

**Alda Herrera**

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**From:** District4  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 16, 2017 10:29 AM  
**To:** COB\_mail  
**Subject:** FW: Exploding Targets

**From:** Roger McManus  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 16, 2017 10:20 AM  
**To:** District1 <District1@pima.gov>; DIST2 <DIST.2@pima.gov>; District3 <District.3@pima.gov>; District4 <District4@pima.gov>; District5 <District5@pima.gov>  
**Subject:** Exploding Targets

Supervisors:

I was planning on being at the meeting on Monday, but unfortunately I will be out of town on business. I wanted to contact you all about your decision on exploding targets. I would hope you all vote in favor of banning these devices in Pima County.

This is an important issue regarding wildfires. This is not a 2nd Amendment issue, as some may suggest. I do support the 2nd Amendment. I own numerous firearms, and am a licensed hunter in the state. I started hunting with my dad here when I was about 12 years old. He was a pretty strict teacher. He taught me that guns are dangerous weapons, and that they are not toys. It is a lesson and view I still hold to today. My view is that for many reasons the use of firearms needs to be conducted strictly legally and with great responsibility.

Wildfires are an increasing threat in Arizona, and particularly in our region. We are getting hotter, drier, and are challenged by an increasing problem of invasive plants that when they die become dry kindling for fires. The Sonoran Desert is not a fire evolved ecosystem. The plants and animals are particularly vulnerable to wildfires. We need to start treating wildfires as a serious problem and ramp up our efforts to inform the public and prescribe management controls to prevent these fires.

Wildfires started by recreational shooting are an increasing problem which many land management agencies don't like to discuss because of the political issues. Several years ago a major fire was started by a bachelor party drinking and shooting incendiary shells into paper targets that not surprisingly resulted in a wildfire that cost millions of dollars to suppress with huge damages. The Sawmill fire was the result of explosive targets. The activity was taking place illegally on State land. It was a blustery day. And, it was conducted by a Border Patrol officer, who should have been aware of where he was, and the conditions. It cost millions of dollars to suppress. Fortunately, and by dumb luck, no private property was damaged or people were hurt or killed. Unfortunately, undoubtedly many wildlife were burned alive, and land resources severely damaged. While it is commendable that the officer volunteered his responsibility, it does not obscure the facts that where he was doing it was illegal, he did not act responsibly in the prevailing conditions, and he was playing with guns to shoot targets that exploded, and started a fire.

We need to start taking illegal acts and practices that cause wildfires seriously. And, there is no need, no use for exploding targets. They are dangerous, and their use encourages activities that are a documented cause of fires.

**CLERK'S NOTE:  
COPY TO SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

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We need to get rid of these targets, educate the public to the danger, and work to be better able to prevent wildfires. Your work on Monday will be a big step in the right direction, and I hope each and every one of you will vote to ban these targets, and work together for all of our security and to take common sense steps to protect private and public property, human safety, and our wildlife resources.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide my comments, and wish that they be included in the public record.

Sincerely,

Roger McManus