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NEWS RELEASE

City Installing Perimeter Fencing for Multipurpose Performing Arts and Entertainment Center

EL PASO, TEXAS – Today, the City of El Paso will begin installing fencing to secure the Multipurpose Performing Arts and Entertainment Center (MPC) footprint in order to begin the next phase of the archaeological study and to replace the temporary fencing that is currently onsite.

“This voter-approved MPC is advancing into the second phase of the archaeological study which involves opening trenches. Thus securing the site with durable fencing is a necessary step to preserve the health and safety of the community,” Capital Improvement Department Director Sam Rodriguez said.

A judgment issued in August 2017 by an Austin judge allowed the City to build the MPC at its proposed downtown location. The City has agreed not to begin demolition prior to November 19, 2018. An official date for demolition has not been set.

The Texas Historical Commission (THC) has approved the scope of work proposed by City of El Paso for an on-site archeological and historical review of city-owned properties project’s master planning area.

Moore Archeological Consulting, Inc., a well-respected firm specializing in completing archeological investigations in urban settings, is conducting the archeological study. The City contracted the firm to comply with the applicable requirements under state law.

The archeological study encompasses four phases: archival and historical research (completed), ground-penetrating radar survey, mechanical survey, and an additional investigations stage, which would only be conducted if intact archeological deposits are discovered. Discoveries will be handled in accordance with state law and Antiquities Permit requirements.

The MPC project is the largest of the three signature bond projects overwhelmingly approved by voters in 2012. A total of 102,358 people voted in favor of the project, representing 71.67 percent of the votes cast in the election. The ordinance calling for the election stated the project would be located in downtown.

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