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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Summer Construction

As the Laguna Beach Unified School District school doors prepare to open, the school site construction activities are coming to a close. Not only will all necessary improvement projects set forth under the school bond be accomplished, but other project needs identified during the course of construction will be completed. The project is basically on schedule and in budget.

Thanks to the combined financial support of Measure "R" passed in June 2001, various State Modernization funds, Proposition 47, and contributions by the City of Laguna Beach, and the State Department of Parks and Recreation, our local schools have undergone a much needed renovation and improvement.

Under the guidance of the Board of Education and Superintendent, Dr. Theresa Daem, and at the direction of Norma Shelton, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services and Carl Neuhausen, Construction Project Administrator, major school improvements at all four school sites are nearing completion.

Ms. Shelton acknowledges the significance of the community's partnership in the school district's endeavor to upgrade their facilities, "It was gratifying to work with a participating community that remained devoted and dedicated to the finest and highest quality of educational facilities for their children."

Mr. Neuhausen relays his delight of getting to experience firsthand the enthusiastic reaction of students as projects are completed, "Getting to watch the excitement of the children the first time the kids come to school and see their new environment and seeing them enjoy their new playground has been a rewarding experience I had not experienced in the private sector."

Both Ms. Shelton and Mr. Neuhausen were highly complimentary of the major efforts put forth by the District Superintendent, Dr. Theresa Daem, the school site principals, members of the Board of Education and Independent Citizens Oversight Committee throughout the entire construction process.

Extensive improvements have been made to all existing classrooms at each campus, as well as site addition and major new building construction. Below is a listing of major construction projects at the four school sites.

At Laguna Beach High School various improvement projects completed or nearing completion include:

- ✓ New/relocated classroom spaces for math, dance and drama.
- ✓ New girls' locker and restroom facilities.
- ✓ Improved and reorganized existing kitchen/cafeteria facilities.
- ✓ Improved theater facilities, including a new scene shop, stage lighting and flooring, orchestra space, roofing, and HVAC repairs.
- ✓ Upgraded and improved science, science labs, art, photography, ceramics, and music classrooms.
- ✓ Improved space for exploring technology lab; upgraded and improved existing gymnasiums.
- ✓ New carpet at the library.

- ✓ New paving, ADA improvements, landscaping and irrigation improvements throughout the campus.
- ✓ Painting of all existing buildings.
- ✓ Upgraded track, football, and baseball fields including the addition of new ticket/ concession building.
- ✓ Upgraded and improved existing Administration facilities.

At Thurston Middle School major school improvements completed or nearing completion include:

- ✓ New performing arts building, new gymnasium and exploring technology lab.
- ✓ Upgraded and improved food services and library facilities.
- ✓ Addition of two new classrooms.
- ✓ Relocated and upgraded administration facilities.
- ✓ Upgraded and improved existing art, science and homemaking classrooms.
- ✓ Added traffic safety and parking improvements.
- ✓ Upgraded playfields and hardcourt playground facilities.
- ✓ Improved walkways and hardscape surfaces to meet general safety and ADA standards.
- ✓ Painted exteriors of existing structures.

At Top of the World Elementary School, major projects completed or nearing completion are:

- ✓ New classroom building incorporating 8 new teaching spaces; new Kindergarten building and one additional K-1st Grade teaching space.
- ✓ Reorganized and upgraded existing classroom interiors.
- ✓ Upgraded multi-purpose room and adjoining kitchen facilities.
- ✓ Upgraded existing playfields and hardcourt playground and play equipment.
- ✓ Added site landscaping, walls, signage, parking and traffic safety improvements, and site utility improvements.
- ✓ Added new windows and frames at all existing building structures.
- ✓ Painting of all existing structures.

Additionally, the Community Learning Center facilities at TOW are in the process of being refurbished.

El Morro's major construction, which included a new library media center, eight new classrooms, modernization improvements to all existing classrooms, field expansion, and improvements to the existing playground and parking lot, were completed August of last year.

Dedications planned to take place for the remaining three school sites are tentatively scheduled as follows: Thurston Middle School, October 14th; Top of the World Elementary, October 15th, and Laguna Beach High School, January 27th.