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Christie Administration Announces the Start of Work to Make Way for a New Elementary School in Harrison

Harrison, NJ – The Christie Administration today announced that early site preparation activities for a new elementary school in Harrison have begun, marking the start of another significant project being delivered through the efficient and responsible school construction program managed by the New Jersey Schools Development Authority (SDA).

Following the completion of site preparation activities, the SDA will construct a new 65,500 square-foot Elementary School that will be designed to educate 392 students in grades Pre-K to 1. The school will include 20 general classrooms and, two self-contained special education classrooms, as well as a cafeteria with a stage, gymnasium, and necessary support spaces. The school will be located on a district-owned parcel of property at Harrison Ave. and Washington Ave. The total estimated project costs for the new school are \$35.4 million.

“The Christie administration is proud to deliver this new school to the youngest students of Harrison. As a first step, the early site work will pave the way for the construction of a brand new, state-of-the-art elementary school,” said SDA CEO Charles McKenna. “The construction of this new school will allow the district to address overcrowding in the District.”

Ambient Group, LLC of Sewell, New Jersey was awarded a \$1,047,685 contract to perform site preparation activities. A Notice to Proceed was issued on April 15, 2016 for phase one work consisting of clearing the site, removal of all subsurface footings and foundations, removal of unsuitable and/or environmentally impacted soils, remediating areas of concern and importation of certified clean fill to be compacted and graded. SDA will self-manage the early site work. All demolition and associated site work is anticipated for completion in October 2016.

The SDA also acquired three properties for this project that will require demolition activities as part of the design-build phase of the project. That work is anticipated to begin before the end of 2016.

In an effort to utilize practices proven successful at the SDA, the new Harrison Elementary School will be constructed using a design-build approach. The design-build method differs from the traditional approach toward bidding projects by allowing the SDA to contract with one firm for both design and construction of school facilities projects. SDA anticipates advertisement of this design-build contract in the third quarter of 2016.

The SDA has invested more than \$85 million in completed projects in Harrison since the inception of the school construction program, including the new Harrison High School. The SDA’s current portfolio of active

projects is valued at approximately \$2 billion – including the Capital Project portfolios, emergent projects and Regular Operating District grants. SDA currently has 12 school facilities projects in active construction.

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