



COLOSSAL CAVE MOUNTAIN PARK

On the National Register of Historic Places • Tucson, Arizona

16721 East Old Spanish Trail • Vail, Arizona 85641

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Chairman and Members
Pima County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Colossal Cave Mountain Park Board of Directors
Gayle Alleman, Whitley "Anne" Gibson, Sharlene Gillette
Martie Maierhauser, Park Director

DATE: November 13, 2014

SUBJECT: Colossal Cave Mountain Park

As the Board of Supervisors contemplates the future of Colossal Cave Mountain Park (CCMP), the CCMP Board of Directors would like to voice strong support for the option that will preserve and maintain this entire natural resource. We recommend that Board of Supervisors accept the Audit Committee's preferred option --Option #1: Invest in cave, ranch and campgrounds.

We agree with the Audit Committee's conclusion that "Colossal Cave Mountain Park is a valuable one-of-a-kind community asset . . . that can be a productive component in attracting tourism from outside the Tucson region and creating significant economic impact."

The CCMP Board supports Option #1 because it preserves CCMP in its entirety. We believe it is essential to maintain all parts of CCMP because doing so:

- Provides open space and pristine areas in a rapidly growing community.
- Increases tourism to southern Arizona by meeting a variety of interests—geological, historical and recreational.
- Offers unique educational and research opportunities—from human and natural history to flora and fauna and the significant role this area played in the settling of the Southwest—such as the National Mail Stage line that ran through CCMP's La Posta Quemada Ranch.
- Provides a wide variety of recreational opportunities in a safe and educational environment.
- Provides enhancement to all parts of the Park for the future enjoyment and education of its visitors, thus becoming an even more viable attraction in our region.
- Contributes to the economic development of Vail and SE Pima County.
- Supports and provides access to another natural asset: the Arizona National Scenic Trail.

Option #1 provides much-needed funds to immediately repair and upgrade park infrastructure – funds that have been lacking due to a decline in tourism during the recent years-long recession. Option #1 ensures continuous, dedicated and knowledgeable stewardship of this unique and priceless natural resource as it transitions into a "new and improved" CCMP. These factors will encourage repeat attendance from Pima County residents.

*Maintaining the unique balance of Colossal Cave Mountain Park—
the land, its history, and its ecosystems—for this and future generations*



Colossal Cave Mountain Park—the Cave, the Ranch, the open space, the recreational opportunities and the history—should all be maintained in their entirety to have the greatest future potential. We therefore urge the Board of Supervisors to adopt Option #1 of the Audit Committee's recommendations: **Invest in cave, ranch and campgrounds.**

Thank you for your consideration.

c: C.H. Huckleberry, County Administrator

Tom Moulton, Director, Economic Development and Tourism Department

Chris Cawein, Director, Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation