

CASE STUDY



Expansion and Modernization
El Centro Regional Medical Center

City of El Centro
 El Centro, California

- Site:** 9.13 acres
- Building:** 85,000 sqft (66,000 sqft of new construction); 84 beds
- Parking:** Off-site parking agreements arranged to address overflow needs

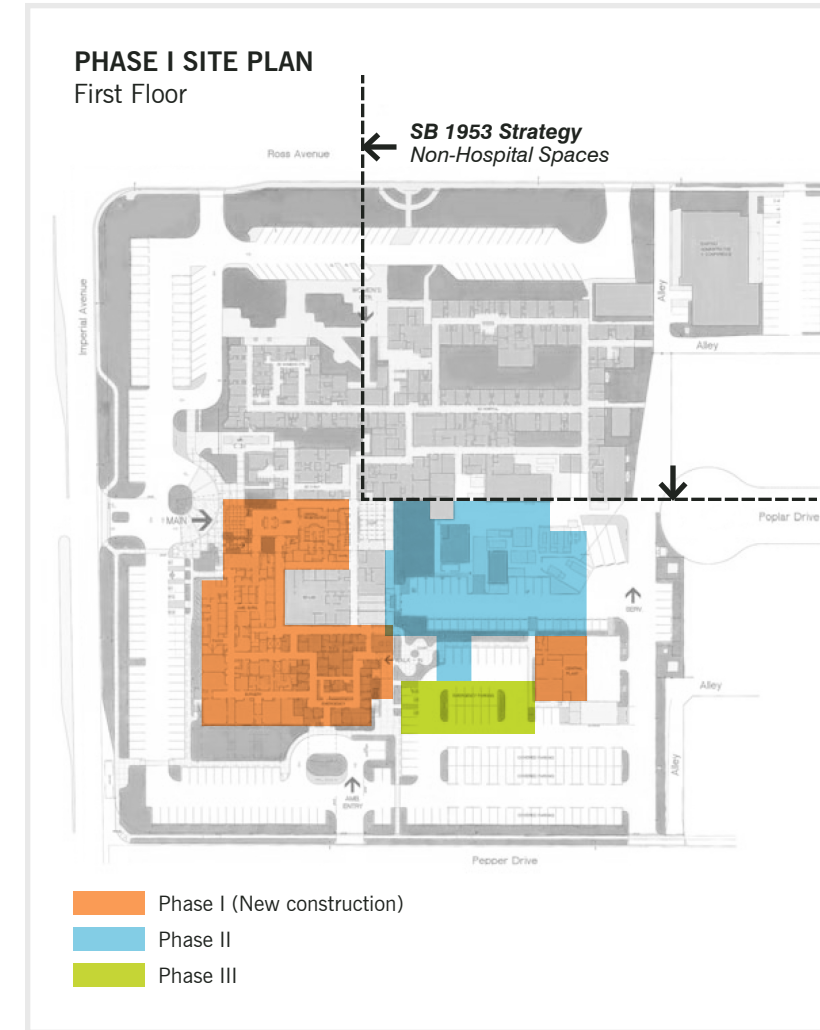
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

El Centro Regional Medical Center had not received any significant upgrade for almost 20 years, leaving an extremely crowded existing facility and an eroded public image. The master planned expansion and modernization program was pursued to not only modernize the facility, but to re-establish its public image. In addition to the renovation of existing areas, new construction of 66,000 square feet included a two-story structure, Entry/Lobby building and a Central Plant.

Under the design theme, "Oasis in the Valley," the facility focused on creating a pleasant and soothing environment to promote a spirit of partnering between patients, family members and caregivers to enhance the outcome of the healing process and experience. The overall site plan was re-oriented for smoother flow of traffic around the site and within, enhanced by a richly landscaped perimeter and a giant shaded entry canopy with built-in misters to address the intensely hot summer climate.

Tilt-up construction methodology was also incorporated into the building design in order to speed up the process of creating a controlled working environment and superstructure for protection from the hot sun. The new buildings were arranged to wrap around and hide the old building appearance, establishing a new modernized look for the medical center.

Community Engagement and Ownership



OBJECTIVE

The hospital wanted citizens of El Centro to engage in the design process and take ownership of this significant project.

SOLUTIONS

Design review went smoothly because city representatives had been closely involved. Some of the major issues were off-site improvements related to relocation of the main entrance to Imperial Avenue, one of the main arteries in the City, which improved accessibility and visibility.

Rodriguez Park worked out the revisions to median, bus pocket, turning lanes, and curbs. For the parking, we proved that existing on-site parking count would meet hospital needs and the hospital arranged off-site parking agreements with the neighboring churches to address overflow.

The project team worked very closely with citizen groups through numerous design presentation workshops, presenting master plan concepts and design. Stakeholders included: residents neighboring the site, the movers and shakers of the town, various city agencies, and organizations, such as Chamber of Commerce, Rotary, and women's groups.

The project team produced and presented three design schemes, which were distributed in the local paper in order to provide all citizens with the opportunity to vote.

Though the hospital is an agency of the City, it was required to meet all the city codes and regulations and go through all required discretionary review processes. Agency personnel concerns and review comments were easily resolved.

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Lobby / Reception



Tilt-up Construction Methodology