



SAN DIEGO CITY SCHOOLS

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NEWS RELEASE

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District breaks ground on Proposition MM elementary school in City Heights

SAN DIEGO – On March 25, 2004, students from Central Elementary helped shovel the first scoop of dirt at the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Cherokee Point Elementary School. The new school, scheduled to open on September 6, 2005, will relieve overcrowding at Central Elementary and other City Heights schools.

Cherokee Point Elementary will be located at the southeast corner of the intersection of Wightman and 38th Street, near the Copley YMCA and Park de la Cruz.

The project is funded by Proposition MM, the \$1.51 billion bond measure passed by San Diego voters in 1998. Proposition MM pays for critical repairs and modernization at 165 existing schools as well as construction of 13 new schools and three rebuilt schools to alleviate overcrowding in the city's most densely populated areas.

Michael Sprague, chair of the City Heights Planning Committee, said the community has waited for new schools for a long time. The planning process for Cherokee Point began in 1999; it typically takes six years to plan and build a new school due to environmental studies, acquiring property, relocating residents, design and community involvement.

Sprague thanked residents who moved to make way for the new school. In total, 132 households were relocated by the school district. Nearly half stayed in City Heights. Also, 12 families used their relocation assistance to become first-time homebuyers.

Cherokee Point Elementary will open to 740 students. It will include 32 classrooms over two stories, multipurpose room, library, media center, lunch shelter, 100 trees and joint-use fields for soccer and baseball.

The name "Cherokee Point" was selected by the community. It is the name of the surrounding neighborhood area, in which the streets create the shape of an arrowhead.

The next new school groundbreaking in City Heights is planned for May 4 at 11 a.m. for Herbert Ibarra Elementary.