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SDA Continues Work in Camden, Issues Notice to Proceed for Phase Two of the Morgan Village Middle School Project

TRENTON, NJ – Following through on Governor Christie’s demand for sound construction principles and accountability for state dollars, the New Jersey Schools Development Authority (SDA) recently issued a Notice to Proceed to USA Environmental Management, Inc. of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania for demolition of the original Morgan Village Middle School. The SDA constructed the new \$35.4 million Morgan Village/Creative Arts Academy that was opened to students in September 2011. Demolition of the old school will make way for outdoor recreational space and parking, bringing this project to completion.

“The SDA is committed to providing the children of Camden with the best educational facilities possible,” said SDA CEO Marc Larkins. “The demolition of the former Morgan Village Middle School is another example of the Authority’s ongoing investment in the school facilities in Camden. Following completion of the Phase II work this fall, we are pleased that generations of students will benefit from this new school and its state of the art facilities.”

USA Environmental Management, Inc. was awarded a \$1,870,886 general construction contract for the demolition of the existing school, asbestos abatement and site remediation work. The Notice to Proceed was issued at the end of May and work is expected to proceed over approximately four months. Following the clearing of the land, a bus drop off, vehicular access, required ADA parking and play space will be constructed for use by the Morgan Village/Creative Arts Academy students. The work is anticipated for completion in Fall 2012.

The original Morgan Village Middle School sits on land adjacent to the new Morgan Village/Creative Arts Academy. The new school is a 92,390 square-foot facility which can accommodate 520 students. The new Morgan Village/Creative Arts Academy includes general use classrooms, special education classrooms, science labs, school-to-career classrooms with labs, small group instruction rooms, a media center, auditorium, gymnasium and a cafeteria with kitchen.

To date, the SDA has built five new school facilities in Camden including the Morgan Village/Creative Arts Academy, Dudley Elementary School, H.B. Wilson Elementary School, Octavius V. Catto Community School and Early Childhood Development Center #25. Since the inception of the program in 2001, the SDA has made a total investment of more than \$257.4 million for work at 51 school facilities projects in Camden City. An additional \$5.8 million has been committed through executed emergent project grants in Camden.

The SDA’s current portfolio of active projects is valued at over \$2.2 billion – including the 2011 and 2012 Capital Project portfolios (more than \$1B), additional projects in construction (\$194M), emergent projects (\$50M) and Regular Operating District grants (\$792M state share).

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