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For release: November 7, 2005

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Construction begins on Arapahoe County Fairgrounds

Site at Quincy and Powahaton roads to host 2006 County fair and 100th Anniversary celebration

Construction is underway on the Arapahoe County Fairgrounds, a new multipurpose events center at 25000 E. Quincy Ave., Aurora that will be the permanent home of the County Fair.

The 45,000 square-foot events/exhibition center, which is the first building of several planned for the 236-acre site, is designed to serve a variety of functions in addition to the County Fair, such as meetings, graduations, science fairs, seminars, receptions, conferences and exhibits.

The Center will include a large conference area with breakout/meeting rooms, a warming kitchen, ticket office, small offices, livestock barn and water tower. Future phases include an indoor arena, outdoor arena and horse barn, office and maintenance facilities. Approximately 110 acres adjacent to the Fairgrounds is planned for open space, park and trails.

Cost of the initial phase of the project is \$9.4 million and is funded in part by Conservation Trust (State lottery revenues) and Open Space Designated Heritage Area funds. These funds can only be used for parks, recreation, historic and open space projects. The County has earmarked \$8.5 million of these funds for the project and is seeking private donations to help complete the multipurpose event center and build out of future phases.

Construction of the first phase of the multipurpose events center is anticipated to be completed in July 2006, in time for the County to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the County Fair. However, impacts on construction costs due to Hurricane Katrina, Rita and Wilma could impact the overall cost of the project and delay completion.

Saunders Construction is the contractor with Pahl Pahl Pahl Architects as the architect. Arapahoe County Public Works and Development staff is handling the civil engineering work for the project.

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