



SIERRA CLUB

RINCON GROUP



738 North 5th Avenue #214
Tucson, Arizona 85705

December 23, 2013

Ramón Valadez, chairman, and members
Pima County Board of Supervisors
130 W. Congress, 11th floor
Tucson, AZ 85701

RE: Requested Comprehensive Plan Amendments Co7-13-03, -04, -05, and -06

Dear Mr. Valadez and other Board members,

As a founding member of the Coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection, the Sierra Club Rincon Group supports the Coalition's plea that you reject the four above-referenced requests of Red Point Development Inc. for Comprehensive Plan amendments.

They are for residential and commercial development on extremely valuable ironwood-saguaro habitat, critical to several declining species that the county's landmark Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan is crafted to protect, including the cactus ferruginous pygmy owl and the endangered lesser long-nose bat.

These requests violate a critical guideline of the nationally recognized Plan as 60 percent of the areas would be protected. The Plan sets a minimum 80 percent set aside.

The Plan's guidelines are based on years of study and negotiation and are based on the sound science necessary to save these declining unique local species.

Approval of these requests would be unfair to other developers whom you held to the Plan's standards. Worse, it would set a troublesome precedent, putting into question the county's ability to use the Plan as it was designed, to protect rare species by limiting development in sensitive areas. We note that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service also asks that you to reject these dangerous requests.

Far too much of this vital ironwood-saguaro habitat already has been bladed for development. Please reject these requests as presented and require Red Point to comply with the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan's guidelines.

Sincerely

Randy Serraglio
Sierra Club Rincon Group Chair

CLERK'S NOTE:
COPY TO SUPERVISORS

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
Cc: Development Services
DATE 1/6/14 (KM) Angie Ran

JAN 05 14 AM 11:55 PM CLK OF BD