

Coconino County Flood Control District Expenditures

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Presented by Jim Janecek, P.E., CFM
Stormwater Project Manager





Requested Council Action

The Issue: Coconino County Flood Control District (CCFCD) has requested feedback from elected municipal officials regarding project funding options.

Staff Requests Council Action:

- Guidance in choosing expenditure option for Flagstaff projects.
- Set policy by drafting a resolution that supports direct allocation for Flagstaff flood control projects.



Research Findings – Stormwater staff researched the flood control CIP programs for Maricopa and Mohave Counties.

- Mohave County uses direct allocation, returning the collected funds back to cities based on the percentage of total taxes collected, less overhead and operations costs.
- Maricopa County selects projects based on a competitive process using a benefits/cost criteria. Projects are ranked and selected by a representative seven member advisory board that reports to the County FCD Board of Directors.



Key Dates – History



- 5-15-18 CC Board of Supervisors approved Resolution 2018-16, taxing all private and commercial properties.
- 10-17-18: County hosted stakeholder meeting to discuss different approaches for expenditures of tax funds.
- 11-16-18: Letter from Flagstaff City Attorney to Coconino County Attorney communicated that plans presented by the CCFCD demonstrated CCFCD had already reached conclusions on how to spend tax dollars collected by the CCFCD.



Key Dates – History



- 2-2-19: Brad Hill sent email to County Representative Lucinda Andreani, outlining Flagstaff's concerns.
- 4-9-19: Joint letter from multiple municipalities in the CCFCD requesting an open and objective process to develop a county-wide master plan, and a specific criteria for selecting projects.
- 4-16-19: Flood Control District Update and Pre-Budget Financial Discussion to County Supervisors, with selected projects. None followed direct allocation or competitive grant process.
- 10-1-19: CCFCD requested that elected municipal officials respond regarding funding options, through the CCFCD.



Concerns



- Do the proposed administrative and operations costs (outlined in April 2019 presentation) comply with state law? Do they follow state established protocols?
- Does CCFCFD use a transparent and objective ranking process to show common benefit to the district? No COF projects were listed in the April 2019 presentation. Bill Williams Mountain Forest Restoration project was listed, but no Flagstaff Watershed Protection Project within the City of Flagstaff was included.
- How will emergency response expenditures be defined? Is criteria used for the Shultz Fire the same as for the Museum Fire?
- State statute requires the flood control district in populations of fewer than 300,000 to make an assessment of flood control problems in their jurisdiction. Was this assessment prepared, and did it include the City of Flagstaff?



Conclusions



- Staff recommends that the City of Flagstaff draft a resolution that supports direct allocation for flood control projects, with the proviso that the allocation process must be fair and equitable. The resolution must follow state laws regarding adjusting allocations for administrative and operations costs, and should create an emergency reserve.
- The resolution may also include conditions for competitive grants approach as an alternative to direct allocation.
- The Stormwater Section is studying alternatives such as transferring floodplain management duties to CCFCD, which should ensure that projects like the Rio De Flag and Flagstaff Watershed Protection Project are considered. State law allows CCFCD to refuse projects that are already initiated by a city. The term “initiated” is not defined under the State statutes that govern flood control districts.