

Comments on Budget and Southwest Kino Soccer Complex **Land Acquisition**

Dear Supervisors,

I have already contacted you about my opposition to the proposed soccer fields, but felt I needed to write again. The possibility of the money for the land deal to be taken from the roads is the end and all. The newspaper article stated that the roads were a \$300 million dollar problem and this amount didn't matter. Well any amount helps and should be used as budgeted.

I believe I am correct in saying that the County Manager works FOR the supervisors and residents of the county and does not own Pima County.

Please give this some real thought, voters are watching this closely.

Thank you,

Susan Stockton

Your planning on voting to distribute funds into a new soccer complex just west of Kino Sports Complex tomorrow, Tuesday June 17th. While I want to support this endeavor for the youth of Tucson, the hospitality industry and our local economy, I have some questions. Does the \$8.75 M + cover the actual construction of the soccer complex? or does it only cover the cost of the land? If not, where will the funds come from to fund the actual construction of the complex with all the amenities needed to accommodate all the participants and fans? Here is a sure bet, with not a huge price tag that we would like to see included in this package. In July of 2013 Kino Baseball League, Vince Trinidad of Visit Tucson and myself representing the Tucson Invitational Games met with Chris Bartos, Pima County Stadium District Administrator to discuss the South Quad of Kino Sports Complex and how reconfiguring the layout of fields #8 and #9 and the addition of lights to those same fields and field #3 would greatly enhance the amount of games the Tucson Invitational and Kino Baseball could play, dramatically increasing the amount of teams both organization can host on the existing fields. I'm hoping you aware of the economic impact the Tucson Invitational Games (TIG) has had on Tucson's hospitality industry. Now in our 14th year, in 2014 year alone the TIG occupied over 12,000 hotel rooms for the month of March and had an estimated economic impact of over \$12M, with additional lighting on the three fields mentioned the TIG can accommodate an additional 12-20 teams by being able to play additional night games on the 3 fields. (In March the sun sets at about 6 PM) FYI Each team and parents the TIG hosts are from outside Arizona, stays an average of 6.2 nights, averages 37 players per team, with parents and grandparents that follow their teams to get out of the nasty weather of winter everywhere else. Our website is www.TIGsports.com. By any conservative number the TIG has already brought in more than \$50M into Tucson's economy, and will continue increasing at a minimum of \$12M a year. A investment in these fields is a sure bet. Additional Information, Risk Management: Both Fields #8 and #9 at Kino South Complex have their home plates approximately 100-150 feet from Interstate 10. As Edgar Soto (Athletic Director Pima Community College) Shane Folsom (Former Head Coach University of Arizona

Club Baseball) and many others can attest to, too many foul balls end up near misses of cars traveling on Interstate 10. If just one foul ball hits a windshield and causes an accident, the cost would be 100 times the cost of changing the makeup of the fields. I hope you consider adding an amendment to the current proposal or increase funding for these fields separately until an alternative financing can be made for additional soccer fields that won't cause an uproar. Funding this project would allow these additions to be made to the Kino South Complex for a proven commodity of the TIG and Kino Baseball League and allow these organizations to continue their economic success for the community of Pima County. BTW.... They quit watering the baseball side of the complex before Memorial Day, it's dead, brown, patchy grass, you really should take a look! Thank you, Jim Tiggas Founder- Retired Tucson Invitational Games

NO to the tax increase!! Especially for another defunct soccer complex! What are we thinking of? Why can't we be more efficient with what we now have? The roads are far more in need of attention than to even think of wasting tax payers money on a piece of property that will eventually be of nothing but a financial burden to us all from the start! thank you.

