



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AGENDA ITEM REPORT

Requested Board Meeting Date: 4/15/2025

**= Mandatory, information must be provided*

Click or tap the boxes to enter text. If not applicable, indicate "N/A".

***Title:**

Environmental Quality Advisory Council

***Introduction/Background:**

Fill vacancy of Transportation and Planning

***Discussion:**

In accordance with state and local regulations, the composition of the Environmental Quality Advisory Council shall consist of ten members serving three-year, staggered term. The ten members shall be knowledgeable in the field of environmental protection including air pollution and its control, water quality protection, and solid waste/hazardous materials management. One member shall be from each of the following range fields: General business/industry or small business; consumer protection or public environmental interest; environmental conservation or resource management; science or engineering; health or education; transportation and land use planning, hydrology water resources or waste management; and environmental planning or environmental law.

***Conclusion:**

Mike Dawson, President of Arizona Association of Environmental Professionals has over 38 years of experience in transportation and planning in the Arizona region and would be a great addition to the Environmental Quality Advisory Council.

***Recommendation:**

Staff recommends the appointment of Mike Dawson to represent the Transportation and Planning field on the Environmental Quality Advisory Council.

***Fiscal Impact:**

All members are volunteers , providing the residents of the County with the benefit of their expertise at no cost to Pima County.

***Board of Supervisor District:**

☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☒ All

Department: Environmental Quality

Telephone: 520-724-7400

Contact: Fatima Munoz

Telephone: 520-724-7331

Department Director Signature: _____

Date: _____

Deputy County Administrator Signature: _____

Date: _____

County Administrator Signature: _____

Date: _____

Michael R. Dawson, Senior Environmental Planner, EcoPlan Associates, Inc. Tucson, Az.

Mr. Dawson leads the EcoPlan Associates Tucson office as a Project Manager and Senior Environmental Planner directing the work of staff biologists, archaeologists, water quality specialists, and environmental planners. The consulting firm provides environmental analysis, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance documents, and regulatory permitting for federal, state, local government and private client projects. The projects include land use plans, corridor studies, feasibility studies, and capital construction projects.

Mr. Dawson received his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Arizona in 1978 with a major in Natural Resource and Recreation Management. His nearly 38 year professional career has been focused on Environmental Planning, with emphasis on Land Use Planning, Transportation Planning and the application of NEPA to those activities. His first position after graduation was with the U.S Department of the Interior – Bureau of Land Management as a Recreation Planner. He was part of the BLM Wilderness Program that developed the recommendations to Congress for the designation of 1.4 million acres as Wilderness under the Arizona Desert Wilderness Act of 1990.

From there his career took a turn from planning for lands that were by definition “roadless” to the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT), a state agency that builds roads. However his focus as an Environmental Planner for ADOT was on project NEPA compliance and long range transportation planning. After almost 10 years at ADOT, the Maricopa County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) recruited Mr. Dawson to start an Environmental Planning and Public Involvement Division to assist the county’s growing transportation infrastructure. He spent 8 years at the County, primarily as their Community and Government Relations Manager responsible for the public involvement aspect of the Capital Improvement Program, Environmental Planning, and Intergovernmental Agreements with the 27 jurisdictions and 3 tribes within Maricopa County.

His private consulting sector career started in 2000, and Mr. Dawson has held various titles with 4 firms including Environmental Manager, Environmental Program Lead, and Southwest Regional Manager - Environmental Services. He is experienced in working with multiple jurisdictions and interest groups to help solve complicated local and regional issues in projects. His thorough knowledge of the environmental field, permitting issues, and regulatory requirements assists in the planning and engineering elements of a project.

Mr. Dawson is currently the President of the Arizona Association of Environmental Professionals (AZAEP) and has served on their Board since 2006. AZAEP is comprised of about 135 environmental professionals around the state; providing networking, training, and career development.



PIMA COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes – Wednesday, February 12, 2025

Members Present:

Ms. Leslie Katz
Mr. Garth Bowers
Mr. Angelantonio Breault
Dr. Avelino Arellano
Dr. Paloma Beamer
Ms. Leah Proffitt
Mrs. Ursula Nelson

Members Absent:

Ms. Megan Garvey

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Others Present:

Scott DiBiase – PDEQ
Fatima Muñoz – PDEQ
Natalie Shepp- PDEQ
Mike Dawson- Nominee for the Transportation and Planning
Flor Sandoval – U of A
Jell Balgos – U of A

I. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Leslie Katz Vice Chair called the meeting to order 1:30 PM

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance to the United States of America was recited.

III. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 19, 2024

A motion was made by Garth Bowers to approve the meeting minutes for meetings for November 19, 2024. Dr. Paloma Beamer seconded the motion, and meeting minutes were approved.

IV. SERIS Presentation-Flor Sandoval/ Jell Balgos

The presentation will be posted on the Environmental Quality Advisory Council webpage ([Environmental Quality Advisory Council Agendas, Minutes & Information | Pima County, AZ](#)).

