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The Department of the Interior today announced award of a road construction contract calling for asphalt paving of approximately 8.141 miles of the Chuichu-Covered Wells Road on the Papago Indian Reservation, about 27 miles south of Casa Grande, Arizona, in Pima and Pinal counties.

The contract was awarded to Palmer Contracting Company, Phoenix. Its bid of $248,164.80 was the lowest of 12 received. The others ranged from $249,280 to $310,770.02.

This road constitutes another link in the connecting route between Casa Grande and State Route 86, the Tucson-Ajo Highway. It will provide an improved, dust-free access road for the entire Papago Reservation for travel north to Casa Grande and the greater Phoenix area. It is also expected to be an important tourist route for visitors wishing to visit the Papago Indian villages and enjoy typical desert scenery.