

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 17, 2024

TO: Melissa Manriquez, Clerk of the Board

FROM: Adelita S. Grijalva, Chair, District 5



REGARDING: Item for the May 7, 2024 Regular Agenda

Please add the following to the May 7, 2024 regular agenda:

Proclamation

Proclaiming the day of Friday, May 10, 2024 to be "Santa Cruz River Day." (District 5)

Thank you

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Santa Cruz River has flowed from time immemorial through the land and territories of Indigenous peoples, Arizona being home to 22 federally recognized tribes, with the Santa Cruz watershed being home to the Tohono O'odham and the Pascua Yaqui, whose relationships with the land and river continue to this day; and

WHEREAS, a string of protected islands of land spanning both Santa Cruz and Pima Counties and united as the Santa Cruz River Urban National Wildlife Refuge would protect fish and wildlife habitat connectivity, boost outdoor access for hundreds of thousands of people, and enhance the local economy through nature-based tourism; and

WHEREAS, outdoor recreation and eco-tourism are major drivers of Arizona's economy, contributing \$9.8 billion to the state GDP each year, and nature-based tourism in Pima County is an especially important economic driver, as the Santa Cruz River is a birding hot spot and attracts people from around the world; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Cruz River is vital habitat and provides connections for hundreds of iconic species, including the mountain lion and Coues deer, as well as for critically endangered species such as the Gila topminnow and yellow-billed cuckoo; and

WHEREAS, land along the Santa Cruz River corridor in Pima County is under urgent threat from development and climate change, with the Santa Cruz River recently being listed as No. 4 on America's Most Endangered Rivers of 2024; and

WHEREAS, dozens of Pima and Santa Cruz County organizations have united to encourage the designation of an urban national wildlife refuge along the Santa Cruz River.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Pima County Board of Supervisors hereby proclaims Friday, May 10, 2024 to be:

“SANTA CRUZ RIVER DAY”

and encourages the community to support the designation of the country's newest national urban wildlife refuge in southern Arizona as the Santa Cruz River Urban National Wildlife Refuge.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 7th day of May 2024.

The Honorable Adelita S. Grijalva, Chair
Pima County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

Melissa Manriquez, Clerk
Pima County Board of Supervisors