



COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE

PIMA COUNTY GOVERNMENTAL CENTER
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C.H. HUCKELBERRY
County Administrator

March 6, 2019

Craig Sullivan, Executive Director
County Supervisors Association of Arizona
1905 W. Washington, Suite 100
Phoenix, Arizona 85009

Re: Federal Operation Stonegarden Grant Reimbursement to Counties

Dear Mr. Sullivan:

As you know, four Arizona border counties meet periodically and have formed the Arizona Border Counties Coalition (ABCC) to discuss issues relevant to border matters.

One issue that may also affect other counties is reimbursements received for Federal Operation Stonegarden (OPSG) grant funding. I have attached letters directed to the Governor and Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen from the ABCC members addressing reimbursement and operational issues associated with OPSG grants.

You may wish to make other counties in Arizona aware of these financial reimbursement issues if they receive OPSG grant funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, through the Arizona Department of Homeland Security.

It would also be beneficial if the County Supervisors Association would request the Governor assist in making changes to the reimbursement for vehicles associated with OPSG and the recovery of indirect costs.

We expect the next round of OPSG grant funding will be available soon and it would be desirable to have these changes in expense reimbursements included in the upcoming grant cycle.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C. Huckelberry". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail that extends downwards and to the right.

C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator

Enclosures

c: The Honorable Chairman and Members, Pima County Board of Supervisors
The Honorable Mark Napier, Pima County Sheriff
Michael Racy, Racy Associates, Inc.



February 14, 2019

The Honorable Douglas Ducey, Governor
State of Arizona
1700 West Washington Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Re: **Federal Operation Stonegarden Grant Modifications**

Dear Governor Ducey:

As US Border County Supervisors and members of the Arizona Border Counties Coalition, we understand your desire for border security and the formation of your Border Strike Force. We appreciate your efforts in improving security and safety for the residents of Arizona, including the residents of our border counties. We know and live with these issues firsthand and your support is appreciated.

The border counties of Arizona have been the recipient of federal Operation Stonegarden (OPSG) grants and these grants have been helpful in improving border security and safety. However, we believe there are a number of modifications that can be made to these grants to improve their effectiveness and to fully reimburse border counties for costs associated with accepting an OPSG grant.

OPSG grants are from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which is a unit of the federal Department of Homeland Security. These grants are administered by the State through your Arizona Department of Homeland Security (AZDOHS). Related to this administration, we ask for your assistance in making the following modifications:

1. Mileage Reimbursement - Increasing the mileage reimbursement for using county law enforcement vehicles in OPSG activities. The mileage rate was limited to \$0.44 ½ cents per mile based on 2006 mileage reimbursement rates. The current Internal Revenue Service reimbursement is \$0.58 cents per mile. However, as you know in procuring law enforcement vehicles, these vehicles are substantially more costly to operate than a typical passenger vehicle. Many of these vehicles, when including

replacement costs, average over \$1 per mile to operate. We would appreciate your assistance immediately increasing the reimbursement rate to the allowable IRS rate of \$0.58 as well as adding a clause that indicates that the rate can be either the IRS rate or the actual cost to counties as substantiated by audit.

2. Indirect Cost Reimbursement - Almost all federal grants allow the reimbursement of indirect costs; OPSG is one such grant. Indirect costs include the provision of central services and administrative support that benefit all activities of a department and therefore cannot be readily identified to a specific cost objective or program. Expenditures related to Information Technology infrastructure, facilities maintenance, and the recruitment and training of law enforcement officers are examples of indirect costs. In order to recoup such costs in relation to federal grant awards, local governments calculate indirect cost rates for their major departments by following federal regulations (2 CFR 200). The current Pima County Sheriff's Department indirect cost rate—just for example—is 28.58 percent. Arizona Department of Homeland Security (AZDOHS) OPSG grant applications, however, do not provide clear instructions or budget line items related to indirect cost rates. We request your assistance in directing AZDOHS to revise its OPSG grant application materials to clearly address how local government applicants can recover indirect costs.
3. Equipment Use - There is some confusion regarding the continued use of equipment purchased through OPSG by law enforcement. One county has been requested to park vehicles purchased with OPSG funds. To advance crime deterrence and assist counties in meeting their public safety mission, AZDOHS needs to clarify its OPSG grant guidelines to allow equipment purchased with OPSG funds to be used for law enforcement activities in addition to OPSG authorized purposes.
4. Local Law Enforcement a Priority – AZDOHS should also revise its OPSG grant guidelines to clearly indicate that local law enforcement officials engaged in OPSG efforts may, at any given time, respond to immediate and local law enforcement needs. Confusion has arisen regarding local law enforcement employed on OPSG activities and whether they can discontinue OPSG assignments to respond to a local law enforcement emergency.
5. Expanded Function and Mission - We also believe the federal government has not taken advantage of the sophistication and assets of local law enforcement in conducting OPSG activities—e.g., the use of air assets and surveillance equipment. We ask you to encourage the federal government to make broader and more extensive use of these technology assets that are today being used to effectively improve public safety and assist ground law enforcement response. This same technology can be of significant assistance to US Customs and Border Protection if included in OPSG grants. We ask for your assistance in conveying the importance of utilizing the full sophistication and technology of local law enforcement in border security and safety in our shared goal of maintaining and enhancing border security.

