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**COMAL COUNTY, TEXAS
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE**

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County selects architects for new jail

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, MARCH 24, 2016:

NEW BRAUNFELS — The Comal County Commissioners Court on Thursday selected HDR Architecture to design the county's new jail.

The jail, which will be funded with \$76 million in bonds approved by voters in November, will be a roughly 600-bed facility with room for expansion to 900 beds – a significant increase over the current 337-bed jail, which has become overcrowded and expensive to maintain.

“HDR impressed us with its commitment to designing a quality jail that will meet both our needs and our budget,” said County Judge Sherman Krause. “We look forward to working with the HDR team as we move forward on this important project.”

Founded in 1917 in Omaha, Neb., HDR is an internationally acclaimed, employee-owned architecture and engineering firm featuring more than 225 offices, including 15 in Texas, and nearly 10,000 employees around the world. The firm has been a leading designer of correctional facilities since 1976.

“All the teams worked very hard, and we appreciate their time and effort,” said Precinct 3 Commissioner Kevin Webb. “All of the respondents were qualified and experienced, and they did a good job with their presentations. It's difficult to make a choice like this, but HDR's flexibility and experience with nearby projects stood out to me.”

After issuing a request for qualifications on Nov. 24, seven architecture firms responded by the Jan. 12 deadline. The Commissioners Court on March 2 interviewed three firms, from which HDR was selected Thursday. In coming months, the county also will select a project manager and construction manager-at-risk as it moves forward with plans for the new jail.

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