



Jennifer Allen
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PIMA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 29, 2025

TO: Melissa Manriquez
Clerk of the Board

FROM: Jennifer Allen
District 3 Supervisor

SUBJECT: Agenda/Addendum Item – RESOLUTION OF THE PIMA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OPPOSING THE ONGOING MILITARIZATION OF THE U.S. - MEXICO BORDER

Please place the following item on the Addendum for the Board of Supervisors meeting of June 3rd, 2025.

RESOLUTION OF THE PIMA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OPPOSING THE ONGOING MILITARIZATION OF THE U.S. - MEXICO BORDER

Thank you.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-_____

**RESOLUTION OF THE PIMA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OPPOSING THE ONGOING
MILITARIZATION OF THE U.S. - MEXICO BORDER**

WHEREAS Pima County, Arizona shares approximately 120 miles of its southern border with Sonora, Mexico, and the Pima County-Mexico border is lined with federally protected parks, wilderness areas, and wildlife refuges, including Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge; Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument and Wilderness Area, and Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge and Wilderness Area;

WHEREAS the Pima County-Mexico border is incredibly rich in biodiversity, encompassing largely undisturbed desert, mountains, and grasslands that provide important habitat for countless native species, including mountain lions, black bears, and pronghorn, as well as federally-listed species such as jaguars, ocelots and cactus ferruginous pygmy owls, and numerous other species covered under the County's Multi-species Conservation Plan and Endangered Species Act Section 10 Permit;

WHEREAS the Tohono O'odham Nation encompasses 62 miles of what is now the Pima County-Mexico border, and the Tohono O'odham people have lived in this region since time immemorial, with their homeland and ancestral and sacred places spanning across and divided by the U.S.-Mexico border;

WHEREAS ongoing border militarization has made cross border travel for Tohono O'odham members increasingly difficult, greatly increased racial profiling on the Tohono O'odham Nation, and caused irreparable damage to the cultural fabric and living traditions of the Tohono O'odham including threats to sacred places such as Quitobaquito Springs in Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument;

WHEREAS ongoing border militarization has greatly increased the use of racial profiling across Pima County communities, subjecting residents to unwarranted search and seizure, wrongful detention, and abuse;

WHEREAS ongoing border militarization intentionally funnels migrants into the most remote and dangerous areas of the U.S.-Mexico border and has resulted in thousands of deaths across the border region since these policies were first implemented in 1994;

WHEREAS ongoing border militarization degrades key elements of Pima County's Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan, including critical habitats and biological corridors, riparian areas, and historic and cultural places, and it undermines the foundational goal of the SDCP to preserve landscape connectivity by protecting and improving wildlife movement corridors that connect large blocks of habitat.

WHEREAS virtually all border infrastructure projects in Arizona over the last 15 years have been subject to negligible regulatory oversight due to the Department of Homeland Security's blanket waiver of all applicable local, state and federal laws that require the identification and assessment of potential environmental, cultural and other impacts, public disclosure, and minimization and mitigation of those impacts.

WHEREAS on January 20, 2025, President Trump declared a national emergency along the U.S.-Mexico border and cited an ongoing "invasion" as the reason, even though border crossings between ports of entry in December 2024 were 81 percent lower than the prior year and continue to be at historic lows;

WHEREAS Executive Order 14167 ordered the U.S. Armed Forces to take a direct role in securing the southern border, and on April 11, 2025, the White House directed federal agencies to provide for the

transfer of the Roosevelt Reservation, a 60-foot strip of land spanning the southern borders of California, Arizona, New Mexico, from the Department of Interior to the Department of Defense;

WHEREAS on April 15, 2025, the Secretary of Interior announced the transfer of almost 110,000 acres of federal land along New Mexico's southern border to the Department of the Army, greatly increasing military operations along this stretch of the borderlands, which is now considered an extension of Fort Huachuca;

WHEREAS the U.S. House of Representatives passed a budget reconciliation bill on May 22, 2025 which includes \$46.5 billion for construction of additional border wall and barrier systems across the U.S.-Mexico border, and Customs and Border Patrol is already moving forward on erecting a 25-mile wall across the San Rafael Valley in neighboring Santa Cruz County, one of the last intact expanses of Sonoran Desert grasslands in Arizona and a critically important cross-border wildlife corridor that sees few, if any, human border crossers;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Pima County Board of Supervisors:

1. Opposes the transfer of Roosevelt Reservation lands from the Department of Interior to the Department of Defense;
2. Opposes the inclusion of \$46.5 billion in the House Reconciliation budget for building additional harmful and unnecessary border walls;
3. Opposes the construction of a border wall across San Rafael Valley; and
4. Directs the County Administrator and the County's Federal lobbyists to take the necessary measures to communicate Pima County's opposition to these and other efforts to increase militarization along the U.S.-Mexico border.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors, Pima County, Arizona, this ____ day of June, 2025.

Rex Scott, Chairman, Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Melissa Manriquez, Clerk of the Board



Deputy County Attorney