

## FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT BOARD MINUTES

The Pima County Flood Control District Board met in regular session at their regular meeting place in the Pima County Administration Building (Hearing Room), 130 West Congress Street, Tucson, Arizona, at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 20, 2026. Upon roll call, those present and absent were as follows:

Present: Jennifer Allen, Chair  
Dr. Matt Heinz, Vice Chair  
Rex Scott, Member  
Steve Christy, Member  
Andrés Cano, Member

Also Present: Jan Leshar, County Administrator  
Sam E. Brown, Chief Civil Deputy County Attorney  
Melissa Manriquez, Clerk of the Board  
John Stuckey, Sergeant at Arms

### 1. **CONTRACT**

Green Valley Coordinating Council, d.b.a. Green Valley Council, to provide for Green Valley Council Services, Health (27.1%), DOT (25.7%), RWRD (17.1%), DEQ General (12.9%), DSD (8.6%) and RFCD Tax Levy (8.6%) Funds, contract amount \$87,500.00 (PO2500036059)

It was moved by Chair Allen, seconded by Supervisor Christy and unanimously carried by a 5-0 vote, to approve the item.

### 2. **ADJOURNMENT**

As there was no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 2:23 p.m.

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CHAIR

ATTEST:

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CLERK

## LIBRARY DISTRICT BOARD MINUTES

The Pima County Library District Board met in regular session at their regular meeting place in the Pima County Administration Building (Hearing Room), 130 West Congress Street, Tucson, Arizona, at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 20, 2026. Upon roll call, those present and absent were as follows:

Present: Jennifer Allen, Chair  
Dr. Matt Heinz, Vice Chair  
Rex Scott, Member  
Steve Christy, Member  
Andrés Cano, Member

Also Present: Jan Leshar, County Administrator  
Sam E. Brown, Chief Civil Deputy County Attorney  
Melissa Manriquez, Clerk of the Board  
John Stuckey, Sergeant at Arms

### 1. **CONTRACT**

Ingram Library Services, L.L.C. (Headquarters: La Vergne, TN), to provide for library materials and processing, Library District Ops Fund, contract amount \$4,875,000.00 (SC2500000633) Administering Department: Library

It was moved by Chair Allen and seconded by Supervisor Heinz to approve the item. No vote was taken at this time.

Supervisor Christy asked why the County was contracting with a new vendor for books and video materials when everything seemed to be moving to online only access. He asked if there would be more contracts coming forth in the future.

Jan Leshar, County Administrator, stated that the County had lost a vendor which caused some concerns about how they could provide those additional supplies.

Steve Holmes, Deputy County Administrator, stated that Baker & Taylor, which had been one of the County's significant vendors, had closed its distribution operations and Ingram Library Services would now become one of the County's primary suppliers going forward. He added that although online demand was prominent, it still had not overtaken the demand for hands-on materials and books.

Upon the vote, the motion unanimously carried 5-0.

2. **ADJOURNMENT**

As there was no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 2:23 p.m.

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CHAIR

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
CLERK

DRAFT

## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MEETING MINUTES

The Pima County Board of Supervisors met in regular session at their regular meeting place in the Pima County Administration Building (Hearing Room), 130 West Congress Street, Tucson, Arizona, at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 20, 2026. Upon roll call, those present and absent were as follows:

Present: Jennifer Allen, Chair  
Dr. Matt Heinz, Vice Chair  
Rex Scott, Member  
Steve Christy, Member  
Andrés Cano, Member

Also Present: Jan Leshar, County Administrator  
Sam E. Brown, Chief Civil Deputy County Attorney  
Melissa Manriquez, Clerk of the Board  
John Stuckey, Sergeant at Arms

### 1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All present joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### 2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

The Land Acknowledgement was delivered by Martha Guzman, Administrative Services Manager I, Regional Flood Control District.

### 3. CURRENT EVENTS/PUBLIC ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Supervisor Heinz stated that Governor Hobbs would be delivering the State of the State Address at the Tucson Convention Center, on January 21, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. and recommended that the public attend if possible.

Chair Allen announced the first-ever District 3 office areas for Picture Rocks which would be held at the Picture Rocks Community Center on Wednesday, January 21, 2026, from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. She stated that the District 3 office would be hosting a dog walk at the Pima Animal Care Center on Saturday, January 24, 2026, from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. She explained that participation was limited and anyone that was interested should call or email the District 3 office. She stated that the Governor's Missing and Murdered Indigenous People Task Force would be hosting a listening session at the Richard Elias Building located at 4455 E. 5th Street on Wednesday, January 21, 2026, from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., and that the annual border trash pick-up event would be held on Saturday, January 31, 2026, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., which would clean up the road from Three Points to Sasabe, hosted by Rancho Sierra Vista de Sasabe and the Pozo Verde Wildlife Preserve, with support from the Altar Valley Conservation Alliance.

Supervisor Scott shared that he and his staff had started a podcast series, where they would be interviewing department and program directors and anyone who was interested could subscribe to the podcast through any of the usual podcast platforms. He stated that his first three episodes had posted and they were interviews with Nicole Scott, Director of Early Education Program Scholarships, Jen Darland, Head of Housing Opportunities and Homeless Solutions, and Heath Vescovi-Chiordi, Director of Economic Development. He stated that new episodes would be available every non-Board meeting week and that his office issued a newsletter on the week of Board meetings.

