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## **SDA Breaks Ground on new PS #20 Elementary School in Jersey City** *New School will Replace 19<sup>th</sup> Century Building*



JERSEY CITY, NJ – Continuing to deliver on the Christie Administration’s commitment to advance and complete Capital Program projects, New Jersey Schools Development Authority (SDA) CEO Marc Larkins, Jersey City School District officials and local officials broke ground today for a new PS #20 Elementary School. The groundbreaking is part of the SDA’s 2011 Capital Portfolio to advance into construction following Governor Christie’s implementation of critical reforms at the Schools Development Authority.

“I know that the Jersey City community has eagerly anticipated this day, and I am excited to celebrate this great milestone with them,” said CEO Marc Larkins. “This school will replace a 19<sup>th</sup> century school building that has educated Jersey City students for 114 years. The PS #20 project is a result of the collaborative efforts of the SDA, New Jersey Department of Education, school district representatives and local officials to provide generations of Jersey City students with a facility that is capable of providing the positive learning environment they need while guaranteeing efficiency of limited state resources.”

Today's event marks the commencement of the first phase of work to prepare the project site for the construction of the new elementary school building. Work will include clearing the site, removal of sub-surface footings and foundations, removal of slabs and unsuitable soils, remediating areas of concern, removal of Underground Storage Tanks (USTs) and importation of clean fill to be placed, compacted and graded.

The new Jersey City PS #20 Elementary School will be a 106,763 square foot, three-story facility designed to educate 628 students from kindergarten through fifth grades. The school will be built on a site located at Cator and Ocean Avenues. The facility will include general purpose classrooms, self-contained special education classrooms, small group instruction rooms, an art room, music room, technology lab, gymnasium, cafeteria, assembly/multi-purpose room, media center and support spaces. This project was selected for advancement as part of the 2011 Capital Project Portfolio announced by Governor Christie.

A general construction contract in the amount of \$874,444 was awarded to Silverlands Services, Inc. of Edison, New Jersey to perform phase one of the work.

Additionally in Jersey City, the SDA recently advanced procurement activity for the Jersey City Elementary School Number 3, another project identified for advancement in the 2011 portfolio. The SDA previously completed 16 Capital Projects including three new schools and 30 health and safety projects/grants in Jersey City, investing nearly \$275 million since the program's inception.

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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