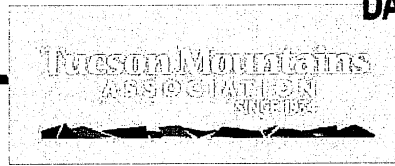


AGENDA MATERIAL

DATE 9/15/20 ITEM NO. RA. 22



PO BOX 86117 • TUCSON, AZ 85754-6117

The Board of Supervisors
Pima County

September 13, 2020

Re: Board of Supervisors Meeting, September 15, 2020, item 22, Hearing, Zone
Code Text Amendment

Honorable Supervisors

The Tucson Mountains Association (TMA) enthusiastically supports the revised zoning-code text amendment P20TA00003. ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY EXPANSION OMNIBUS NO.2 - TRAIL-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT, which excludes parcels west of N. Silverbell Road.

Of particular concern to TMA in the original version of the text amendment, as presented at the August 17 meeting of the BOS, was the potential for serious harm to wildlife corridors from the Tucson Mountains to the Santa Cruz River. In particular, a very important corridor from the Saguaro National Park to the Santa Cruz River joins the Santa Cruz at the critical junction of the Santa Cruz, Rillito and Cañada Del Oro. Another critical wildlife corridor is land within the County near Christopher Columbus Park. In both cases, major washes from the Tucson Mountains join the Santa Cruz River at these points, and in both cases good wildlife habitat follows these washes to the Santa Cruz River and would potentially be harmed by more liberal County development standards.

A further concern of TMA was the open-ended nature of the text amendment location designation, which includes any parcels within 500 feet of any "County identified Loop Trail spur segment." As the County might identify new spur segments, current trails, such as the trail that follows Sweetwater Wash, have the potential in the future to be identified as spur segments. Moreover, new trails might also be given this designation.

The exclusion of parcels west of N. Silverbell Road means that these concerns are no longer applicable to the Tucson Mountains region. TMA is therefore not opposed to the text amendment as revised. Moreover, TMA sees benefit in appropriate amenities along the Loop Trail provided they are carefully planned to avoid impacts on natural resources. In this way, the Loop Trail can encourage healthy life styles outdoors, potentially also promoting appreciation of the natural assets of Pima County. For these reasons, TMA supports the revised text amendment with enthusiasm.

SEP 14 2020 10:40 AM PCD/KCF/H

TMA thanks the Board of Supervisors for continuing the discussion of the text amendment to the September 15 BOS meeting. TMA is greatly appreciative of the discussions with County staff that led to the revised text amendment and the information resources that the staff provided to us.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Chesson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Peter" and last name "Chesson" clearly distinguishable.

Peter Chesson
President, Tucson Mountains Association

