

RESOLUTION 15-___

ADOPTING AN OPEN GEOSPATIAL DATA POLICY FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC

WHEREAS, Cochise County has invested substantial resources in a Geographic Information System (GIS) with layers of data for use by County officials and staff as well as for use by the public; and

WHEREAS, on October 11, 2005, the Board of Supervisors approved a GIS policy that allowed other governmental agencies access to GIS data for free, that allowed non-commercial members of the public access for a nominal processing fee, and that allowed commercial users access for a fee; and

WHEREAS, since the adoption of that policy the County has invested additional substantial resources in improving and broadening GIS data and layers in order to support the delivery of county services, enhance coordination with partner organizations and provide access to public information across the public, nonprofit, and private sectors; and

WHEREAS, using GIS data, the County GIS Division, in a process referred to as web mapping, has also created maps with particular data, referred to as open spatial data, for ease of use by officials, staff and the public, available for free on the County website at <https://www.cochise.az.gov/information-technology/gis>; such maps include the locations of County service centers, election district boundaries and polling locations, tax sale parcels, tax liens available for purchase, subdivision plats, special taxing district boundaries and information, and Comprehensive Plan designations; and

WHEREAS, the trend in government, both at the federal and local level, and statewide pursuant to A.R.S. § 37-178, has been to expand the availability of open spatial data, and allows public agencies such as the County to exempt the data from commercial use fees prescribed in section 39-121.03; and

WHEREAS, in line with that trend, the County's GIS Division has proposed that the Board of Supervisors adopt an official open geospatial data policy to improve access to County geospatial data by eliminating fees and improve efficiency by eliminating special request forms requiring signatures,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of Cochise County, Arizona hereby adopts an Open Geospatial Data Policy that provides public benefits, including:

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1. Providing access to license-free geospatial data at no cost, including to commercial users;
2. Developing or enhancing additional web mapping applications on the County's Map Gallery that government, public, nonprofit, and private sectors utilize and are based on the geospatial data provided by the County;
3. Advancing knowledge and services based on the innovative ways in how citizens and organizations utilize the geospatial data provided by the county;
4. Where possible, allowing geospatial data to be not only viewable on the Map Gallery but also downloadable;
5. Protecting privacy and confidentiality of citizen data as a paramount priority, while at the same time advancing accessibility through open geospatial data;
6. Distributing geospatial data in accordance with the provisions and protections of A.R.S § 37-178; and
7. Helping potential users of geospatial data learn that such data is available to them by publicizing its availability.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Open Geospatial Data Policy replaces and supersedes the GIS policy adopted by the Board on October 11, 2005.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of Cochise County, Arizona, this ____ day of _____, 2015.

Patrick Call, Chairperson
Cochise County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

Arlethe G. Rios
Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Britt W. Hanson

Britt W. Hanson, Chief Civil
Deputy County Attorney