

Coconino County Board of Supervisors

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For Immediate Release

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STATEMENT ON COCONINO COUNTY FISCAL YEAR 2019 SINGLE AUDIT

FLAGSTAFF – County Manager James Jayne issued the below statement regarding the release of findings from the Arizona Auditor General on the Coconino County Fiscal Year 2019 Single Audit.

“Coconino County takes the findings of the State Auditor General’s office seriously. Having received the seven findings from the Auditor General, we reached out immediately and met with the Auditor General’s office twice to discuss the findings. The County has taken immediate steps to correct issues found in the audit and, where needed, implemented measures to update policies and practices across the County, and to ensure staff are trained to meet the financial requirements.

The immediate actions that the County implemented to correct the findings noted by the State Auditor General’s Office include:

- implemented a new annual disclosure of conflicts of interest form for all public officers and employees;
- cancelled a contract with Morgan Stanley for its failure to comply with Arizona law resulting in one of the findings;
- implemented Information Technology best practices for managing risk and security controls;
- implemented new policies through Board of Supervisors’ action and approval to ensure proper documentation is in place for any spending on food and beverage; and
- updated procedures to ensure reporting to the Resource Advisory Committee on the planned expenditure of Title III funds.

While we concur with the findings presented by the Auditor General on inadequate documentation, we disagree that the County misspent any funds on food and beverage purchases. We acknowledge, and have since implemented corrective policies, that our documentation of expenses needed improvement. However, our County team members are a critical part of the work we do as a County and we connect their work with a public benefit. There are certainly instances where the County has spent funds on food for training of election workers, meals for juries who are in the middle of deliberations, and water and food for road and snow removal crews who are working in the field all day.

Coconino County believes firmly in transparency and fiscal responsibility. As such we will ensure the single audit findings are available on our County website at www.coconino.az.gov/621/Financial-Reports-Information. The actions we have taken to update County policies and practices address the audit findings and can give confidence to Coconino County residents that the county funds are being used in the best interest of the public.”

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