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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 14, 2002

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DUST CONTROL RECOVERIES TOP ONE MILLION DOLLARS

In response to Environmental Protection Agency requirements that Maricopa County impose strict standards to ensure compliance with the Clean Air Act, the Maricopa County Dust Enforcement Program was implemented in the spring of 2000. A cooperative effort between the Maricopa County Attorney's Office, the Maricopa County Environmental Service Department, and the Board of Supervisors had as its goal the strict enforcement of the Maricopa County Air Pollution Control Rules and Regulations and the education of the construction industry about serious health problems that particulate pollution can cause.

Since its inception through October 2002, the Maricopa County Dust Enforcement Program has participated in and settled 433 cases involving particulate pollution. Monetary penalties in the amount of \$1,037,848.00 have been collected from construction industry violators.

The EPA had threatened to withhold millions of dollars in highway funding from Maricopa County if an effective air pollution program was not initiated. The agency has now stated they are pleased with the Dust Enforcement Program.

"Dust generated at construction sites has been one of the worst sources of air pollution. I am pleased to say, our partnership with the Maricopa County Environmental Services Department and the Board of Supervisors has been extremely effective in not only impressing upon violators the seriousness of the pollution problem, but also enlisting the cooperation of the construction industry in educating its members," said County Attorney Rick Romley.