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PRESS RELEASE

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State and Local Officials Break Ground on Las Cruces Int'l Airport ARRA Runway Reconstruction

LAS CRUCES – Las Cruces Mayor Ken Miyagishima, NMDOT Aviation Division Director Tom Baca and other state and local officials broke ground today on the first of three airport improvement projects under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The \$10.9 million project will help reconstruct runway 12-30 at the Las Cruces International Airport, that was originally built during World War II as a training facility.

“Through the recovery act, New Mexico will receive about \$278 million for transportation projects, including nearly \$16 million for three aviation projects throughout the state,” said Transportation Secretary Gary Girón. “This money will help improve all facets of transportation in New Mexico—aviation, transit and roadways—while creating jobs and providing a much needed boost to our state’s economy.”

Over the next several months, the City of Las Cruces will see several benefits from the stimulus money. Last month, we began installing LED lighting throughout the city and soon we will begin reconstructing I-10, a nearly \$50 million project that will benefit both New Mexico and Texas.”

“This investment will help our airport tremendously, not only in rebuilding the runway, but allowing us to reach out to major airlines to utilize our facilities for connecting flights,” said Las Cruces Mayor Ken Miyagishima.

Today, the three-runway airport serves general aviation traffic in addition to providing a base for a National Guard unit and an air ambulance service.

Earlier this month, the Department of Transportation awarded the other two aviation projects. A \$5.2 million reconstruction project at Double Eagle Airport in Albuquerque was awarded to Mountain States Constructors Inc., and Salls Brothers Construction was awarded the contract for approximately \$900,000 to reconstruct runway 2-20 at Santa Fe Municipal Airport.

