



Construction completed on LEED Platinum campus police substation at Miramar College

By CARLOS RICO, The Daily Transcript
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Miramar College held a grand opening Monday for its new campus police substation and parking structure.

The \$17.8 million project involved constructing a four-story, 270,000-square-foot parking structure with 815 spaces and an adjacent 5,108-square-foot police substation with a reception area, conference room, offices and a suspect processing area.

The police station was designed and built to obtain LEED Platinum certification from the U.S. Green Building Council, the highest possible green building certification.

A green roof and green screen designed to look like a vertical garden sit atop the new building. The vegetation grown will contribute to a microclimate that is central to the facility's passive thermal and natural ventilation design. According to **McCarthy Building Cos.**, the project's construction management firm, the plants incorporated into the roof system significantly reduce the need for stormwater infrastructure conveyance and retention systems.

In addition, the project will have a terra-cotta rainscreen that creates a vented facade and increases the building's energy efficiency; Solatube skylights that capture natural light; renewable and recycled flooring; and reclaimed water for toilets and all irrigation.

The police substation's reception area has an interactive flat-screen panel that informs visitors of the building's sustainable features and the school's sustainability goals.

"Numerous coordination meetings were held throughout the design phase of the project to ensure that the requirements of the district and the users were integrated into the design, all while retaining the sustainable features needed to achieve LEED Platinum certification," said Bob Betz, project director for McCarthy Building Cos.

If the project obtains LEED Platinum status, it would be the first for a community college district in San Diego County. According to **Gafcon Inc.**, there are only six LEED Platinum facilities in San Diego County and none are from an educational institution. The police station is one of 10 LEED certified projects built or planned at Miramar College and among 30 across the San Diego Community College District.

Harley Ellis Devereaux designed the police substation and **International Parking Design** was hired for its architectural services on the parking structure. **Schmidt Design Group** acted as the landscape architect.

Engineers on the project included **Jessen Wright Structural Engineers**, **Randall Lamb Associates**, **SC Engineers** and **Burkett & Wong Engineers**.

The project is funded by propositions S and N, a \$1.55 billion construction bond measure passed by San Diego voters that helps pay for new facilities and major renovations to the district's nine campuses.

Gafcon Inc. serves as the program manager for the two construction bond programs.



Designers of the Miramar College campus police station are aiming for LEED Platinum certification