The county administrator's proposal to purchase property for eventual use as soccer fields is nothing more than a slap in the face to all county taxpayers. I have never been so offended by an action as with this proposal. During the best of times, prior to purchasing property to be designated for recreational use, there should be a comprehensive analysis regarding the project, its need, its benefits and a full schedule of cost including both the mechanism for funding of the plan and ongoing operational costs. Clearly this is not the case here. Furthermore, for the County Administrator to make this proposal only weeks after begging the case for a substantial tax increase is absolutely incredulous. The thought of casually stealing money from the road repair budget is nothing more than salt in the wound. Make no mistake, this action is nothing less than flipping the proverbial bird to all county residents, even those who may have had some understanding of the need for a tax increase. I cannot express to you how deeply I am opposed to this proposal. A vote in favor of this proposal is nothing more than a demonstration of fiscal insanity. Respectfully, Andrew W. McWhirter County Resident since 1967

It appears that you have not been bought by board cronies yet. If the board expects to get a bond via election, think again. We are the taxpayers cheated out of approved funds for roads. It is time the county cease being the largest purchasing of properties owners want to dump, and all are all black holes for money. Take for example, the Meribank building, Walgreen building, Bank of America building. Taxpayers were drained of funds to remediate all of these, that is why the owners wanted to dump them. Elections are not a given! Voters will possibly remember the punitive action the board took against you recently. The open meeting violation issue is making its way through the bureaucracy in Phoenix now. Keep up the good works. I feel it is a waste of my effort to contact the others. Stanley A. Carpenter P.S. The 286 acre Painted Hills site includes a toxic cleanup site at the old Yuma mine, \$\$\$\$ The 167 acre soccer property is redundant, with an empty stadium nearby.

Please, please, please continue to represent your constituents of Dist 1 as you have been regarding the 2014-15 fiscal year budget. You are correct

in asserting (6/14/14 AZ Star) soccer facilities are too risky an investment when compared to desperately needed road repairs in Pima County.

The investment in road repairs is much more important to the general public than soccer fields. We have lived near the intersection of Or. Grove and La Canada for over 24 yrs. We have seen the 1997 bond pass (widening of Or. Grove from Oracle to I-10) and never been used for its original purpose. We have seen our neighborhood streets fall apart from lack of road maintenance by Pima County. Now we are watching the RTA La Canada Road Improvement Project be given the "slow move" by the County. This "No Man's Land of Pima County" has been ignored far too long.

Me thinks Mr. Huckleberry speaks with forked tongue. He has stated that he wants to raise our property taxes, and the Az state gas tax for road repairs. His sincerity in using this money for road repairs is now questioned because he wants to move \$1.75 million from a \$5M of the Pima County budget set aside for road repairs to build 19 more soccer fields!! What do you think he would REALLY do if he got to raise our property taxes? (Certainly NOT repair my neighborhood streets.) And we know what he did with the 1997 bond, or do we really ?

This man is out of control or is he truly crazy. In the AZ Star article he is quoted as stating "this problem (road repairs) is so big whether it is \$3million or \$5million is immaterial"... "it is a \$300 million problem".... then shouldn't we keep the \$5million we have to get started on road repairs? I have also recently read that he stated that a neighborhood didn't need road repairs because the size of the neighborhood was inadequate.

I question whether Mr. Huckleberry has purposely ignored Dist. 1 in the past years because we almost always voted Democrat. In most of the subdivisions, the roads are truly falling apart. Orange Grove Rd. is still a "country road". In his guest opinion in the Star of 11/17/13 He stated "bad (major collector)roads spell lower profits and missed opportunities". So, is he truly convinced that soccer will spell higher profits ?

I would like to assert that poorly maintained local public neighborhood streets spell declining market value of our homes, which of course lowers our tax rate. Maybe if the neighborhood streets were maintained in the first place by the county, they wouldn't have to raise taxes to pay for road improvements !! (Wow! What a concept!)

