



# City of Flagstaff

April 9, 2019

Coconino County Board of Supervisors  
c/o Supervisor Art Babbott, Chair  
219 E. Cherry Avenue  
Flagstaff, AZ 86001

RE: Coconino County Flood Control District (FCD)

Dear County Board of Supervisors,

Based on the information provided by the County over the past several months, it is clear that the Flood Control District (FCD) has not changed their priorities for projects and plans to move forward with them as previously defined, and without the benefit of a master plan which would identify drainage and flood control needs within the District as a whole. As the City of Flagstaff has expressed numerous times in various formats, this is not acceptable as it provides no opportunity for the cities/towns taxed by the County to participate in and fairly compete for projects funded by tax dollars taken from their own residents. The Flood Control District has picked specific projects without an objective and equitable process.

The County previously presented its 10-year financial plan which did not contain any money for projects other than County-stated priorities. The County is funding damage to its system from the 2018 monsoon season with money assessed this year. In other words, the County plans to spend money collected from Flagstaff and other municipal jurisdictions on projects that provide no demonstrated common benefit. A fair and equitable process does not yet exist and the County has made no mention when such a process will exist which would allow those cities/towns whose residents are taxed by the County for flood control improvements to understand the basis for District priorities and to apply for funding of specific municipal projects that also benefit the District. Such a fair and equitable process is of paramount importance to be in compliance with the "common benefit" portion of the state law governing flood control districts.

In addition, the County plans on creating an emergency reserve fund from monies collected from the Flood Control District. This again is not acceptable because it lacks the detail to show the common benefit necessary in a process of applying for emergency reserve funds and how cities/towns whose residents are taxed by the County, should go through such a process.

The County has not discussed, nor does it appear to have a competitive grant program funded in their 10-year plan. Although a competitive grant process was referenced in previous presentations by the County on this issue, no such program, or details of such a program, have been provided. Proceeding without such details for a program does not provide a clear or transparent process by which tax-payer dollars are spent in compliance with the "common benefit" portion of state law. The process for determining and prioritizing Flood Control projects should have happened concurrently with the assessment to all towns and cities within the County boundary. A competitive process should be seen as complementary to and a critical component of the overall District plan.

At the last meeting held in March 2019, the County discussed a Direct Allocation process where potential projects to be funded by the FCD will need to be tied to a master plan. However, there were no discussions concerning to what level or if, these Direct Allocations will be funded on an annual basis.

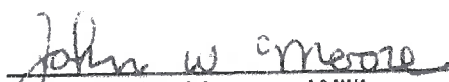
Given these ongoing concerns many of the Cities & Towns of Coconino County met on April 9, 2019 to discuss these concerns and to decide the most appropriate next step. It was determined that a joint letter that stated these concerns with a unified voice would be in order, and those who weren't able to make the meeting have since pledged their support.

Therefore, the Cities and Towns of Coconino County, as represented by the signatures affixed below, requests that before the County moves forward with any project utilizing tax revenues assessed by the Flood Control District that it adopts an open and objective process that develops a county-wide Master Flood Control Plan that incorporates all of the flood control needs from each of the jurisdictions represented below. The Cities & Towns of Coconino County also request that the County develop and adopt specific criteria and a process for determining how projects from the Master Flood Control Plan will be selected to serve the common benefit as stated in ARS §48-3620.

Respectfully,

  
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Mayor Coral J. Evans - Flagstaff

  
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Mayor Craig Sanderson - Tusayan

  
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Mayor John Moore - Williams

  
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Mayor Levi Tappan - Page

  
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Mayor Kimley Purvis - Fredonia

CC: James Jayne, County Manager; Bill Ring, County Attorney