

We're leading the movement to build a Bicycle-Friendly America for Everyone 1612 K STREET NW, SUITE 1102, WASHINGTON, DC 20006 | phone 202-822-1333 | fax 202-822-1334 | WWW.BIKELEAGUE.ORG

> Pima County Board of Supervisors 130 West Congress Street Tucson, AZ 85701

AGENDA MATERIAL

DATE 7-2-19 ITEM NO. RA 34

June 26, 2019

Dear Pima County Board of Supervisors:

I am writing in support the Bike Ranch, a proposed eco-resort devoted to bicycling who aspires to offer a premier lodging and vacation experience for people on bikes. The Bike Ranch requires a conditional use permit in order to move forward as a project that will promote the enjoyment of the Saguaro National Park and surrounding areas by bicycle.

The League of American Bicyclists (League) supports the Bike Ranch as a sustainable and bicycleoriented development. According to statements by the Saguaro National Park Superintendent and others the Bike Ranch is a development that will support strategic initiatives of the National Park Service and is an appropriate land use for the area.

Tucson and East Pima County are currently recognized as a Gold Bicycle Friendly Community through the League's Bicycle Friendly America program. This recognition is based on Tucson and East Pima County's investments in bicycle infrastructure, education, culture, and safety. These investments, including in the signature 131 mile Loop, are a current and potential draw for bicyclists throughout the United States and internationally. The Bike Ranch and other bicycle-oriented businesses can leverage these public investments to help more people experience the great places that Tucson and Pima County have helped create.

Bicycle-related tourism is a major business and can contribute to the economic vitality of Pima County. A study of the Virginia Creeper Trail, a 34 mile trail, estimated that visitors spent \$24-28 per visit or \$1.2 million annually. The University of Montana estimated that bicycle tourism generated \$75.75 per day or \$38 million annually for the 500,000 non-resident tourists who biked in the state. With Pima County's existing investments and access to the Saguaro National Park, significant bicycle tourism benefits should be expected from the Bike Ranch and other bikeoriented businesses.

The League is glad to support the Bike Ranch and continued efforts to create great places to bike in Tucson and Pima County. Please contact me at <u>ken@bikeleague.org</u> if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Ken McLeod Policy Director

From:	Sharon McCusker
Sent:	Monday, July 1, 2019 4:11 PM
To:	COB_mail
Subject:	Bike Hotel - AGAINST

This message and sender come from outside Pima County. If you did not expect this message, proceed with caution. Verify the sender's identity before performing any action, such as clicking on a link or opening an attachment. ******

If Pima County development continues to expand outward, making room for even more commercial buildings, it will drive away hardworking, outdoor-minded young people . We should be limiting urban sprawl and protecting natural resources -- not disregarding the science of climate change. This is an absurd proposal that lacks community support and would be an ecological disaster.

Do planners and policy makers actually have the interests of current and future generations in mind? The idea of a Bike Resort/Hotel is a cancer that will spread throughout the Rincon, and Tucson Mountains if this project goes forth. I think most people living in this region agree that we should not sacrifice such a unique, beautiful, sacred, and fragile area as the Saguaro National Park for the sake of a few years of profits. If that!

Sadly, even before construction, this Commercial Project is detrimental to the area... the threat of increased criminal activity a known fact of at least 33+%, (ask any law enforcement agency), and light/noise pollution will cost Pima County.

Please listen to the people who voted for you They had faith that you would support them too! Please don't disappoint us!

I have been a resident the Buffer since 1977.

Sharon McCusker 1776 S. Monument Trail Tucson AZ 85748



July 1, 2019

County Administrator, The Honorable Chair and Members Pima County Board of Supervisors

RE: Conditional Use Permit Approval for Bike Ranch, P19CU00005

Dear Mr. Huckelberry, Mr. Chairman, and Members of the Board;

The Greater Vail Area Chamber of Commerce strongly encourages the approval of a Conditional Use Permit for the Bike Ranch Project. GVACC provides support for the growth and development of businesses in the Vail Area as well as the Vail community, and sees tremendous benefits to the area that would result from the approval of the Bike Ranch project. These benefits include the support and promotion of Vail's healthy and active outdoor lifestyle, employment opportunities, business amenities such as corporate retreat and meeting potential for members, and protection of the delicate desert environment around Saguaro National Park through its sensitive handling of the site and rigorous LEED Platinum standards.

Beyond environmental sensitivity during construction, the project's Program for Sustainability states that operational aspects of the project will also follow some alternative sustainable practices. These include harnessing energy from training cycles to feed back to the power grid, employee cycling programs, and partnering with Saguaro National Park on its environmental objectives. Operating the facility in a sustainable manner will draw fewer resources than a traditional hospitality operation and shows a degree of environmental awareness and stewardship well above the minimum requirements of building codes and local ordinances.

The Bike Ranch is a prime example of the sustainable and economically beneficial development that Pima County should be fostering. The project is in compliance with the Suburban Ranch zoning and Buffer Overlay Zone requirements. It has been designed to comply with and support the Dark Sky Ordinance. The professional governing agencies responsible for ensuring compliance have made no objections to the plans, and the project has merited a positive letter from the Director of Saguaro National Park.

The Bike Ranch will boost the County's investment of the Chuck Huckleberry Loop, a valuable resource which Pima County has had the vision to create and expand, by providing a close connection for out of town visitors staying at the Bike Ranch. As an ecotourist destination, the Bike Ranch will serve to create ambassadors for the Tucson region when visitors return home and spread the word about the bike-friendly nature of our area. This will drive economic development in Pima County both when travelers return to visit this attraction, and when

companies decide to locate their operations in a place with such a strong emphasis on quality of life.

Because of these highly beneficial aspects of the Bike Ranch project, the Greater Vail Area Chamber of Commerce requests the Pima County Board of Supervisors to approve the Conditional Use Permit for Bike Ranch. Please feel free to contact me if I may answer additional questions or offer further support.

Respectfully,

Rosemary Bright, MBA, Architect, LEED AP Chairwoman, Greater Vail Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors

From:	Bike Ranch <donotreply@godaddy.com></donotreply@godaddy.com>
Sent:	Monday, July 1, 2019 4:39 PM
То:	COB_mail
Subject:	New message - bikeranch.com

This message and sender come from outside Pima County. If you did not expect this message, proceed with caution. Verify the sender's identity before performing any action, such as clicking on a link or opening an attachment.

Click here to reply

Name: Thomas L. Koch

Email:

Message: This is a terrible development plan and you should vote "no".

This message was submitted from your website contact form: <u>http://bikeranch.com</u>

From:	grsjr@yahoo.com
Sent:	Monday, July 1, 2019 4:48 PM
То:	COB_mail
Subject:	Case P19CU00005 - Bike Resort on Old Spanish Trail

This message and sender come from outside Pima County. If you did not expect this message, proceed with caution. Verify the sender's identity before performing any action, such as clicking on a link or opening an attachment.

Dear Supervisor -

I live in the buffer zone near the entrance to Saguaro National Park and have for 29 years. I have loved living in this area because of the wildlife and a lack of congestion. It has been a true buffer zone and functioned well.

I am concerned that Pima County is considering allowing a commercial resort to upset the wonderful balance of the buffer zone. I believe it would be a huge mistake, especially with the resort proposed to be right across the street from the Park entrance. Increased traffic, bicycles, and people would adversely affect the buffer zone for all who live there and anyone visiting the Park. It would also set a dangerous precedent for future development of the buffer zone, which could completely ruin this beautiful area.

<u>I plead with you NOT to allow this development.</u> My experience with Pima County has always been positive and I know you will do the right thing.

Thank you for your consideration, George Stevenson Jr 4480 S. Perlita Road Tucson Arizona 85730

From:	Bike Ranch <donotreply@godaddy.com></donotreply@godaddy.com>
Sent:	Monday, July 1, 2019 4:56 PM
То:	COB_mail
Subject:	New message - bikeranch.com

This message and sender come from outside Pima County. If you did not expect this message, proceed with caution. Verify the sender's identity before performing any action, such as clicking on a link or opening an attachment.

Click here to reply

Name: Justin Walker

Email:

Message: DONT APPROVE THIS.

This message was submitted from your website contact form: <u>http://bikeranch.com</u>

From: Sent: To: Subject: Bike Ranch <donotreply@godaddy.com> Tuesday, July 2, 2019 7:39 AM COB_mail New message - bikeranch.com

This message and sender come from outside Pima County. If you did not expect this message, proceed with caution. Verify the sender's identity before performing any action, such as clicking on a link or opening an attachment.

Click here to reply

Name: Amy Cotner

Email:

Message:

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I am a mom, an environmentalist, and a lover of nature. I am in favor of the Bike Ranch and believe this is just the type of project we should be supporting in Pima County. The project owner has shown a dedication to preserving natural wildlife corridors and drainage ways, even using pervious paving to preclude any runoff issues. Please approve the CUP and support the Bike Ranch project.

1

This message was submitted from your website contact form: <u>http://bikeranch.com</u>

2688842684

JU (PETSHOOGERCOKEF)

From:	Bike Ranch <donotreply@godaddy.com></donotreply@godaddy.com>
Sent:	Monday, July 1, 2019 4:59 PM
То:	COB_mail
Subject:	New message - bikeranch.com

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Click here to reply

Name: Amber Mazzei

Email:

Message:

As a member of the Tucson community for 14 years one of the items that drew me to this great community was biking. The beauty of out community is enhanced by the opportunity to ride around Tucson on a bike. The Bike Ranch is a great idea and will be enjoyed my many from near and far.

This message was submitted from your website contact form: <u>http://bikeranch.com</u>

2686542433

JUL OP 19402405 FC U K OF BI

From:	Bike Ranch <donotreply@godaddy.com></donotreply@godaddy.com>
Sent:	Monday, July 1, 2019 6:17 PM
To:	COB_mail
Subject:	New message - bikeranch.com

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Click here to reply

Name: Kyle Packer

Email:

Message:

As an urban planner and Tucson resident, bicycle tourism is an excellent long-term, low-impact economic driver that capitalizes on responsible use of our natural resources. This project is the best possible use for this site, and an excellent project that is well-aligned with Tucson and Pima county's long term goals.

This message was submitted from your website contact form: <u>http://bikeranch.com</u>

From: Sent: To: Subject: Bike Ranch <donotreply@godaddy.com> Tuesday, July 2, 2019 7:32 AM COB_mail New message - bikeranch.com

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Click here to reply

Name: Joe Malisewski

Email:

Message:

As an avid cyclist and east Tucson resident, I am in favor of the Bike Ranch and urge the Board of Supervisors to approve the CUP for this project. This project will shine a positive light on Tucson as a bicycle friendly city and destination. Thank you.

1

This message was submitted from your website contact form: <u>http://bikeranch.com</u>

2688832062

JUL (PP (944)(03 GPC CI K (FF FID

Supervisor Steve Christy, District 4 Pima County Board of Supervisors 130 W. Congress Street, 11th Floor Tucson, AZ 85701

Dear Supervisor Christy:

I am writing in opposition to the proposed Bike Ranch (P19CU00005). Herein I am addressing 1) potential and perceived violations of the buffer zone concept and 2) concern about interference of wildlife moving from Saguaro National Park East throughout the western buffer zone if this proposed project is approved and, especially, if and when the remaining 25-acre parcel might be developed. My wife Carol and I bought our home in that buffer zone in 2003, because we wanted to live in a natural area among native wildlife.

I am an ecologist emeritus with the U.S. Geological Survey and have been an affiliate or adjunct faculty member at the University of Arizona since 1990. Between 1984 and 2013 I served on more than ten recovery and conservation teams, both federal and state. I was a member of the Science Technical Advisory Team for the Pima County Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan.

1) In the approximately five years I have been aware of and involved in discussions about the proposed bike ranch, I have often worried that the original intent of the buffer zone to maintain the natural environment and facilitate movement of wildlife from Saguaro National Park was not being protected and that the strong feelings of many of us buffer residents about these concerns were not being addressed. You have already been sent by other buffer-zone residents hundreds of the homeowner association CC&Rs which detail the conditions that the homeowners agreed to meet to protect the natural vegetation on their property. There is not an HOA in our neighborhood, but Carol and I voluntarily provide similar protections to wildlife habitats on our property. I believe that the proposed Bike Ranch violates the buffer zone intent. As you know, Ray Carroll was the previous Supervisor for District 4 and he strongly opposed the Bike Ranch for its location adjacent to the park and he told neighbors to the park that the project would be the beginning of creeping commercialism (his term) in the area.

2) In his original biological assessment of the approximately 45-acre proposed project area in 2014, Dr. William Shaw correctly stated that the most important corridor for wildlife movement in the area was Escalante Wash and its tributaries. By excluding that drainage from the present proposal, the developers have cleverly sidestepped the issue of the effect of this proposed project on wildlife corridors from the park. Any interference of wildlife movement across the proposed development area would be considered not significant. That two very minor washes at the project northeast corner would not be bulldozed has been praised by proponents, but those two washes and almost the entire northern portion of the development will provide very little if any wildlife movement across the Bike Ranch, if it is built. When and if the southern 25-acre parcel is proposed for development, Pima County must protect that wildlife corridor and other parts of the buffer zone.

Sincerely,

Ceil R. Schoolk

Dr. Cecil R. Schwalbe 4330 S. Escalante Ridge Place Tucson, AZ 85730 Cell

From: Sent: To: Subject: Beth Miner Tuesday, July 2, 2019 7:36 AM COB mail No bike motel!

This message and sender come from outside Pima County. If you did not expect this message, proceed with caution. Verify the sender's identity before performing any action, such as clicking on a link or opening an attachment. ******

As a covey of quail flushed on my morning walk, the visual of dozens and dozens of cyclists "flushing" onto Old Spanish Trail as they begin their morning or evening rides, or leave in dozens of cars for restaurants 10 miles or more distant made me shudder. The approach to our treasured Saguaro National Park is part of its beauty! Hence the buffer zone creation.

Why, why, the proposed breach? Have nearby hoteliers cried for relief of their over-occupancy? Nope.

Someone has figured out they can personally benefit financially from its construction and operation.

JII (PT SMOROOPPCCKFFF) I ask the Board to put the brakes on this now. Is the zone approaching Mt. Lemmon on the Catalina Highwa next?

Sincerely, Beth Miner 10921 East Snyder Road Tucson, AZ 85749

Beth Miner



From:	Bike Ranch <donot< th=""></donot<>
Sent:	Tuesday, July 2, 201
То:	COB_mail
Subject:	New message - bike

ike Ranch <donotreply@godaddy.com> uesday, July 2, 2019 7:36 AM OB_mail ew message - bikeranch.com

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Click here to reply

Name: Paul Pena

Email:

Message:

I am a Pima County resident and a dedicated cycling enthusiast. I see the Bike Ranch as a huge boon to the area, both as a local amenity and an economic driver. The project's proposed LEED Platinum certification and sensitive treatment of the site make it ideal for this location near Saguaro East. Please approve the CUP for Bike Ranch.

This message was submitted from your website contact form: <u>http://bikeranch.com</u>

C.Anderson Ferraris From: Sent: Tuesday, July 2, 2019 8:00 AM COB mail To: Bike Ranch Subject: ****** This message and sender come from outside Pima County. If you did not expect this message, proceed with caution. Verify the sender's identity before performing any action, such as clicking on a link or opening an attachment.

Dear Board of Supervisors:

I write about concerns voiced by those protesting the bike ranch proposed development. As a neighbor and frequent user of Saguaro National Park I do appreciate the concerns raised about the negative impact the project could have. As with any development and progress, I hope the Board of Supervisors weigh the benefits such a project could bring to the community. I understand the size of the project appears to be the primary concern. I hope in your questions you explore the scalability of the project in order to learn if there is some common ground that could be found that would effectively address concerns raised.

 Generally speaking I support the hopes and dreams of entrepreneurship that promotes health, respect for natural ingenuity. It appears that this project meets all three of these admirable objectives.

 I do hope your work and efforts can help find some compromise so that the project can move forward.

 I look forward to hearing about your efforts to resolve matters with your vote today.

 Sincerely,

 Christine Anderson Ferraris

 District 10 Resident

District 10 Resident

- Christine Anderson Ferraris

"If you are not willing to learn, no one can help you. If you are determined to learn, no one can stop you." Zig Ziglar

No trees were harmed in the transmission of this email, although a few electrons were mildly inconvenienced. Please consider the environment before printing this email.

From:	Bike Ranch <donotreply@godaddy.com></donotreply@godaddy.com>
Sent:	Tuesday, July 2, 2019 8:17 AM
То:	COB_mail
Subject:	New message - bikeranch.com

This message and sender come from outside Pima County. If you did not expect this message, proceed with caution. Verify the sender's identity before performing any action, such as clicking on a link or opening an attachment.

Click here to reply

Name: Carolyn Wessels

Email:

Message:

I strongly support the bike ranch project. It will bring added tourists revenue to the area.

This message was submitted from your website contact form: <u>http://bikeranch.com</u>

2688930008

JUL 027 9940924 PC CL K (F FU) PS

From:	Bike Ranch <donotreply@godaddy.com></donotreply@godaddy.com>
Sent:	Tuesday, July 2, 2019 8:57 AM
То:	COB_mail
Subject:	New message - bikeranch.com

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Click here to reply

Name: Brian

Email:

Message:

I don't see this development being an issue. Seems like a good addition to the area, better than a shopping center or a housing subdivision and not car centric. I have lived in Tucson for 14 years, getting really fed up with nimbys against anything that represents progress or enhancements to this town. If the Chuck Huckleberry Loop had of been highly publicized prior to its construction voters would have squashed it. Now it will be a tourism success!!

This message was submitted from your website contact form: <u>http://bikeranch.com</u>

JIII (PE) SANGE4FC (I K (F FI) FE3

From:	Save Saguaro National Park <savesaguaronationalpark@gmail.com></savesaguaronationalpark@gmail.com>
Sent:	Tuesday, July 2, 2019 3:21 PM
То:	COB_mail
Subject:	[BULK] Pima County Board of Supervisors Voted to Approve the Bike Ranch!

This message and sender come from outside Pima County. If you did not expect this message, proceed with caution. Verify the sender's identity before performing any action, such as clicking on a link or opening an attachment.

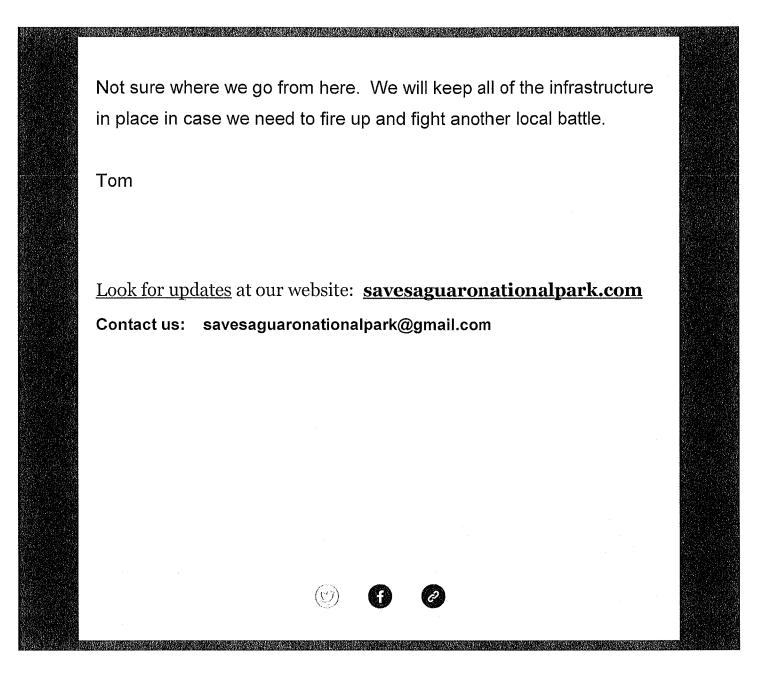
View this email in your browser

WE NEED YOU! Save Saguaro National Park

Well the Pima County Board of Supervisors voted today to approve the Bike Ranch in a 3 to 2 vote. After lots of speakers, many on both sides of the issue, the supervisors voted. Elias & Bronson voted no. Christy, Miller and Valadez voted yes.

Board Chairman Elias commented that it was too bad that the vote couldn't have been continued so that more folks could have attended. Had the county approved the continuation request that was formally submitted, we may have had a better chance.

I would like to personally thank all of you that have supported this effort in your letter writing, visiting the supervisors, attending meetings and doing painstaking research. This was a team effort without a doubt, but in the end we came up short.



This email was sent to <u>cob_mail@pima.gov</u> <u>why did I get this?</u> <u>unsubscribe from this list</u> <u>update subscription preferences</u> Save Saguaro National Park · 3505 S Hunters Run · Tucson, Az 85712 · USA





June 24, 2019

County Administrator, The Honorable Chair and Members **Pima County Board of Supervisors**

RE: Conditional Use Permit Approval for Bike Ranch, P19CU00005

Dear Mr. Administrator, Mr. Chairman, and Members of the Board;

The Southern Arizona Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA SA) wishes to express strong support for the approval of a Conditional Use Permit for the Bike Ranch Project. As the local chapter of the largest professional organization in the nation representing the profession of architecture and its allied members, we carry the voice of registered professional architects, engineers, and general contractors who value the stewardship of our nation's natural resources, sustainable development, a better built environment, and a prosperous architectural profession.

outhern Arizona

The Bike Ranch, a minor resort project, exemplifies exactly the type of green, sustainable, and economically favorable development that our region should be supporting. Zoning has a purpose, and this project meets the zoning requirements, as well as those of the Buffer Overlay Zone Ordinance (BOZO.) In response to the Owner's request for a Conditional Use Permit (CUP), the eleven governing agencies reviewing the project have expressed no objections to the proposed plans. The project has earned a support letter from the Superintendent of Saguaro National Park, stating that the project supports the strategic initiatives of the National Park Service aimed at "building partnerships beyond park boundaries and promoting alternative transportation as a way to experience the park."

