COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

NORTHERN BRANCH JAIL DESIGN UPDATE

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

OCTOBER 20, 2026

one COUNTY one FUTURE

BACKGROUND & MILESTONES

- **BACKGROUND**

  – April 1, 2025 – Board directed staff to finalize design and issue a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for 1.5 new housing units at the NBJ

  – February 10, 2026 – Board requested a comparative analysis of alternative NBJ housing options and review of existing Main Jail space usage

  – April 17, 2026 – Board reaffirmed direction to construct 1.5 new housing units at the NBJ and discontinue use of the Main Jail except for the Inmate Reception Center

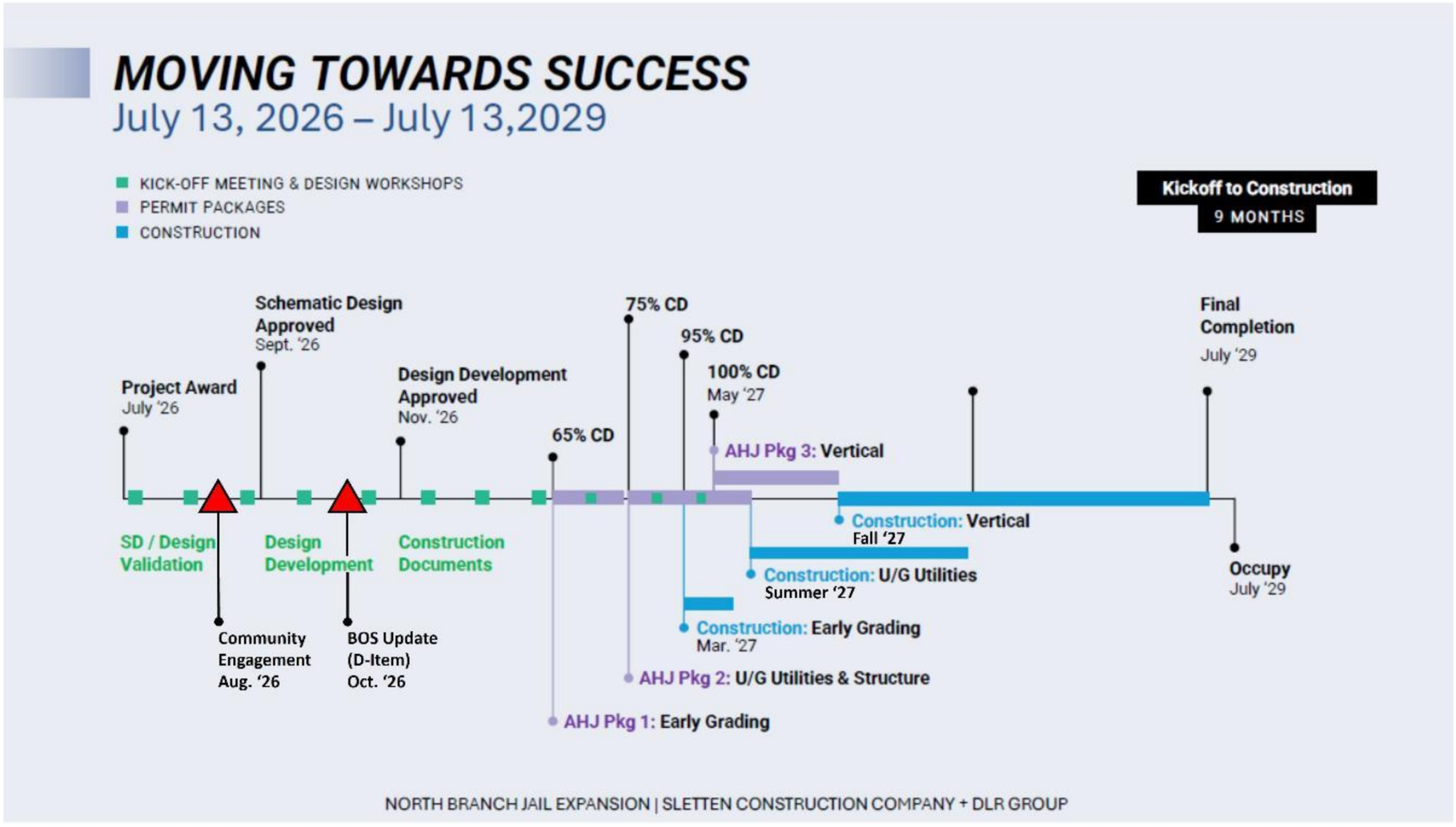
  – July 7, 2026 – Board approved the design build contract with Sletten/DLR

