



State of Arizona

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
October 9, 2009

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## **Governor Jan Brewer Announces Award of Stimulus Funds for Veterans Memorial Coliseum Roof Repair**

### ***\$1.7 Million for Economic Development from State Fiscal Stabilization Fund Keeps State Fair Open, Contributing to Economy and State General Fund***

PHOENIX – Governor Jan Brewer today announced the award of \$1.7 million from the State Fiscal Stabilization Government Services Fund to complete important repairs of the State Fair’s Veterans Memorial Coliseum roof. Without the Coliseum and its concert series revenues, the Fair’s most significant attraction, all State Fair events and activities were in danger of potential shutdown. The loss of the Arizona State Fair would have had a major impact on economic activity, as well as negatively impact the State’s General Fund budget. The State Fair accounts for \$50 million annually in economic activity, or the equivalent of 1,320 full-time jobs.

“Saving the State Fair has prevented a significant loss to Arizona’s economy, as well as avoided another hit to Arizona’s budget,” said Governor Brewer. “Awarding the stimulus money to complete the much needed repairs to the facility will not only save revenue, but will ensure the 125-year tradition of celebrating Arizona industry and heritage at the State Fair will continue.”

Since 1989, the State Fair has contributed nearly \$13 million to the state’s General Fund, with an additional transfer of \$2,055,200 scheduled for later this year. The Fair already spent \$3.6 million repairing several failed cables in the Coliseum roof and repairing the roof from water damage, but had insufficient funds to complete the remaining \$1.7 million in needed repairs. Losing the use of the Coliseum would have meant losing big-name entertainers and reducing associated revenues from concert tickets, admissions, carnival games, and parking, as well as the revenues tied to free advertising for the artists.

The 2009 Arizona State Fair runs from October 16 – November 8. Work on the Coliseum roof will continue daily until the Fair opens.

The Arizona State Fair began as the Arizona Territorial Fair in 1884. With few interruptions, the Fair has been held every year since that time, bringing the community together in celebration of Arizona’s industry, as well as its heritage and its future. Today, the State Fair attracts more than 1 million guests each fall as it showcases industry, business, agriculture, and entertainment.

For more information, please visit the State of Arizona’s Recovery Act website at [www.azrecovery.gov](http://www.azrecovery.gov).

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