Beyond meeting requirements, the Bike Ranch is designed to a LEED Platinum standard, the highest sustainability designation offered by the Green Building Certification Institute, and the project owners intend to go above and beyond that standard to ensure the project dovetails sensitively with the local ecosystem. It is an example of desirable economic development that will encourage healthy tourism in our region. It fosters Tucson's positive reputation as a bicycle friendly community and encourages visits from international and domestic travelers looking for active and ecological corporate retreats and club escapades. It supports human fitness and appreciation for the beauty of our region's natural environment, and provides a close connection to the Chuck Huckleberry Loop, a valuable resource which Pima County has had the vision to create and expand. The Bike Ranch adds to the qualities that make Tucson a wonderful place to live and to visit.

For these reasons, AIA SA urges the Pima County Board of Supervisors to approve the Conditional Use Permit for the Bike Ranch project. Please feel free to contact me if I may answer additional questions or offer further support.

Sincerely,

Peter Dourlein, AIA, LEED AP President, AIA Southern Arizona Chapter **Campus Architect** Assistant Vice President Planning, Design & Construction The University of Arizona dourlein@email.arizona.edu 520.621.9414 www.pdc.arizona.edu

> 1830 East Broadway, #124-210 Tueson, AZ 85719 Telephone: 520-323-2191 602-273-6814 Facsimile: 800-367-2781 Toll free: www.aia.org/southernarizona



April 1, 2019

Mr. Nick Coussoulis Pima County Development Services 201 N. Stone, Second Floor Tucson, Arizona 85701

Mr. Coussoulis,

We at Visit Tucson are asking that a Type II Conditional Use Permit for a Minor Resort be granted to El Cortijo LLC. It is our understanding that a bike ranch consisting of 49 units is an allowable use under the current zoning in place for the parcel.

Our warm, scenic desert climate with abundant hills and mountains attracts cyclists from throughout the world to Tucson and Southern Arizona. We do not have a lodging establishment in Southern Arizona that caters to cyclists and believe the Bike Ranch will be a popular new amenity.

We feel the Bike Ranch will attract affluent cyclists who are interested in training in our region for weeks at a time. We are particularly impressed with El Cortijo LLC's plans to design the Bike Ranch according to Platinum LEED guidelines.

The principals of El Cortijo LLC are working to be good neighbors to nearby homes and Saguaro National Park. Nearly 60% of the 19-acre parcel will be maintained as open space with washes and established wildlife corridors left undisturbed. Buffers and setbacks are proposed to lessen impacts on neighboring homes and Saguaro National Park.

Additionally, the Bike Ranch complements Pima County's vision to be a national leader in creating cycling infrastructure for residents and visitors. Developing the 131-mile Chuck Huckelberry Loop is just one example.

Visitors spent \$2.3 billion in Pima County in 2017, per Dean Runyan Associates annual visitor study for the Arizona Office of Tourism. Further enhancing our cycling landscape through the addition of the Bike Ranch will help us attract more cyclists and their dollars to our region.

Thanks for considering granting El Cortijo LLC a Type Il Conditional Use Permit for a minor resort.

Sincerely

Brent DeRaad President & CEO Visit Tucson 520-770-2149 bderaad@visittucson.org

From: Sent: To: Subject:

Tuesday, July 2, 2019 4:52 PM COB_mail Bike Ranch

****** This message and sender come from outside Pima County. If you did not expect this message, proceed with caution. Verify the sender's identity before performing any action, such as clicking on a link or opening an attachment. ******

To Sharon Bronson and Richard Elias,

I would like to thank you for your support in voting NO on the Bike Ranch. I would have liked to have seen the results to have turned out differently. It's way too bad that the other Supervisors do not have an interest in supporting their constituents. Maybe we can get them replaced in the next election, even

though it is too late for us on the Southeast side.

Thank you again for your support.

Lois Bowen