  – August 19-20, 2026 – Community Engagement Sessions conducted in Santa Maria, Santa Barbara

  – September 22, 2026 – Schematic Design submitted

BACKGROUND & MILESTONES

- **MILESTONES**



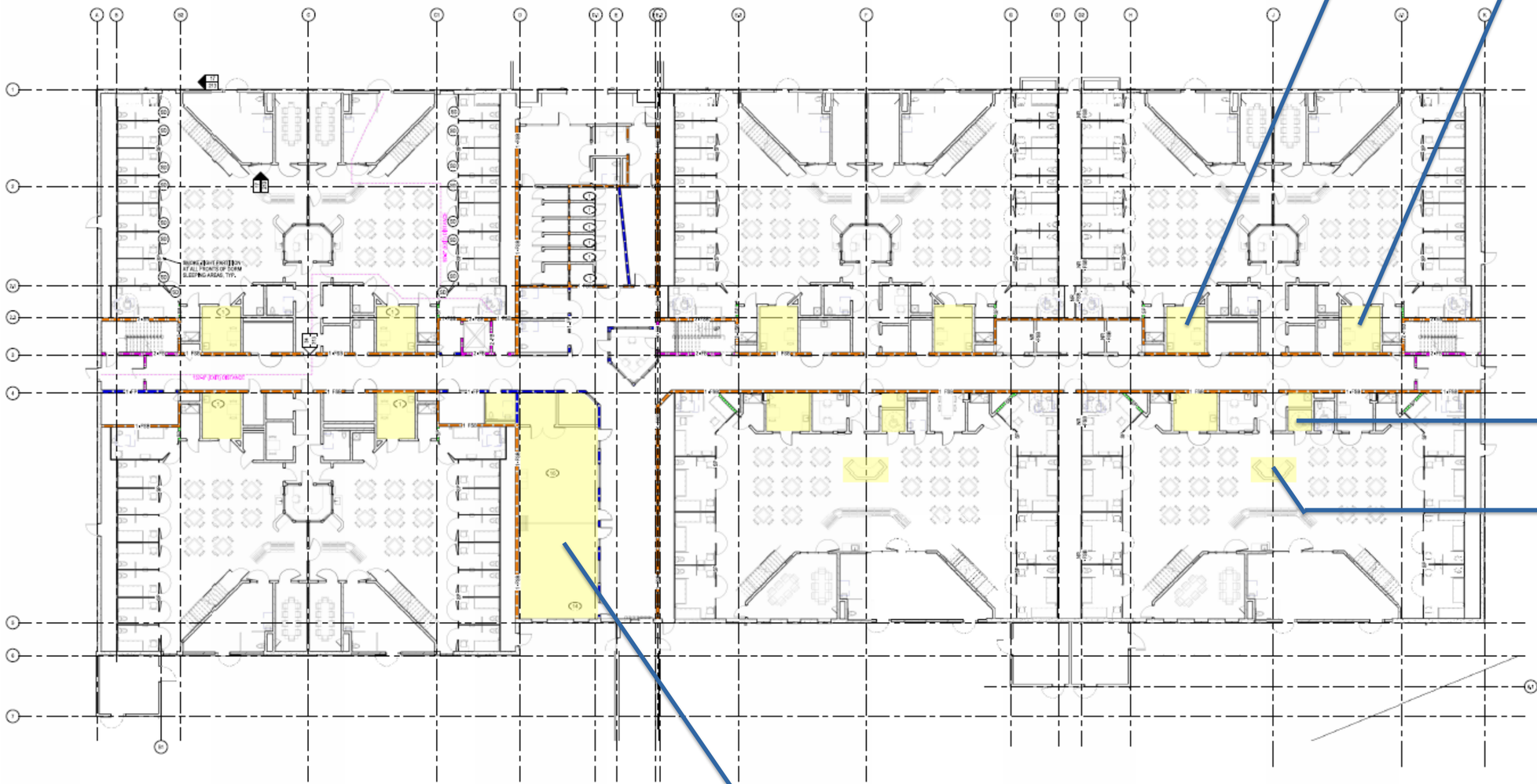
DESIGN REVIEW

- **STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK & RESOLUTION**

Feedback	Resolution
Interview Spaces	Interview, video-teleconferencing spaces are integrated into each pod Four (4) additional, non-contiguous interview spaces are available within the facility
Health Care Spaces	Health care spaces are integrated into each pod Expanded, dedicated pharmacy provided in the facility
Behavioral Health Units	One (1) Housing Unit (four of six pods) designed for two-person occupancy Configured to be partitioned to support greater flexibility/classification accommodation
Program Spaces	Program spaces are integrated into each pod Additional, non-contiguous space available within the facility; expanded space pursued to accommodate large group programs
Visitor Spaces	Visitor space is included in the facility Family visitation space exists within current NBJ footprint; program in development to enable utilization
Recreation Yards/Spaces	Recreation yards are integrated into each pod Additional space identified to provide expanded recreational yard adjacent to current NBJ footprint; submitted for FY27-28 CIP cycle
Native Landscaping	Coordinating with DBE for integration
Dog Programs	Out of scope of current project; possible future year CIP submission
Resident Accommodations	Pursuing shelving/storage, steps, handles in cells, and shelving in shower areas
Administrative Space	Owner enhancements included to provide administrative support space (Sheriff, County Health, WellPath, Probation, Public Defender, etc.); pursuing build-out of space to accommodate (~11 offices, ~33 cubicles)

