

AGENDA MATERIAL DATE 1/9/21 ITEM NO. RA10

Tucson Audubon inspires people to enjoy and protect birds through recreation, education, conservation, and restoration of the environment upon which we all depend.

January 8, 2021

Pima County Board of Supervisors 130 West Congress, 11th Floor Tucson, Arizona, 85701

Dear Madame Chair and Honorable Members of the Board,

I am writing on behalf of Tucson Audubon—a 71-year-old, Tucson-based conservation organization with a mission to *inspire people to enjoy and protect birds*—in support of retaining and renewing the contract for Pima County Administrator, Chuck Huckelberry.

The past 9 months have been especially challenging for non-profit organizations across the county, including Tucson Audubon. As we look ahead into the foreseeable future, we anticipate that the challenges of remaining engaged with our stakeholders and supporting 40-plus employees will continue to grow. Thus far, we've benefitted from leadership exhibited by Pima County through the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, and believe that steady leadership and experience are crucial for keeping our community safe.

Tucson Audubon was a founding member of the Coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection and was represented on both the Steering and Implementation Committees of Pima County's award-winning Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan. Our Restoration staff actively partners with Pima County Regional Flood Control District and our representatives have served on numerous county committees. As such, we have worked with County Administrator Huckelberry for over two decades regarding land use decisions that balance the economic vitality of Pima County with the conservation of landscapes that contribute to the biodiversity and quality of life in southern Arizona.

I request that you act in the best interests of our region and the communities you serve, and preserve Chuck Huckelberry as Pima County Administrator through the renewal of his contract.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan E. Lutz