituent’s quality of life for decades to come.”

Today, as employees fill the new Schilling Place-Monterey County Government Center, those quality of life improvements are clearly visible. Multiple departments now operate with ease; no longer limited by the challenges that came with various leased offices. Visitors will have no trouble parking and can easily navigate departments, quickly finding the services they need. Children are safely cared for; happily learning and playing at the new daycare center as their parents work close by. **cc**



Clockwise from left: 1. Exterior of Monterey County Government Center (Left is the North Building, and Right is the South Building). 2. Resource Management Agency staff lounge as part of the South Building on the second floor. 3. South Building main corridor looking toward Health Bureau on the first floor.