



TUCSON
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
FOUNDATION

March 29, 2025

Hon. Chair Scott and Supervisors
Pima County
130 W. Congress Street, 11th Floor
Tucson, Arizona 85701

**RE: Real Property Item 30 – Support for Acquisition of the Desert Springs Subdivision
(Kelly Ranch)**

Hon. Chair Scott and Supervisors,

On behalf of the Tucson Historic Preservation Foundation, I am writing in enthusiastic support of Item 30: the County's proposed acquisition of the Desert Springs Subdivision—commonly referred to as Kelly Ranch—under Agreement ACQ-1237.

While the property is already recognized for its exceptional ecological value, adjacency to Catalina State Park, and presence of known Hohokam archaeological sites, it also contains a significant architectural resource that warrants strong preservation: a 1940 burnt adobe ranch house designed by architect Josias Joesler for J.E. McAdams.

This structure is a rare and intact residential commission by Joesler—one of Tucson's most celebrated architects—executed at the height of his career. The home's elegant massing, regional materiality, and sweeping site plan reflect Joesler's deep understanding of place and climate, combined with a sophisticated design and thoughtful integration into the landscape. It stands as an exceptional and increasingly rare example of early 20th-century Sonoran vernacular architecture, interpreted through a romantic lens of revivalism and adapted for modern living.

The Tucson Historic Preservation Foundation sees the protection and preservation of this architectural resource as a meaningful complement to the surrounding conservation land. This

MAR 31 2 54 PM '07 PC CLK OF DD



acquisition presents a unique opportunity to interpret not only the natural and archaeological landscape of the region but also its rich architectural and cultural heritage.

We urge your support of this acquisition and commend the Board for its vision in advancing projects that recognize and protect the full breadth of our region's cultural and historical landscape—spanning from time immemorial through to the architectural and environmental legacies of the modern era.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'D' followed by a series of connected loops and a final dot.

Demion Clinco, CEO
Tucson Historic Preservation Foundation
PO Box 40008
Tucson, Arizona 85717
info@preservetucson.org