



PIMA COUNTY, ARIZONA

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS POLICY

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PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to establish a policy for the disbursement of Forest Reserve Funds received from the Federal Government for the benefit of Pima County's schools and roads.

BACKGROUND

Through an act of Congress the State of Arizona receives 25% of all fees collected by the Federal Government for various mining, timber harvesting and other activities on National Forest Reserve Lands. These payments are made for the benefit of all public schools and public roads where the national forest reserves are located.

A.R.S. § 41-736 apportions these funds to the individual counties based on the forest reserve acreage contained in each county. The County Treasurer is required under A.R.S. § 11-497 to notify the Clerk of the Board and the County School Superintendent of the amount of Forest Reserve Funds received from the State. The statute then directs that the Board of Supervisors disburse these funds for the benefit of public schools and roads of the county.

In May 1989, Attorney General Opinion I89-032 concluded that the Board of Supervisors may allocate disproportionate amounts of Forest Reserve Funds between public schools and public roads of the county so long as both categories receive a real benefit. The opinion also states that nothing in A.R.S. § 11-497 limits the disbursement of Forest Reserve Funds to public school districts in which forest reserve acreage is located.

POLICY

1. The County Treasurer will notify the Clerk of the Board, the Superintendent of Public Schools and the Department of Transportation of the total amount of Forest Reserve Funds received upon receipt of these funds by the County.
2. The Clerk of the Board will notify each member of Board of Supervisors and the County Administrator of the amount of Forest Reserve Funds received.
3. The Superintendent of Schools (Schools) and the Department of Transportation (DOT) have 10 days to notify the Treasurer and the Board of Supervisors of any intention to request a different allocation than that detailed in #4 below.
4. If no such notice is given by Schools or DOT, the County Treasurer shall disburse the Forest Reserve Funds as follows without further Board of Supervisors action:

50% to the Superintendent of Schools
50% to the Department of Transportation

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5. If the Treasurer receives notice from either department, he will place the item on the Board of Supervisors' agenda.
6. The requesting department will be responsible for providing back-up material to the Board of Supervisors prior to the Board meeting.

RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENTS

County Treasurer
Clerk of the Board
Superintendent of Schools
Department of Transportation

AUG 6 1994