I can't remember the last time I felt physically angry when I read an article in our local newspaper. That was exactly my reaction today in looking at the page 1 article in the Star "1.75M for roads could go to soccer." Has Chuck lost another screw? I know I don't need to go into fine detail of all that is wrong with that idea, never mind the serious proposal - I've heard you recently on your weekly afternoon radio appearances. It feels like our area is just short of the abyss sometimes as it is. This is the sort of thing that starts the process of being pushed over the edge. It would be different, maybe, if the \$1.75 were the extent of it. But we clearly know that is just the start, the downstroke. We lost baseball for a host of reasons, including where Boyd, Grijalva, et al built Kino Sports Complex. It's still a bad location for soccer, serves too few residents. One of the best economic development efforts we can make is ensure our roads are in good repair & don't loosen fillings or ruin auto suspensions. I'm mad as hell at the thought of diverting such a sum to build this project. What can I do to help your efforts in opposition to this, & help expose Chuck for what he is? Thanks

Given that you seem to be inevitably at odds with your fellow Supervisors on nearly every issue that comes before the Board, I am curious as to the manner of how you meta-deliberate your positions on these issues. Is it that you disregard the facts under your nose and consider only the Administrator's position and/or that of the majority of the Supervisors before you unleash a visceral and contrary knee-jerk response? How is it possible for a thinking person to disagree so frequently with everyone on everything? Your recent disagreement about the shifting of funds from road repairs to an expansion of the Kino complex for additional soccer events is a recent case in point. A cursory review of the numbers makes this a no-brainer for anyone who considers themselves fiscally conservative. A fiscal conservative will recognize that a leaky roof can be repaired much less expensively today than replacing the entire roof tomorrow. Similarly, a fiscal conservative will understand that it is sometimes necessary to invest in

the present because the future is just around the corner. The intended benefits of the Kino stadium did not pan out. There were many moving parts and the effort was to have been a collaborative one. Pima did its share, others did not. It was still a good effort. Now that professional baseball has made the move northward, thinking people should begin to assess alternatives. I am not a soccer fan, but it appears to be our next best chance to salvage the value of the stadium complex. In order to do that, it must be expanded. I greatly appreciate any efforts that may ultimately serve to safeguard taxpayer interests. Sometimes that takes thinking outside the box. In your case, you seem to be motivated more by a pathological antipathy, either to others, or to the mere exercise of complex reasoning. It seems that if this Board cured cancer, you would complain that they skipped diabetes. You might want to try a little introspection. If you have a better idea about Kino, now is the time to speak. If you don't, perhaps it is time to resign and let more competent folks run with the ball.

We are adamantly opposed to Huckleberry's proposal to divert road maintenance funds to purchase land for the soccer complex! The roads in our area are already in a sad state of dis-repair and haven't been repaired in over sixteen years! Who "elected" Huckleberry to his office? The Supervisors need to fire Huckleberry for running the county into debt rather than cow-towing to his hair brain ideas!

We urge you to vote no on any new property taxes. We also urge you to vote no on the acquisition of any new land by Pima County. The money used for new land can be used for far worthier purposes - like reducing our debt. New soccer fields are not needed and no one has explained or justified the cost.

A large portion of this counties population are seniors who can not afford continuous increases in our property taxes. You just can't continue spending while our debt is in the BILLIONS. Where is your sense of fiscal responsibility?

Please hold the line on taxes. No new taxes should be assessed homeowners and property owners. Tucson is in dire straights. There are no jobs and we have a small tax base due to so many poor and no jobs where people can have careers and purchase homes that are not 65+ years old. The recession continues here. The county needs to reapportion funds better and cut waist and spending. We do not need more "indigent" legal defense money--it isn't a priority. The Sharif's department should not be getting raises nor anyone else in county employment. The Board of Supervisors should be running the county and Mr. Huckelberry and not the reverse. We do not need new soccer fields right now. We need roads improved and public safety taken care of. I have lived all over the U.S. from San Francisco to NYC, and I think, between the City of Tucson and county government, I have never seen such a horribly run place. We need common sense, not more taxes. I hope you and Mr. Carroll will try and convince the rest of your Board to make better decisions for the county.

