

## Coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection

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February 14, 2014

Arizona Center for Law in the Public Interest

Arizona League of Conservation Voters Education Fund

Arizona Native Plant Society

Bat Conservation International

Cascabel Conservation Association

Center for Biological Diversity

Center for Environmental Connections

Center for Environmental Ethics

Defenders of Wildlife

Desert Watch

Drylands Institute

**Empire Fagan Coalition** 

Environmental and Cultural Conservation Organization

**Environmental Law Society** 

Friends of Cabeza Prieta

Friends of Ironwood Forest Friends of Madera Canyon

Friends of Saguaro National

Friends of Saguaro Nationa Park

Friends of Tortolita

Gates Pass Area Neighborhood Association

Native Seeds/SEARCH

Neighborhood Coalition of Greater Tucson

Northwest Neighborhoods Alliance

Protect Land and

Neighborhoods Safford Peak Watershed

Education Team

Save the Scenic Santa Ritas Sierra Club–Grand Canyon Chapter

Sierra Club-Rincon Group

Silverbell Mountain Alliance

Sky Island Alliance

Sky Island Watch

Society for Ecological Restoration

Sonoran Arthropod Studies Institute

Sonoran Permaculture Guild

Southwestern Biological Institute

Tortolita Homeowners Association

Tucson Audubon Society

Tucson Herpetological Society

**Tucson Mountains Association** 

Wildlands Network

Women for Sustainable Technologies Supervisor Ally Miller, District 1 Pima County Board of Supervisors 130 W. Congress St. 11<sup>th</sup> Floor Tucson, AZ 85701

RE: Comprehensive Plan Amendments Co7-13-03, Co7-13-04, Co7-13-05,

and Co7-13-06

Dear Supervisor Miller and Board Members,

At your November 19, 2013 meeting you continued the above-referenced Comprehensive Plan Amendment applications and instructed the applicant to enter into discussions with the Coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection regarding appropriate mitigation for impacts to Pima County's Conservation Lands System on the four properties.

Over the last several months, we have worked with the property owner to develop a mitigation plan for these properties that allows the property owner flexibility and also fully complies with Conservation Lands System policies. We are pleased to have reached a positive resolution to these issues and fully support the mitigation framework outlined by County staff for these four Comprehensive Plan Amendment applications.

The Coalition supports Co7-13-03, Co7-13-04, Co7-13-05, and Co7-13-06, with the Rezoning Policy pertaining to each of the amendment sites as detailed in the February 13, 2014 Memo to the Board of Supervisors from Planning Director Arlan Colton (DSD\_Co7-13-03, 04, 05, 06\_REVISED2\_DSDAdditionalInfo).

Thank you for including us in these discussions. As you know, we strongly believe the Conservation Lands System is one of the foundations of the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan and we are encouraged that creative solutions can be reached that adhere to Conservation Lands System policies, especially in the biologically-rich area of the Tortolita Fan.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Campbell
Executive Director