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NEWS RELEASE
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State Awards 5 New Schools for 3 School Districts

(PHOENIX, AZ – December 8, 2006) The Arizona School Facilities Board (SFB) approved five new schools for three school districts at their monthly board meeting yesterday.

The schools were awarded as part of the FY07 Capital Plan Cycle, which will continue for the next several months. The cycle begins in early September when districts submit their requests for new construction. From that time on, SFB staff analyzes the requests taking into account factors such as current district capacity and projected growth.

The Buckeye Elementary District and the Chandler Unified School District both received two elementary schools each. The JO Combs Unified District also received its first high school.

Buckeye Elementary's two K-8 schools are for 924 students each. The first school is expected to open in Fall 08 and the second one should open the following year. Chandler Unified's two K-6 schools are for 1,078 students each. Both schools are slated for a Fall 08 opening.

JO Combs Unified received a high school for 1,700 students that is expected to open in Fall 09. This school was awarded as part of the SFB's Geographic Factors Rule. JO Combs was previously an elementary district that unified in November. They then became a unified district without a high school. Because they were tuitioning over 350 students to the neighboring Queen Creek District, they qualified for high school space under the Geographic Factors Rule.

Today's awards total \$83,308,041, which also includes additional spaced for 433 students in the Cartwright Elementary District. A list of projects approved in this cycle is attached.

These approvals will allow the districts to design their schools within the allocated budgets. Upon completion of design, the project will go before the Board again for approval to begin actual construction. More approvals are anticipated at January's Board Meeting to be held in the Liberty Elementary District.

MORE

**SFB Approved New Construction Projects
FY 2007 Capital Plan Cycle**

Approval Date	District	Project	Grades	Student Capacity	Square Footage	Open FY	NC Funding
10/5/2006	Wickenburg Unified	School	K-8	914	73,920	2010	\$9,820,272
Subtotal:				914	73,920		\$9,820,272
11/2/2006	Cartwright Elementary (1)	Revision	7-8	183	14,600	2010	\$2,020,932
11/2/2006	Fowler Elementary	School	K-5	844	67,500	2009	\$8,851,275
11/2/2006	Fowler Elementary	School	6-8	1,088	87,003	2010	\$11,831,538
11/2/2006	Litchfield Elementary	School	K-5	900	72,000	2009	\$9,441,360
11/2/2006	Litchfield Elementary	School	6-8	1,088	87,003	2009	\$11,831,538
11/2/2006	Marana Unified	School	K-6	731	58,500	2009	\$7,671,105
11/2/2006	Marana Unified	School	7-8	1,250	100,000	2010	\$13,842,000
11/2/2006	Marana Unified	School	9-12	2,660	250,000	2010	\$40,070,000
11/2/2006	Sunnyside Unified	School	K-5	844	67,500	2009	\$8,851,275
Subtotal:				9,588	804,106		\$114,411,023
12/7/2006	Buckeye Elementary	School	K-8	924	73,920	2009	\$9,820,272
12/7/2006	Buckeye Elementary	School	K-8	924	73,920	2010	\$9,820,272
12/7/2006	Cartwright Elementary	Space	K-6	433	34,650	2009	\$4,543,655
12/7/2006	Chandler Unified	School	K-6	1,078	86,220	2009	\$11,306,029
12/7/2006	Chandler Unified	School	K-6	1,078	86,220	2009	\$11,306,029
12/7/2006	J.O. Combs Unified	School	9-12	1,700	227,800	2010	\$36,511,784
Subtotal:				6,137	582,730		\$83,308,041
Grand Total:				16,639	1,460,756		\$207,539,336

(1) Originally approved 5/9/02 as a core 7-8 school for 1,200 students, with classroom space for 600, revised 11/2/06 to a 7-8 school for 926 students, with capacity for 1,158. Students, square footage, and funding shown are additional amounts recommended for approval 11/2/06.