IV. STAFF REPORT/PDEQ UPDATES: SCOTT DIBIASE

EQAC Summary Meeting Minutes

February 12, 2025

Mr. DiBiase provided an update on Pima County Administration changes with Dr. Garcia's departure to the University of Arizona. PDEQ is now under Deputy County Administrator Carmine DeBonis.

Mr. DiBiase discussed the ongoing federal administration executive orders tied to grants (i.e. CPRG, ARPA). The Department continues to work on these grants and the deliverables required under the grant agreements.

Mr. DiBiase discussed the FY26 budget process which is ongoing. The discussion included a budget supplemental tied to EPA 105 grant contingency funding (to fund 10 FTEs tied to the 105 grant). The supplementals also include potential funding to address damage at the closed Ina landfill and ongoing maintenance needs at the Tangerine Landfill. Mr. DiBiase also discussed the recent increase in the Ryan Field transfer station annual lease amount which is included in the FY26 budget supplementals. Mr. DiBiase will provide another budget update at the next EQAC meeting.

Mr. DiBiase discussed House Bill 2272 which is proposing to revise the definition of County in A.R.S. 49-371 which is tied to the Stormwater Program. If this bill passes, it will provide PDEQ the opportunity to develop its own Stormwater Program Ordinance.

Mr. DiBiase discussed the ongoing air quality rulemaking process tied to the proposed removal of the Affirmative Defense, Startup/Shutdown/Malfunction air permitting code in Pima County Code Title 17. This rulemaking is necessary to address Court and EPA actions. The ongoing rulemaking included a Stakeholder meeting (February 4, 2025), Oral Proceeding (February 18, 2025), public comment period (January 13-February 27, 2025) and a Public Hearing with the Pima County Board of Supervisors on April 1, 2025.

Mr. DiBiase updated EQAC on the Department's adoption of a Public Participation Plan (PPP), Disability Access Plan (DAP) and Language Access Plan (LAP). This was in response to the Civil Rights complaint to EPA during the Becton Dickinson air permitting process and subsequent EPA/PDEQ Informal Resolution Agreement. The Department recently adopted new policies tied to these plans and will implement them in future rulemaking and permitting processes.

Finally, Mr. DiBiase provided EQAC with an update on the ADEQ audit of the PDEQ Stormwater Program. The audit evaluated 72 items in the overall Stormwater Program. ADEQ found 8 items that needed improvement. The PDEQ Stormwater Hydrologist Marie Light is working with other County departments to address the items that need improvement. EQAC member Ursula Nelson asked for more specific information on what were some of the issues. Mr. DiBiase provided the example of post-construction permanent stormwater controls inventory and inspections (90% within the first year of construction completion).

V. PRESENTATION OF EPA CLIMATE POLLUTION REDUCTION GRANT (CPRG) and EPA ARPA ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AIR MONITORING GRANT UPDATE -NATALIE SHEPP

The presentation will be posted on the Environmental Quality Advisory Council webpage ([Environmental Quality Advisory Council Agendas, Minutes & Information | Pima County, AZ](#))..

VI. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Mike Dawson spoke about his qualifications and professional experience and interest in filling the vacant transportation planning EQAC position. Mr. Dawson led the EcoPlan Associates Tucson office as a Project Manager and Senior Environmental Planner directing the work of staff biologists, archaeologists, water quality specialists, and environmental planners. The consulting firm provides environmental analysis, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance documents, and regulatory permitting for federal, state, local government and private client projects. The projects include land use plans, corridor studies, feasibility studies, and capital construction projects. Mr. Dawson retired in 2023.

Mr. Dawson received his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Arizona in 1978 with a major in Natural Resource and Recreation Management. His nearly 38-year professional career focused on Environmental Planning, with emphasis on Land Use Planning, Transportation Planning and the application of NEPA to those activities. His first position after graduation was with the U.S Department of the Interior – Bureau of Land Management as a Recreation Planner. He was part of the BLM Wilderness Program that developed the recommendations to Congress for the designation of 1.4 million acres as Wilderness under the Arizona Desert Wilderness Act of 1990.

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Mr. Dawson served as the President of the Arizona Association of Environmental Professionals (AZAEP) and was on their Board. AZAEP is comprised of about 135 environmental professionals around the state: providing networking, training, and career development.

EQAC Summary Meeting Minutes
February 12, 2025

Lesile Katz made a nomination to have Mike Dawson to fill the transportation planning EQAC vacancy (formerly held by Kylie Walzak). Lesile Katz made a motion to have Mike Dawson fill the vacancy and was seconded by Garth Bowers and motion passed unanimously.

VII. NEXT EQAC MEETING AND AGENDA ITEMS

April 23, 2025, at 9:00 am

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Leslie Katz adjourned the meeting at 10:40 am.