



## **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AGENDA ITEM REPORT**

Requested Board Meeting Date: October 2, 2018

**Title:** Return of the Gila Topminnow Month

### **Introduction/Background:**

The Pima County Board of Supervisors (Board) invested over \$600 million to upgrade Pima County's two primary wastewater reclamation facilities, thereby dramatically improving the quality of recycled water released to the Santa Cruz River. The result has been a dramatic improvement of habitat downstream of the two reclamation facilities, including the return of the endangered Gila topminnow, which was last seen in the Santa Cruz River 70 years ago.

### **Discussion:**

The Pima County Regional Flood Control District requests the Board's approval to proclaim October as Return of the Gila Topminnow Month in Pima County to support public awareness of the improving conditions that have allowed the Gila topminnow to return to the Santa Cruz River.

### **Conclusion:**

Pima County and its partners will be hosting community events in October 2018 to inform the community about their findings and release the report entitled, *A Living River: Charting Santa Cruz River Conditions, Northwest Tucson to Marana - 2017 Water Year*, which highlights the return of the Gila topminnow. Residents of Pima County are invited to participate in events at Tucson Meet Yourself, the Living River Loop Event, and other events highlighting the improved conditions and the return of the Gila topminnow in October.

### **Recommendation:**

We recommend approval of this Proclamation, which will encourage every resident in Pima County to recognize the improved water quality and conditions in the Santa Cruz River, which has allowed the Gila topminnow to return to the Santa Cruz River for the first time in 70 years.

### **Fiscal Impact:**

No Fiscal Impact

### **Board of Supervisor District:**

☐ 1      ☐ 2      ☐ 3      ☐ 4      ☐ 5      ☒ All

Department: Regional Flood Control District

Telephone: 724-4600

Contact: Evan Canfield

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Department Director Signature/Date: *Suzanne Shields* 9/14/18

Deputy County Administrator Signature/Date: *[Signature]* 9/14/18

County Administrator Signature/Date: *C. D. Melbury* 9/14/18

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# PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, the Pima County Board of Supervisors invested over \$600 million to upgrade Pima County's two primary wastewater reclamation facilities, thereby dramatically improving the quality of recycled water released to the Santa Cruz River; and

**WHEREAS**, the reach of the Santa Cruz River supported by recycled water - from northwest Tucson to the Town of Marana - is now Pima County's premier wetland ecosystem, sustaining year-round flows that provide habitat for native species, public enjoyment, and educational opportunities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Pima County Regional Flood Control District; Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department; Office of Sustainability and Conservation; and the Sonoran Institute have partnered to report on improving conditions in the Santa Cruz River, as highlighted in five annual reports covering water years 2013-17; and

**WHEREAS**, the Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation Department has used the annual reports to teach thousands of school children about the improving conditions of the Santa Cruz River in the annual *The Living River of Words Art and Poetry Contest*; and

**WHEREAS**, in November 2017, a research team led by the Sonoran Institute made an exciting discovery, the presence of the native, endangered Gila topminnow marking the first time the species has been documented in the Lower Santa Cruz River in 70 years; and

**WHEREAS**, Pima County and its partners will be hosting community events in October 2018 to inform the community about their findings and release the report entitled, *A Living River: Charting Santa Cruz River Conditions, Northwest Tucson to Marana - 2017 Water Year*, which highlights the return of the Gila topminnow; and

**WHEREAS**, residents of Pima County are invited to see the Gila topminnow at the Tucson Meet Yourself festival at the Pima County Library displayed in the Regional Flood Control District exhibit and at the Living River Loop Event on Sunday, October 14, 2018 between 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Pima County Board of Supervisors hereby proclaims the month of October 2018 to be:

## **“RETURN OF THE GILA TOPMINNOW MONTH”**

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this 2nd day of October 2018.

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The Honorable Richard Elías, Chairman  
Pima County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

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Julie Castañeda, Clerk  
Pima County Board of Supervisors