DESIGN REVIEW

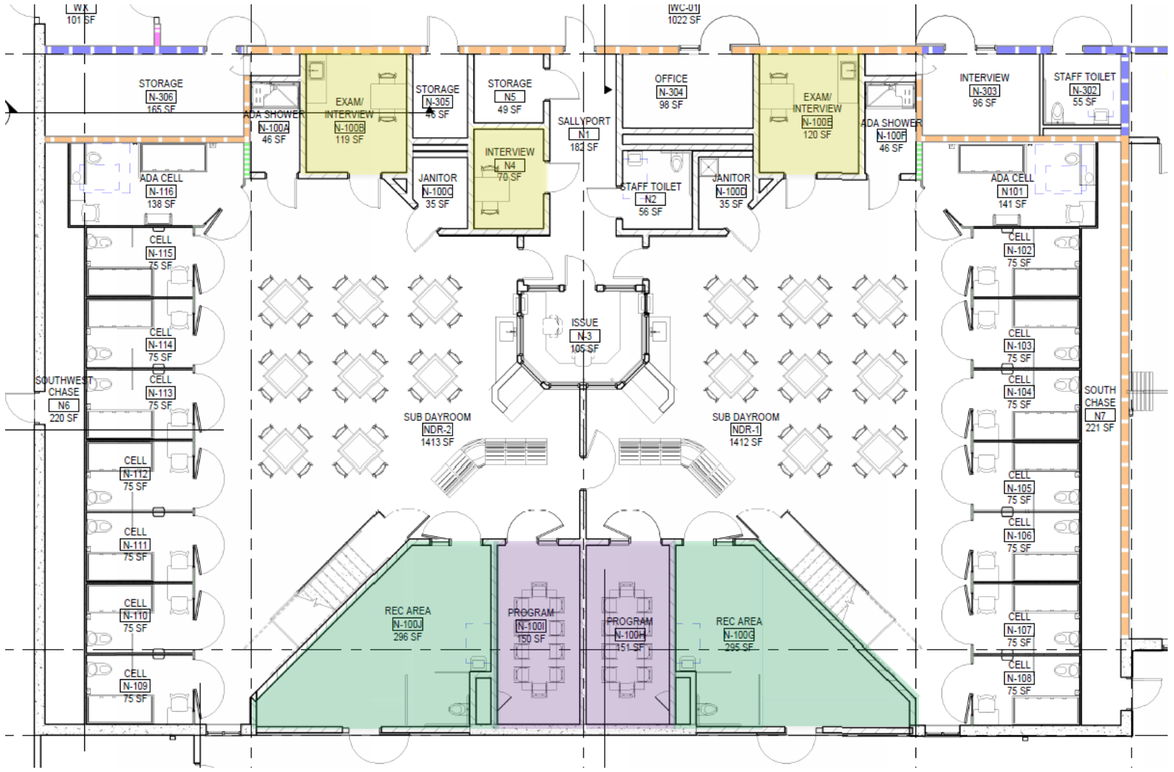
- **SCHEMATIC DESIGN**
  - Overview



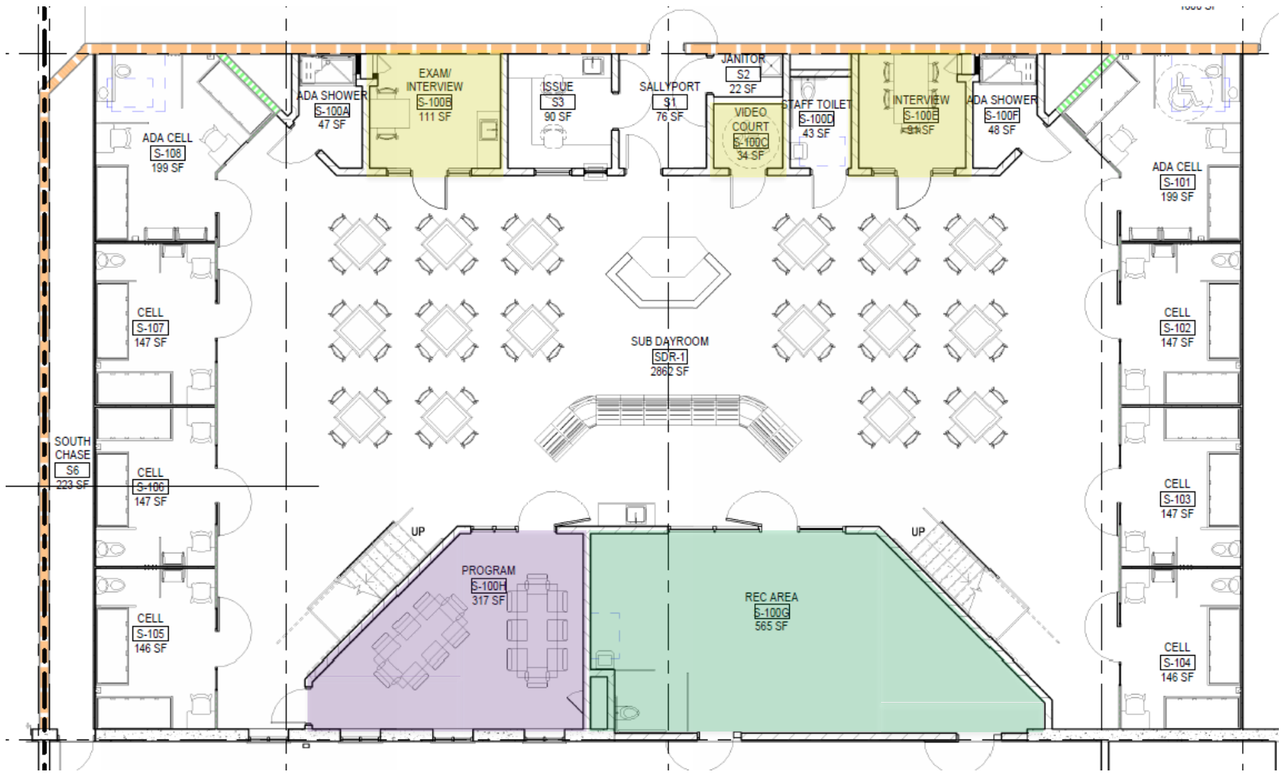
EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM

DESIGN REVIEW

- **SCHEMATIC DESIGN**
  - Housing Units
    - 2-person units



    - 4-person units



Medical care/interview room

Program space

Recreation area

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

QUESTIONS?

one COUNTY one FUTURE