



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AGENDA ITEM REPORT

Requested Board Meeting Date: December 1, 2020

Title: Proclamation - December 2020 "Las Cienegas National Conservation Area Appreciation Month" and December 1, 2020, as "Congressman Jim Kolbe Appreciation Day."

Introduction/Background:

U.S. Congress established the Las Cienegas National Conservation Area December 6, 2000, to protect rare riparian and grassland ecosystems in the Cienega watershed. This designation was the culmination of over 20 years of collaborative efforts by multiple partners to preserve these unique natural values. Former U.S. Representative Jim Kolbe submitted the legislative proposal that led to the establishment of the Las Cienegas National Conservation Area and played a key role in its passage, which was a leading milestone in the development of Pima County's Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan.

Discussion:

Starting with the acquisition of privately-owned Empire-Cienega Ranch in the Cienega Watershed, the Bureau of Land Management now manages and preserves nearly 99,000 acres in the Cienega Valley watershed for the benefit of all of citizens of Pima County.

Conclusion:

Upon the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Las Cienegas National Conservation Area, Pima County citizens are encouraged to appreciate and explore the unique grassland, riparian, aquatic and cultural and natural resources. As such, it is requested that December 2020 be designated "*Las Cienegas National Conservation Area Appreciation Month*" and December 1, 2020 be Proclaimed as "Congressman Jim Kolbe Appreciaton Day" in Pima County.

Recommendation:

The Pima County Board of Supervisors proclaims December 2020 as "Las Cienegas National Conservation Area Appreciation Month" and December 1, 2020 as "Congressman Jim Kolbe Appreciation Day."

Fiscal Impact:

None.

Board of Supervisor District:

- 1 2 3 4 5 All

Department: Office of Sustainability and Conservation Telephone: (520) 724-6940

Contact: Linda Mayro Telephone: (520) 724-6940

Department Director Signature/Date: *Linda Mayro*

Deputy County Administrator Signature/Date: *[Signature]* 11/3/2020

County Administrator Signature/Date: *[Signature]* 11/3/2020

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the U.S. Congress established the Las Cienegas National Conservation Area (LCNCA) on December 6, 2000, “to conserve, protect, and enhance for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations the unique and nationally important aquatic, wildlife, vegetative, archaeological, paleontological, scientific, cave, cultural, historical, recreational, educational, scenic, rangeland, and riparian resources and values” of the Cienega Valley watershed; and

WHEREAS, establishment of the LCNCA was the culmination of over 20 years of collaborative efforts to protect the rare riparian and grassland ecosystems in the Cienega watershed, beginning with Pima County’s purchase of the Cienega Creek Natural Preserve in 1986; and

WHEREAS, in 1987, Pima and Santa Cruz Counties urged the Arizona Congressional delegation to authorize the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to acquire the privately-owned Empire-Cienega Ranch in the Cienega watershed, ultimately leading to BLM’s acquisition and management of nearly 99,000 acres in the Cienega watershed; and

WHEREAS, in September 1999, U.S. Representative Jim Kolbe submitted the legislative proposal that led to the establishment of the LCNCA and played a key role in its passage; and

WHEREAS, establishment of the LCNCA represented a milestone in the development of Pima County’s Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan; and

WHEREAS, December 6, 2020, is the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Las Cienegas National Conservation Area.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Pima County Board of Supervisors hereby proclaims the month of December 2020 to be:

“LAS CIENEGAS NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA APPRECIATION MONTH”

and encourages all citizens to explore and enjoy the unique natural and cultural resources of the LCNCA;

and, because of his leadership in securing the LCNCA establishment, further proclaims the day of Tuesday, December 1, 2020, to be:

“CONGRESSMAN JIM KOLBE APPRECIATION DAY”

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 1st day of December 2020.

The Honorable Ramón Valadez, Chairman
Pima County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

Julie Castañeda, Clerk
Pima County Board of Supervisors