FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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County Attorney Announces Record $3 Million Air Quality Settlement

The Maricopa County Attorney’s Office and the Maricopa County Air Quality Department (MCAQD) have secured a record-dollar air-quality settlement, County Attorney Andrew Thomas announced today. The penalty imposed totals over $3 million and involves the enforcement of air-quality regulations at five different Honeywell facilities around the Valley.

There were over 1,500 total violation days (number of violations times number of days each violation occurred). The vast majority of the violations occurred in the area near Sky Harbor Airport where the Honeywell Engines, Systems and Services facility and other facilities run by the company are located. Many of the violations were self-reported by Honeywell after they conducted an extensive environmental audit.

Attorneys from the Civil Division of the County Attorney’s Office were part of the negotiating panel that met with Honeywell. Honeywell officials in Phoenix, along with members of their local and national legal counsel, agreed to a total penalty amount of $3,025,480.00. This amount is more than double what had been the highest penalty ever assessed by the MCAQD. Honeywell will pay 25% of this amount ($756,370). The rest will be offset through the completion by Honeywell of supplemental environmental projects worth at least $2,836,387.50 within the county.

The MCAQD investigated the violations and then opened an enforcement case with the assistance of the County Attorney’s Office. The investigation included numerous inspections and the review of internal audits and other records from Honeywell.

“This settlement represents a significant advance toward improved environmental conditions for our county,” said Thomas. He thanked and commended MCAQD for its investigation of these matters.

Dan Brendan and Kevin S. Costello of the office’s Civil Division worked with members of the MCAQD enforcement group on the case.

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