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CHRISTIE ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCES THE RESTART OF CONSTRUCTION AT VICTOR MRAVLAG SCHOOL NO. 21

TRENTON – Furthering the Administration’s commitment to ensuring students statewide attend modern and efficient schools, the New Jersey Schools Development Authority (SDA) and Elizabeth Public Schools representatives announced the restart of construction at the Victor Mravlag School No. 21 project in Elizabeth this morning. They were joined by other state and local officials and community members.

“The SDA knows how important the Victor Mravlag School is to the community of Elizabeth and is pleased to announce that the project has been restarted” said CEO Marc Larkins. “The SDA is committed to providing all the children of Elizabeth with exemplary facilities. We are proud to know that the Victor Mravlag School will be here to educate the children of Elizabeth for generations to come.”

While a Notice to Proceed Award was issued for the Victor Mravlag School No. 21 in 2007, the project experienced construction delays stemming from unforeseen structural deficiencies and environmental issues from the start. Under Governor Christie’s leadership, the project was extensively evaluated and analyzed by the SDA for the most cost effective and timely course of action for the State. With a new plan of action in place, the Authority has advanced the Victor Mravlag School No. 21 project and will directly oversee and manage the construction of the project.

The new Victor Mravlag School No. 21 site is located in a residential neighborhood situated on 1.65 acres on Shelley Avenue. The school facility will be able to house 494 students in grades Pre-K through 8 in an 80,164 square foot building. The new school is designed to contain general use classrooms, a gymnasium, a cafetorium with stage, art studio, instrumental and choral music rooms, a science classroom with adjacent demonstration lab and a state-of-the-art media center.

“Victor Mravlag School No. 21 will help Elizabeth Public Schools provide the challenging coursework and the rigor of instruction that we must offer if our students are to be prepared for a post-secondary education in the international marketplace. We are very happy that we are moving forward with the state-of-the-art facility,” said Superintendent of Schools Pablo Munoz.

The SDA has previously completed 11 Capital Projects including 7 new schools and 20 health and safety projects in Elizabeth investing over \$328 million since the program’s inception.

The SDA’s ongoing portfolio includes hundreds of grant projects in Regular Operating Districts, three new construction projects, 10 SDA projects identified as part of the 2011 Capital Program and more than 100 emergent projects in SDA Districts.

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