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For release: December 14, 2004

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Media Advisory

Arapahoe County to distribute first \$6.2 million in Open Space “shareback” funds to cities and towns

On Friday, the Board of County Commissioners, with help from Santa, will celebrate the distribution of the first \$6.2 million in Open Space sales and use tax shareback revenue to Arapahoe County cities and towns.

Where: Arapahoe County Administration Building, East Hearing Room
5334 S. Prince St., Littleton, CO 80166

When: Friday, Dec. 17, 2004
2 p.m.

Who: Arapahoe County Board of County Commissioners, members of the County’s Open Space and Trails Advisory Board, County staff and representatives from Arapahoe County’s cities and towns.

In November 2003, Arapahoe County voters approved a countywide .25 percent sales and use tax for the preservation of open space in Arapahoe County. Collection of the tax began Jan. 1 and will expire Dec. 31, 2013. As part of the program, participating incorporated cities and towns within Arapahoe County are eligible each year to receive 50 percent of the total tax collected, divided by the population within the incorporated portion of the County. Approximately \$6.2 million in Shareback Funds will be distributed for 2004. This is the first distribution for Arapahoe County’s Open Space Program.

The tax will be used to preserve urban and rural open space and natural areas; protect lands that preserve water quality in rivers, lake and streams; provide, maintain and improve neighborhood parks, open space, sports fields, picnic facilities and multi-use trails; protect wildlife habitat and corridors; preserve agriculture and ranchlands; and enhance and maintain designated heritage areas.

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