



Communication Services
5334 South Prince Street
Littleton, Colorado 80166-0001
Phone: 303-795-4284
Fax: 303-738-7894
www.co.arapahoe.co.us

For release: December 17, 2004

Contact:
ANDREA RASIZER
Communication Services Director
Direct: 303-795-4284
Mobile: 303-882-1909
E-mail: arasizer@co.arapahoe.co.us

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

With help from Santa, the Arapahoe County Board of County Commissioners, along with 12 incorporated cities and towns, celebrated today the distribution of \$6.2 million in Open Space sales and use tax shareback revenue.

This is the first distribution of 50 percent of the \$12.4 million raised during the first year of Arapahoe County’s Open Space sales and use tax. 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.

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.

“This is a great opportunity for cities to work cooperatively to save some of the last remaining parcels of open space in Arapahoe County,” said Commissioner Susan Beckman. “We look forward to seeing these much needed Open Space dollars put to work to preserve our heritage and preserving urban and rural natural areas.”

While amounts will not be final until Dec. 30, 2004, the \$6.2 million will be divided approximately among the following cities, based on population:

City of Aurora	\$3.4 million	City of Englewood	\$440,000
Town of Bennett	\$2,000	Town of Foxfield	\$10,000
City of Centennial	\$1.3 million	City of Greenwood Vlg.	\$170,000
City of Cherry Hills Village	\$82,000	City of Littleton	\$550,000
City of Columbine Valley	\$15,000	City of Sheridan	\$74,000
Town of Deer Trail	\$7,000	Town of Watkins	\$12,000