We are opposed to using taxpayers funds for the purchase of land for a soccer complex! If this is a viable commercial project then it should not be difficult to get private investors to invest in the project without using taxpayer funds. The county has more pressing issues facing it than buying land for a soccer

complex! The purchase of this land by the county sounds like Rio Nuevo folly all over again! Please oppose using taxpayer funds for the purchase of this land!

There is a story in this morning's paper that Huckelberry is proposing purchasing 167-acers of land near Kino Sports Complex for new soccer fields. YOU HAVE TO BE KIDDING ME! The roads around my house and all over this pathetic county are falling apart and all we hear is that there is no money to fix them. How can you even think of purchasing this land for soccer fields?!

My social security went up 1 ½% last year and my Pima County property taxes are going up 13-17%. Are you people out of your minds? Now you want to take money from our budget to fix roads and put a down payment on building soccer fields. Where is the balance of the money going to come from to pay off the loan, build the fields, and pay for the maintenance?

You people have gone too far and as you come up for re-election I will make sure everyone I know and they know will know how you are squandering our money!

We are going to lose the A-10's, the Navy is cutting back on missile orders from Raytheon and housing has not recovered. We are in a severe drought which could cause our local economy to slow from a lack of water. You best start thinking about a rainy day fund rather than driving people out of the county

I am a resident of Pima County, and according to the Daily Star, you are proposing a property tax increase along with the proposal to spend \$8.75 million on a piece of undeveloped land. Also according to the Star, another \$30 million more is needed for investing in a soccer complex on this land. I think you tried something like this on a baseball complex and failed. Furthermore, I understand your new budget is again proposing to spend only \$5 million on road maintenance. Out of an over \$1 billion budget, that is less than one half of one percent. As you may not be aware, the roads in Pima County are in absolutely dismal shape. You should drive on my street, Pontatoc Rd. and see the road damage. Your proposed budget will spend more on a single parcel of land (not needed) than road maintenance for the entire county is just indefensible.

Pima County has received an average of \$38 million per year in HURF funds for the past 20 years, and this is after the sweeps that the state legislature has done. Since 1993, a total of \$878,745,075 has been received in HURF (Highway User Revenue Fund) and VLT (Vehicle License Tax) fees (\$764,174,752 HURF, \$124,570,323 VLT). Where has all the money gone? \$5 million dollars only out of \$47,838,444 for roads in 2012/2013? On what was the other \$42,838,444 spent? On what does the Board propose to spend road funds besides roads? Why only \$5 million out of over \$40 million for 2014/2015? Why are the terribly dilapidated roads not a very high priority for the Board? Why are the hard working taxpayers of this county being forced to pay even more in property taxes when the tax rates are already one of the highest in the state of Arizona?

As a Pima County Tax payer, stop wasting my money on your pet projects and reject this proposed property tax rate increases. Road funds must be spent on roads.

Sincerely,

Thomas Metzger

Thank you for being the only supervisor (Ally Miller) that stands up for the working people. Buying these fields is like buying a new car because the roof is leaking, and the car is on sale. The shell game continues. I thought there wasn't any money for roads....so how can you take money out of the transportation budget if there is no money. Please continue to be our watchdog. Thank you, Pat Beatty

On behalf of the Arizona Tax Research Association (ATRA) Board of Directors, I want to extend our concerns regarding the proposed 63-cent increase in the combined property tax rates for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 budget. The proposed combined tax rates (that are the responsibility of the Pima County Board of Supervisors) will reach a staggering \$5.7167 – 91 cents higher than two short years ago.

As property taxpayers are painfully aware, Pima County has for decades been at or near the top in highest county property tax rates. For many years, Pima County has solidly occupied the unfavorable position of the highest county property tax rates, with the FY 2014 combined tax rate a full dollar higher than second place finisher Pinal County. In addition to being the highest overall rate in the state, Pima County's FY 2014 rate was \$2.71 higher than the average rate for all Arizona Counties. Most notably, despite being Arizona's second most populous county, Pima unbelievably still holds the distinction of the highest property levies per capita at \$386 for FY 2014. By comparison, the most populous Maricopa County levied \$118 per capita and the third largest Pinal County levied \$208 per capita.

