

Katrina Martinez

**From:** Don Hayles [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 3, 2025 5:06 PM  
**To:** District1; District2; District3; District4; District5; COB\_mail  
**Subject:** BoS meeting Feb 4, 2025 Agenda Items #3 and #5 comment

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Hello, Here are our comments and recommendations for Addendum Items #3 and 5.  
Thanks,  
Don & Pat Hayles  
2-3-2025

**Addendum Item #3: Wildfire Danger Mitigation Plan (District 4).**

Supervisor Christy has requested discussion/direction/action regarding the development of a Pima County Wildfire Danger Mitigation Plan by the County Administrator to include, but not limited to the following:

- Explore additional tools and options to enhance the County's clearing and brush management efforts in wildfire prone areas, conducting a feasibility analysis on modern best practices for clearing overgrown and downed vegetation.
- Conduct a comprehensive evaluation of all County property, particularly road rights-of-way, parks, and conservation lands in wildfire prone areas for opportunities to apply regular and additional clearing.
- Explore ways to help residents clear their own properties in wildfire prone areas with direct assistance in the disposal of brush and vegetation or through financial incentives in remote regions of the County.

Staff to report back within 120 days with a draft of the plan and its fiscal impact.

**Addendum Item #5: Legislative Agenda Update - Fire District Funding (District 2).**

Supervisor Heinz has requested discussion/direction/action Directing the County Administrator to add the following to our 2025 State Legislative Agenda, for pursuit by our county lobbyist at the State Capitol this legislative session: Using the language from SCR 1049 (Fifty-fifth Legislature, Second Regular Session, 2022; i.e. what became Arizona Proposition 310, Sales Tax for Fire District Funding Measure (2022)) as a model, creating enabling legislation that would authorize the Board of Supervisors of Pima County (or all Boards of Supervisors across all fifteen counties) to refer to the electors of Pima County (or to the electors of their respective counties) a countywide sales tax measure of up to 1/10th of one percent (1/10th of a penny) for the purpose of shoring up the finances of all Fire Districts operating within the county. While the Tucson Fire Department serves the urban center of our county, numerous other fire districts provide critical services to rural, suburban and unincorporated areas. These districts face unique challenges, including limited budgets, aging

equipment, and growing service demands. Ensuring they are adequately equipped and staffed is essential for the safety and well-being of all Pima County residents.

The two addendum items listed above are two different ways of decreasing the risk of fire damage in Pima County. This is undoubtedly on our supervisors' minds because of the recent fires around Los Angeles, which happened on the tail of the Lahaina, HI fires of 2023 and the previous fires of northern California beginning in 2017. While we could discuss at length many of the anomalies surrounding all of these fires, suffice to say that one common factor was the fact that all of the locations affected had been slated for redevelopment into Smart cities and transit corridors. This should give pause to anyone living in an urban center which has been similarly scheduled for transition to a Smart city or a 15-minute city. Any and all kinds of pre-emptive fire mitigation are therefore welcome.

**Recommended action for Addendum Items #3 and #5:** Please invest in all possible methods to fireproof Pima County. Since we generally oppose tax increases (as they are regularly abused), please ensure we are presented with a sales tax measure that the County be held strictly accountable for the allocation of the revenue to its intended target.

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