



Coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection

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AGENDA MATERIAL
DATE 4/1/25 ITEM NO. RA 30

Arizona Center for Law in the Public Interest

Arizona Master Naturalist Association

Arizona Native Plant Society

Bat Conservation

Cascabel Conservation Association

Center for Biological Diversity

Center for Environmental Ethics

DarkSky Southern Arizona

Defenders of Wildlife

Desert Watch

Environmental Law Society

Friends of Ironwood Forest

Friends of Madera Canyon

Friends of Saguaro National Park

Friends of Tortolita

Gates Pass Area Neighborhood Association

Genius Loci Foundation

Great Old Broads for Wilderness - Tucson

Living Desert Alliance

Native Seeds / SEARCH

Protect Land and Neighborhoods

Save the Scenic Santa Ritas

Sierra Club - Grand Canyon Chapter

Sierra Club - Nopales Group

Sky Island Alliance

Tortolita Alliance

Tortolita Homeowners Association

Tucson Bird Alliance

Tucson Herpetological Society

Tucson Mountains Association

Wildlands Network

March 28, 2025

Rex Scott, Chairman and District 1 Supervisor
Pima County Board of Supervisors
33 North Stone Avenue, 11th Floor
Tucson, AZ 85701-1207

RE: Agenda item no. 30. "Acquisition Agreement Acq-1237 to acquire the Desert Springs Subdivision, a.k.a. Kelly Ranch"

Dear Chair Scott and Members of the Board,

We write in strong support of the acquisition agreement under agenda item no. 30 relating to the County's purchase of the Desert Springs property known as Kelly Ranch.

As Kris Gade, Director of Conservation Lands and Resources, shared, this acquisition has been a long-term vision supported by many nearby residents, including one of the Coalition's own board directors as well as several of our supporters.

For more than two decades, the Coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection has advocated for public acquisition of this property. This is due to its inherent biodiversity, landscape, and cultural heritage value. In addition to the habitat and archaeological importance in your report, this property also contributes to regionally-important wildlife movement areas.

Kelly Ranch sits within the region's Tortolita-Catalina Mountains critical landscape connection — one of six critical landscape connections across Pima County. In 2005, this wildlife corridor was also identified by the Arizona Game and Fish Department as one of 16 "high priority linkages" across the entire state. The property can meaningfully contribute to the ongoing success of this wildlife corridor and its crossing structures — including the nearby Ann Day Memorial Wildlife Bridge, wildlife underpass, and wildlife funnel fencing.

This acquisition strengthens Pima County's position as a leader in conservation and we are in full support of the Board of Supervisors in its approval.

Sincerely,

Kate Hotten and Kathleen Kennedy, Co-Executive Directors

MAR 28 2025 10:25 AM PCLK OF ED

