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Tanque Verde School District Selects ABA Architects for Bond Projects

TUCSON, Ariz., April 2010— At a special session Board meeting the Tanque Verde Unified School District Architect Selection Committee recommended and the School Board approved the selection of ABA Architects to design a new junior high school and other school improvements. These projects are funded through a \$14 million bond initiative approved by voters in the District's November 2009 election. The planned schedule for completion of all projects is June 2011, in time for the new school year beginning August 2011.

ABA Architects has a 33-year history of completing architectural design projects in Arizona, with a focus on educational facilities. Superintendent Douglas Price noted that the District selected ABA Architects for its bond projects because, "We thought ABA was a great match for these bond projects and our school community. We are excited about their willingness to work with staff and community in the design of our new junior high school."

Project designer and firm principal Kim Fernandez, AIA, LEED AP, says, "ABA Architects is excited to work with the Tanque Verde School District and assist them in their space needs."

The largest of the Tanque Verde Schools projects separates the junior high school from the high school. The separation will provide space at each school for grade-level-specific programs and population growth over time. Emily Gray Junior High School will be relocated at the site now occupied by the Lew Sorensen Center. The existing building will be remodeled for a maximum of 400 seventh and eighth grade students. The south classrooms will have minor upgrades and/or be remodeled as needed. The northwest classrooms and restrooms will be demolished and rebuilt. The library, east and southwest

Principals:
Roger W. Brooks, RA
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Senior Architect:
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classrooms, and offices will be remodeled for school and community school use. A new multi-purpose building for school and community use will be constructed with a physical education multi-purpose room, school offices, kitchen, restrooms, locker rooms and storage. The old multi-purpose room and kitchen space will be remodeled into a fine arts area. Site work will consist of significant upgrades to parking, vehicular and pedestrian circulation, fencing, drainage, playfields and courts.

In addition to work at the Lew Sorensen/Emily Gray Campus, upgrades will be made at Tanque Verde High School and the two elementary schools. Modifications at the Tanque Verde High School Campus include remodeling science classrooms and other renovations. Tanque Verde Elementary and Agua Caliente Elementary Schools will receive new air conditioning in their multipurpose rooms plus other technology and energy efficiency upgrades.

ABA Architects is an architectural and planning services firm. The firm specializes in innovative, sustainable design, and is leading Arizona in the larger information aspects of BIM (Building Information Modeling). ABA's project experience includes public and private work, projects requiring LEED certification, and various project delivery methods. Areas of expertise include educational, municipal (i.e. judicial, community and recreation centers, vehicle maintenance facilities, and pools), and religious facilities. ABA Architects also completes tenant improvements and new designs for office and administration buildings and medical offices. The firm can be reached at (520) 881-4512 or SLinson@aba-architects.com. Visit online at www.aba-architects.com.

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