



MEMORANDUM

Date: May 31, 2024

To: The Honorable Chair and Members
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: Jan Leshner 
County Administrator

Re: Additional Information - June 4, 2024, Board Meeting for Item #17 Regarding
Exemption of the Valencia Road: Mission Road to Camino de la Tierra Project from
Ordinance 10.56.070, Environmental Assessment and Mitigation Report (EAMR)

Background

At the November 1, 2022, Board of Supervisors meeting, related to a rezoning of 60.9 acres of land located southeast of Cardinal Avenue and Valencia Road, direction was given for staff to accelerate design of the Valencia Road, Mission Road to Camino de la Tierra project using impact fees collected to date and to pursue all options for securing funding to enable construction of the project.

In 2023, the Department of Transportation began pre-design work for the Valencia Road project. That same year the County was awarded a \$20 million Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant for the construction of the project.

Valencia Road Project Status

The Valencia Road project is currently under design. The project will widen Valencia Road from Mission Road to Camino de la Tierra to six lanes with bicycle and pedestrian facilities. A Community Advisory Committee (CAC) has been assembled and has met twice to date. The first public meeting for the project was held in May 2024.

The RAISE grant is a federal funding source requiring specific clearances and environmental documents to use federal funds for the construction of the project. County Ordinance 10.56.070 also requires an Environmental Assessment and Mitigation Report (EAMR) for transportation projects of this scale. The purpose of an EAMR is to identify adverse impacts of the proposed project and provide recommendations for mitigation measures which may be undertaken to minimize the adverse impacts.

Federal projects require a different environmental document, either an Environmental Assessment (EA) or Categorical Exclusion (CE). In consultation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), it has been determined that this project will require a CE. The requirements of a CE and the County's EAMR are largely similar. FHWA will not accept an EAMR in place of the CE; therefore, there will be duplication of work effort, additional costs, and longer timeline to complete both documents.

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The Honorable Chair and Members, Pima County Board of Supervisors

Re: **Additional Information - June 4, 2024, Board Meeting for Item #17 Regarding Exemption of the Valencia Road: Mission Road to Camino de la Tierra Project from Ordinance 10.56.070, Environmental Assessment and Mitigation Report (EAMR)**

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Recommendation

I recommended that the Board of Supervisors waive the requirement of an EAMR in County Ordinance 10.56.070 for the Valencia Road project. If this waiver is approved, environmental evaluation, mitigation and clearance will still occur through the federally required CE environmental document.

JKL/anc

c: Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator
Francisco Garcia, MD, MPH, Deputy County Administrator & Chief Medical Officer
Steve Holmes, Deputy County Administrator
Kathryn Skinner, Director, Department of Transportation