GILA COUNTY ATTORNEY

Daisy Flores

Re: County Attorney's Office approval of IGA pursuant to § A.R.S. § 11-952(D).

To whom it may concern:

The County Attorney's Office has reviewed the Intergovernmental Agreement titled IGA between the State of Arizona and the Gila County. ADOT File No. IGA/JPA 11-0281

and has determined that it is in its "proper form" and "is within the powers and authority granted under the laws of this state to such public agency or public procurement unit" pursuant to A.R.S. § A.R.S. § 11-952(D). The attached document "Explanation of the Gila County Attorney's Office Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) Review" explains what that review covers and does not cover in further detail.

10 7 11

Date

Bryan B. Chambers

Chief Deputy County Attorney

Explanation of the Gila County Attorney's Office Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) Review

A.R.S. § 11-952(D) requires that

> every agreement or contract involving any public agency or public procurement unit of this state . . . before its execution, shall be submitted to the attorney for each such public agency or public procurement unit, who shall determine whether the agreement is in proper form and is within the powers and authority granted under the laws of this state to such public agency or public procurement unit.

In performing this review, the County Attorney's Office reviews IGAs to see that they are in "proper form" prior to their execution. "Proper form" means that the contract conforms to fundamental contract law, conforms to specific legislative requirements, and is within the powers and authority granted to the public agency. It does not mean that the County Attorney's Office approves of or supports the policy objectives contained in the IGA. That approval is solely the province of the public agency through its elected body.

Likewise, this approval is not a certification that the IGA has been properly executed. Proper execution can only be determined after all the entities entering into the IGA have taken legal action to approve the IGA. There is no statutory requirement for the County Attorney's Office to certify that IGAs are properly executed.

Nonetheless, it is imperative for each public agency to ensure that each IGA is properly executed because A.R.S. § 11-952(F) requires that "[a]ppropriate action ... applicable to the governing bodies of the participating agencies approving or extending the duration of the ... contract shall be necessary before any such agreement, contract or extension may be filed or become effective." This can be done by ensuring that the governing body gives the public proper notice of the meeting wherein action will be taken to approve the IGA, that the item is adequately described in the agenda accompanying the notice, and that the governing body takes such action. Any questions regarding whether the IGA has been properly executed may be directed to the County Attorney's Office.

Proper execution of IGAs is important because A.R.S. § 11-952(H) provides that "[p]ayment for services under this section shall not be made unless pursuant to a fully approved written contract." Additionally, A.R.S. § 11-952(I) provides that "[a] person who authorizes payment of any monies in violation of this section is liable for the monies paid plus twenty per cent of such amount and legal interest from the date of payment."