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Arizona Rock Products Association News Release

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Aggregate Company Saves Bridge and Millions



Mesa, Arizona – Alma School Road north of the Loop 202 was in danger after a week of storms and something had to be done right away.

Initial assessments concluded that the bridge was under no eminent danger. However, increased water from a week of storms destroyed the south embankment near the bridge, knocking over power lines and undermining the roadway near the bridge. This undercutting caused a large section of the road to collapse

The bridge, which serves as a main artery into Mesa as well as the Salt River Indian Reservation, is used by thousands of vehicles daily. Something had to be done to save the bridge.

By Thursday, January 6, County officials desperately wanted to protect the bridge from further damage, so they asked Cemex, members of the mining and ready mix industry,

for assistance. Cemex, according to Mike Ellegood, Director of Public Works for Maricopa County, was on the job in 90 minutes and would spend the next 22 hours working to save the bridge by strategically placing concrete blocks and heavy boulders in the river to divert the river away from the damaged area. The crew took a short break and then continued working until Sunday morning in a successful effort to reinforce the area.

Thanks to the efforts of the Cemex employees working alongside the County the bridge was protected from further damage. After a structural assessment of the bridge was done it was found that the bridge could be reopened in short order. According to Ellegood, “This would have cost many millions to replace and would have severed this vital transportation artery for years. There can be no question that the dedication and the “can do” highly professional efforts by Cemex and its employees were singularly responsible for saving the bridge.”

CEMEX is the leading global producer and marketer of cement and ready-mix products with its headquarters in Monterrey, Mexico. CEMEX is the largest cement producer in North America and the largest U.S. manufacturer and distributor of cement with 13 cement plants and 52 land and marine terminals serving 30 states. CEMEX also operates 86 ready-mix plants and 23 aggregate facilities in the United States. For more information, visit www.cemex.com.

For nearly 50 years, the Arizona Rock Products Association (ARPA) has been providing representation for over 55 member companies involved with the production of aggregates, asphaltic concrete, ready mix concrete, asphalt, lime products, and portland cement. Our members, along with over 85 associate members providing related transportation, contracting, and consulting services, make ARPA one of the most influential public and private policy advocates in Arizona today