The Honorable Douglas Ducey
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As Arizona's Border Counties, we are the frontline of border safety and security and request your assistance as outlined above.

Sincerely,
Arizona Border Counties Coalition



The Honorable Sharon Bronson
Pima County Representative
Arizona Border Counties Coalition



The Honorable Pat Call
Cochise County Representative
Arizona Border Counties Coalition



The Honorable Bruce Bracker
Santa Cruz County Representative
Arizona Border Counties Coalition



The Honorable Tony Reyes
Yuma County Representative
Arizona Border Counties Coalition

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- c: The Honorable Mark J. Dannels, Cochise County Sheriff
 The Honorable Tony Estrada, Santa Cruz County Sheriff
 The Honorable Leon N. Wilmot, Yuma County Sheriff
 The Honorable Mark Napier, Pima County Sheriff
 Edward Gilligan, Cochise County Administrator
 Jennifer St. John, Santa Cruz County Manager
 Susan K. Thorpe, Yuma County Administrator
 Chuck Huckelberry, Pima County Administrator



February 14, 2019

The Honorable Kirstjen M. Nielsen
Secretary Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Re: **US Border Security at County Cost**

Dear Secretary Nielsen:

We are writing to request your assistance in certain financial aspects associated with Federal grants related to border security as well as funding to help defray the enormous financial burden placed on border counties because of immigration pressures.

The Arizona Border Counties Coalition represents four counties in Arizona that are adjacent to the International Border with Mexico. Pima County has the longest border adjacent to Mexico of any county in the United States.

Because the border is not secured with either physical, electronic, technologic or manpower security measures, our border counties carry a significant additional financial burden that must be paid for by local taxpayers. These added costs take the form of pretrial detention of non-citizens accused of crimes, as well as prosecution and defense of these individuals. Previously, State Criminal Alien Assistance Program funding provided some help in offsetting pretrial detention costs; however, these revenues reimburse counties for only a small fraction of the actual cost of pretrial detention. The reimbursement amount has been decreasing dramatically over the years.

Your assistance in developing some form of equitable reimbursement for these costs is appreciated. We understand any solution to this problem will take time. We stand ready to fully cooperate with you in developing an equitable and affordable cost sharing agreement on this issue.

Secretary Nielsen
Re: **US Border Security at County Cost**
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An issue, which we believe you may be of immediate assistance, is in ensuring existing Federal grants intended to improve border security and made to local border counties, adequately compensate counties when accepting these grants.

Enclosed is a letter we recently sent to the Arizona Governor regarding Operation Stonegarden Grant (OPSG) modifications. We believe, through the cooperation of both the Federal government and the State of Arizona, the modifications we have requested can easily be made to ensure adequate compensation for local county expenses when accepting OPSG grants.

We ask for your guidance on how best to implement these modifications to ensure counties are adequately compensated when working in partnership with the Federal government to secure our border.

Sincerely,

Arizona Border Counties Coalition



The Honorable Sharon Bronson
Pima County Representative
Arizona Border Counties Coalition



The Honorable Bruce Bracker
Santa Cruz County Representative
Arizona Border Counties Coalition



The Honorable Pat Call
Cochise County Representative
Arizona Border Counties Coalition



The Honorable Tony Reyes
Yuma County Representative
Arizona Border Counties Coalition

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Enclosure

- c: Peter Gaynor, Acting Administrator, US Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency
The Honorable Martha McSally, US Senator - Arizona
The Honorable Kyrsten Sinema, US Senator - Arizona
The Honorable Ann Kirkpatrick, Congresswoman, Arizona District 2
The Honorable Raúl Grijalva, Congressman, Arizona District 3