



OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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NEWS RELEASE

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WELD COUNTY RECEIVES FUNDS TO SUPPORT ROADS AND WATER TESTING

WELD COUNTY, CO – This month, Don Warden, Director of Finance and Administration, presented two intergovernmental agreements to the Board of County Commissioners for review: one for the payment of Federal Mineral Lease Funds for the county's Haul Route Program (HARP) and another for the payment of Federal Mineral Lease Funds for the county's water testing program.



The Weld County Federal Mineral Lease Act District agreed to give the county \$1.425 million in 2015 for the county's Haul Route Program (HARP). For 2015, 17 major road projects have been identified at the cost of \$15,488,087. The HARP is designed to improve roads impacted by the oil and gas industry's heavy hauling on county roads. Employees with the county's Public Works Department work closely with the energy industry to identify roads the industry needs for oil exploration and use. Together, they designate appropriate routes for the haul trucks, identify roads in need of repairs due to heavy use by haul trucks and address safety issues along those roads.

"We are happy to once again receive money for our Haul Route Program," said Commissioner Chair Barbara Kirkmeyer. "With this additional money we are able to ensure that our roads remain in good condition for Weld County residents."

Weld County also received \$50,000 from the Weld County Federal Mineral Lease Act District for the continuation of the county's water testing program, which started in 2012. This program tests for volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and is free to all Weld County residents on well water.

"The water testing program started three years ago as a way to assist county residents on well water who wanted to have their water tested," said Commissioner Pro-Tem Mike Freeman. "Testing can be expensive so we are happy to be able to provide it for no charge to our residents on well water."

The Federal Mineral Lease Funds are derived from revenues the state receives for mineral leases. The Weld County Federal Mineral Lease District was established in 2011 by the Board of County Commissioners and is a separate legal entity responsible for the administration of all of the funding the District receives from Colorado Department of Local Affairs for the purpose distributing the funds to areas within the unincorporated areas of Weld County that are socially or economically impacted by the development, processing, or energy conversion of fuels and minerals leased under the Federal "Mineral Lands Leasing Act" of February 25, 1920, as amended. Since the Weld County District was formed, the county has received \$4,467,695.

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