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January 25, 2013

Christie Administration Advances Emergent Repair Projects in Jersey City

TRENTON – As part of Governor Christie’s commitment to ensuring New Jersey’s school facilities are safe learning environments for all students, the New Jersey Schools Development Authority (SDA) has advanced construction of five emergent repair projects in Jersey City. More emergent projects have been completed by the Christie Administration than by any prior administration.

“Maintaining a quality educational infrastructure for the children of New Jersey is of the utmost importance to the Christie Administration,” said CEO Marc Larkins. “This Administration continues to advance work at a steady pace to provide learning environments where the children can excel, both in Jersey City and throughout the State.”

One emergent project will repair/replace the school roofing at James J. Ferris High School, which educates more than 1,600 students in ninth through twelfth grades. Exterior masonry repair projects will be performed at A. Harry Moore School and Alexander D. Sullivan School PS 30. The A. Harry Moore School is a specialized school for the disabled that educates approximately 190 students ages three to twenty-one and Alexander D. Sullivan PS 30 educates more than 800 students in Pre-K through fifth grades. In addition, two emergent repair projects at Nicolaus Copernicus PS 25, which educates more than 800 students in Pre-Kindergarten through fifth grades, will include roof and window repair/replacement as needed.

Emergent projects are those deemed necessary in SDA Districts due to potential health and safety issues. Emergent projects include the repair or replacement of roofs, windows, exterior masonry, heating and cooling systems, and plumbing, electrical, mechanical and security systems. Emergent funds are also utilized to address water infiltration issues.

Prior to the Christie Administration, funds available for these projects were nearly exhausted and project review procedures were insufficient, making it difficult to prioritize critical projects in a deliberate and cost efficient manner. In 2011, the SDA and Department of Education (DOE) launched a statewide effort to identify and evaluate eligible emergent conditions in the 31 SDA Districts. The conditions that were evaluated and validated had been reported by the local districts.

Depending upon the project’s scope and complexity, the SDA manages many projects identified as emergent, while others are delegated for District management. The five emergent projects above have been delegated to the Jersey City Public School District for management. For those projects that are delegated, the SDA executes a grant agreement with the District, which is then responsible for procuring and disbursing payment to the consultants and contractors. The SDA maintains oversight throughout this process.

The SDA has invested more than \$274 million in completed projects in Jersey City alone, including 16 capital projects and 36 health and safety grant projects.

The SDA's current portfolio of active projects is valued at over \$2 billion – including the 2011 and 2012 Capital Project portfolios (more than \$1 billion), additional projects in construction (\$86 million), emergent projects (\$43 million) and Regular Operating District grants (\$743 million state share).

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