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NEWS RELEASE

Date: 1/21/16

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WELD COUNTY RECEIVES 2016 FEDERAL MINERAL LEASE FUNDS FOR ROADS AND WATER TESTING

WELD COUNTY, CO – During their Monday meeting, the Weld County Board of Commissioners approved the payment of Federal Mineral Lease Funds from the Weld County Federal Lease Act District for the county's Haul Route Program (HARP) and the county's water testing program.



Weld County Chemist Mark Thomas shows the devices used to test water.

This year, Weld County will receive \$1,425,000 in funding for various road improvement projects – specifically HARP projects. The HARP is designed to improve roads impacted by the oil and gas industry's heavy hauling on county roads. The Weld County Department of Public Works communicates regularly with the energy industry to identify roads needed for oil exploration and use, designate appropriate routes for the haul trucks, identify roads in need of repairs due to heavy use and address safety issues along those roads.

“As the number one producer of oil and gas in the state, receiving the Federal Mineral Lease Funds for our Haul Route Program is very important,” said Commissioner Chair Mike Freeman. “Although the county sets aside funds specifically to maintain our county roads, the Mineral Lease Funds help ensure our roads remain safe and in good

condition for the residents and traveling public.”

Weld County also received \$50,000 for the continuation of the county's water testing program. The program, which started in 2011, tests for volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and is free to county residents on well water. Weld County residents may have their wells tested every six months at no charge. Municipal water is already tested for VOCs and contaminants by the individual municipal water supplier.

“Our water testing program has been hugely successful,” said Commissioner Pro-Tem and coordinator for the Department of Health Services Sean Conway. “The free testing has provided a sense of comfort to residents on well water. They know the water they are using and drinking is safe.”

The Federal Mineral Lease Funds are a result from revenues the state receives for mineral leases. The Weld County Federal Mineral Lease Act 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 (DOLA). The funds are distributed to areas within unincorporated 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.

For more information about the Weld County HARP or well water testing program, visit www.weldgov.com.

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