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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **PCT. 2 MULTI-PURPOSE COMPLEX WILL BE THE COUNTY'S FIRST "GREEN" BUILDING**

**Pharr, TX** — Hidalgo County Pct. 2 Commissioner Hector "Tito" Palacios unveiled plans and broke ground today for what will become the county's first green-minded building. Wind turbines, solar panels, LED solar lighting, insulated concrete form exterior wall construction and several other exterior and interior green building components will respect not only the environment, but also taxpayer funds, because green buildings are shown to save on energy costs in the long term.

Commissioner Palacios envisions that the new \$5.075 million multi-purpose complex — which will house Pct. 2 administrative offices as well as the Health and Human Services Pharr clinic, a W.I.C. office, a substation for the tax assessor-collector and offices for Justices of the Peace Places 1 and 2 — will bring critical services closer to the people and fuel residents' and students' curiosity about environmental sciences and spike their interests in new innovative ways of thinking in government.

The complex is located on South Highway 281 and Hall Acres Road adjacent to a Pharr-San Juan-Alamo ISD middle school that is also currently under construction. The school district and the precinct are in talks about collaborating on the future development of a 4-acre park to be located next to the county offices. The park, along with a detention pond and a rain water collection system, could provide an outdoor classroom setting for students like none other and compliment the other environmentally-friendly aspects of the project.

"Precinct 2 is committed to providing high-quality services to our residents, and having this building along with our other two community resource centers near where people live and work helps us to bring county government to the people. We are also working with the youth in our communities to educate them, get them ready for post-secondary education and the workforce. Having the energy of PSJA ISD next door will be good for everybody. I feel strongly that this is not just another building, but a commitment to learning and growing smartly," said Commissioner Palacios.

V.A. Architecture designed the Pct. 2 Multi-purpose complex and all four buildings will be erected in a timeline of approximately 10 months by Wilson Construction. Grants from the State Energy Conservation Office and U.S. Department of Energy, combined with county Capital Improvement Project bonds, are financing the project. Additional green grant funding and partnerships are being sought to round out the complex's future planned projects.

### **Project Details**

#### **Green Building Components**

Wind Generated Power

- 5 wind turbines capable of producing 12 kW of electricity

#### Photovoltaic Solar Panels

- Capable of producing 23.4 kW of electricity

#### LED Solar Lighting

- Solar powered lighting for the parking lots
- 2182 lumens total output
- Polycrystalline silicon cells solar array

#### Insulated Concrete Form Exterior Wall Construction

- Durability, Longevity
- Energy Efficient
- LEED Credits

#### Green Building Components

- Metal Doors and Frames
- Metal Studs
- Paperless Gypsum
- Bio-Tile Resilient Flooring
- Casework
- Plastic Laminates
- Ceiling Suspension System and Tile
- Low VOC Interior and Exterior Paints

#### Other Site Amenities

- Rain water collection system
- Future park on adjacent 4 acres
- Development of a 5-acre detention pond

#### Health and Human Services and WIC Program Building

- 14,816 square feet
- Services currently being provided at the Pharr Clinic on Ferguson Ave. will be transferred to the new facility.
- Facility will include Community Education. Services to be rendered will include primary care, immunizations, indigent care, family planning, pre-natal/newborn care.

#### Tax Assessor Collector Building

- 5,178 square feet
- Services to be provided at the new facility will include motor vehicle registration and tax collection.

#### Justices of Peace Places 1 and 2 Building

- 9,840 square feet

#### Pct 2 Administration Building

- 5,856 square feet