Tax burdens are one of many criteria that businesses use in determining site locations. It has been well established that Arizona's largest tax barrier to recruiting new employers is our high business property taxes. For 2013, Arizona ranked 9th nationally in industrial property taxes.

Clearly, in the highly competitive marketplace for business retention and recruitment, Pima is already at a significant disadvantage both nationally and regionally. This proposed tax increase not only moves Pima County in the opposite direction of where it needs to go, it is a decision that will likely handcuff economic development efforts for years to come.

Like Arizona businesses, Arizona state and local governments faced significant challenges during the great recession. Certainly every Arizona government has needs that remain unmet from that difficult period. As you debate the needs of Pima County, ATRA strongly encourages you to balance those against not only the impact on Pima County taxpayers and businesses

but also against the long-term viability of economic development in Pima County.

From: COB_mail
Subject: PC Supervisors: Please Vote for the soccer fields! Vote for the hospital

From: JMAHERJRAIA
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 1:17 PM
To: Chuck Huckelberry; District4; DIST2: District3; District5; District1
Cc: JMAHERJRAIA
Subject: PC Supervisors: Please Vote for the soccer fields! Vote for the hospital

6/16

Mr. Huckelberry, PC Admin
Board of Supervisors

Subject:
PC Supervisors--Please Vote for the soccer fields!Vote for the hospital

Dear Mr Huckelberry and Pima County Board of Supervisors,
Please vote for the new soccer fields and to continue to support the Kino Hospital.

As many of us know, Mr Kromco has never supported anything that I recall in 20-25 years in our special desert city. Everyone knows about the costs of hospitals as outlined by Ms.Bronson on KUAT recently.

Kino Sports Park is not a good example since we can not compete with \$30,50, and the \$80 million dollars spent recently in Mesa for Cactus League play. The Baseball Commissioner should be contacted directly to have these spoiled players drive down from Phoenix for games for us. Its farther east to west across Phoenix metro to their ballparks, then it is to travel here to our fans who along with the Cleveland Indians invented spring ball.

I can only assume that Mr. Miller is just like Mr Kromco and will never say yes to anything based on its merits and community value. Disrespect to Mr. Huckelberry is not useful to our community.

Besides Mr Miller should complain to our Governor and Legislature who continue to discriminate against Tucson for highway funds. She has returned the funding to Maricopa County but not Pima! Give our Gov a call, please?

The soccer idea is very much alive and a great possibility for success for Tucson. It has come a long way since a good friend played with Pele in LA years ago.

This idea also saves the historic Rillito Race track where Seabiscuit raced. Someday after the Bush No 2 recession and Wall Street destruction of the economy, we will fix it up.

Please vote for the soccer fields. Have you visited Mr Ted Schmidt's New Soccer Center dedicated to his wife's work for community soccer and our dear Friend, Anne Schmidt?

Great place for kids!

So wake up and be bold!
Thank you for your efforts for a better Tucson!

Sincerely Yours,

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Joseph Maher, Jr. AIA

architect

PC District No. 2, AZ Legislature Dist.10 (originally Ms Giffords), US Rep Barber

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Member:	Broadway Corridor Task Force
Member:	Grant Road Task Force
Member:	City Water/Pima County Waste Water Committee
Member:	Tucson Clean & Beautiful/Trees for Tucson
Member:	Downtown Core Overlay Sub-District LUC Sub-Committee
Alumnus:	U/A College of Architecture and Landscape
Volunteer:	Imagine Greater Tucson Visionary Project
Member:	National Trust for Historic Preservation
Member:	Downtown Links Citizens Committee