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Arapahoe County begins transition of Centennial public works contract *Employees notified Wednesday of planned layoffs effective July 1, 2008*

LITTLETON, CO --- Arapahoe County began the transition of the Centennial Public Works contract Wednesday when it notified 23 employees that their jobs will be eliminated effective July 1, 2008.

The County decided to notify employees now in order to give them time to find work.

The restructuring is a result of the loss of the City of Centennial public works contract. Arapahoe County has provided public works and law enforcement services to the City of Centennial since its inception in 2001.

Last October, Arapahoe County and Centennial agreed to end the public works contract beginning July 1, 2008. Arapahoe County will continue to provide law enforcement services through 2018 as outlined in a 10-year agreement signed by both parties last week.

“We regret the impact that the loss of this contract will have on our organization, our employees and their families,” said Commissioner Susan Beckman, who serves as Board Chair. “Eliminating these positions was extremely difficult, but was necessary in order to cut costs due to the loss of revenue.”

A total of 31 positions will be eliminated. Of those, 28 are in the Public Works and Development Department, which includes six vacant and 22 filled positions. In the County’s Facilities and Fleet Management Department, three positions will be eliminated, two of which are vacant. The County also will eliminate 25 vehicles from the County’s fleet of 800. The restructuring will save Arapahoe County \$6.1 million.

“We are proud of the service our employees have provided to the citizens of Centennial and Arapahoe County, and we will be working with our employees to help them through the transition and assist them in finding other employment opportunities,” said Commissioner Jim Dyer, who serves as the Board liaison to the Public Works and Development Department. “We also want to assure our citizens that we will work to provide a seamless transition of public works services to the City of Centennial during the next five months.”

Arapahoe County is offering Public Works and Development employees whose jobs will be eliminated severance for those who stay through the remainder of the public works contract; outplacement services and training through Arapahoe/Douglas Works!; transfer and rehire opportunities through the County; and time off to attend job assessments and interviews.

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