Supervisor Cano stated as part of the One Pima Initiative the District 5 office had been participating in neighborhood cleanups and over the weekend they participated in their fifth neighborhood cleanup and he encouraged the public to join them for future cleanup events. He explained that it was a joint venture with the City of Tucson and Tucson Clean and Beautiful, and several tons of trash that been picked up since December. He thanked County staff and the County Administrator for executing the One Pima Plan. Supervisor Cano stated the Sonoran Institute would be installing new technology in the Santa Cruz River that was used in other part of the country and he described the technology as a “big-boxed cage” which would trap trash and debris during heavy flooding for easier cleanup. He thanked the Sonoran Institute for installing this technology and hoped to see the cages installed in several places throughout the community. He thanked Magdalena Verdugo, CEO of the YWCA, for her help in hosting District 5’s Love of Lectura series. He stated that he and his staff had created the series to celebrate reading and local authors, and in three months they had about 350 people join them. He announced the next event would feature former Board of Supervisor David Yetman, and although the event was currently at capacity, they were looking to add more space.

## **PRESENTATION**

### **4. Recognition**

Recognition of the retirement of Robert Cuestas, Parks Specialist II, Parks and Recreation, for 40 years of service.

Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator, congratulated Robert Cuestas for 40 years of service to Pima County and thanked him for his positive impact on the community. He wished him well in his retirement.

No Board action was taken.

### **5. Recognition**

Recognition of the retirement of Leticia Guzman-Maldonado, Administrative Assistant I - Courts, Pima County Superior Court, for 36 years of service.

Jennifer Torchia, Deputy Court Administrator, Juvenile Court, recognized Ms. Guzman-Maldonado for her many years of service and acknowledged her contributions to the department. She wished her the best in her retirement.

No Board action was taken.

6. **Recognition of the “We A.R.E. Gems” Quarterly Recipients**

Pursuant to Administrative Procedure 23-5, Employee Recognition Program, the following employees have been selected for the quarterly “We A.R.E. Gems” recognition:

- Gabriel Lopez, Jr. - Community and Workforce Development
- Martin Gonzales - Parks and Recreation
- Kari Calvarese - Juvenile Court
- Jacqueline Cheang - County Attorney
- Mackenzie Schmidt - Facilities Management
- Sosan Afzali – Library

Jan Leshar, County Administrator, presented the awards to the recipients. No Board action was taken.

**PRESENTATION/PROCLAMATION**

7. Presentation of a proclamation to Karla Morales, Vice President, Arizona Technology Council, proclaiming January 14 through January 16, 2026, to be: "ARIZONA PHOTONICS DAYS"

It was moved by Chair Allen, seconded by Supervisor Scott and unanimously carried by a 5-0 vote, to approve the item. Supervisor Scott made the presentation.

8. Presentation of a proclamation to Torre Chisholm, Executive Director, and Laura O’Brien, Operations Director, Friends of PACC, proclaiming Wednesday, January 28, 2026, to be: "FRIENDS OF PACC DAY IN PIMA COUNTY"

It was moved by Chair Allen, seconded by Supervisor Heinz and unanimously carried by a 5-0 vote, to approve the item. Supervisor Scott made the presentation.

9. Presentation of a proclamation to Magdalena Verdugo, CEO, YWCA; Victor Bowleg, Dr. Laura Banks Reed Center for Gender and Racial Equity - YWCA; Pam Burris, Coming to the Table, Tucson, NAACP, League of Women Voters of Greater Tucson (LWVGT); Pat Tapke, Coming to the Table, Tucson, LWVGT; Dr. Johnny Chavez, Voices of Change; and Betsy Boggia, President, LWVGT, proclaiming the day of Tuesday, January 20, 2026, to be: "NATIONAL DAY OF RACIAL HEALING IN PIMA COUNTY"

It was moved by Chair Allen, seconded by Supervisor Heinz and unanimously carried by a 5-0 vote, to approve the item. Chair Allen made the presentation.

10. Presentation of a proclamation to Dr. John Arnold, CEO and Founder, and Paul Diaz, President, PPEP, Inc.; and Edgar Granillo, President, PMHDC Board of Directors, proclaiming the day of Monday, January 26, 2026, to be: "PPEP MICROBUSINESS AND HOUSING DAY IN PIMA COUNTY"

It was moved by Chair Allen, seconded by Supervisor Heinz and unanimously carried by a 5-0 vote, to approve the item. Supervisor Scott made the presentation.

11. **CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

April Musser addressed the Board regarding a public records request she submitted to the Pima County Attorney's Office (PCAO) on July 30, 2025 and had not yet received any documents, but recently had received communication that PCAO had begun working to produce the requested materials from other internal departments but that requests for a schedule of production had been denied. She cited PCAO's noncompliance with Arizona Public Records Law and raised concerns over transparency and governance of PCAO and its exposure to potential lawsuits.

Diane Schultz, member of the Board of Directors, Tucson Society of the Blind, spoke about a petition that she submitted to the Board of Supervisors, City of Tucson Mayor and Council and the Regional Transportation Authority, requesting the boundaries for paratransit transportation be changed to include all County residents and taxpayers.

Dana Kormash expressed her concerns regarding Project Blue, specifically, the higher costs of water and utilities. She cited articles that claimed there was a higher rate of rare cancers and miscarriages connected to data centers across the country.

Alan Young spoke about Senate Bill 1749, implemented on January 1, 2026, which dealt with property tax exemptions for disabled veterans. He described his attempt to apply for the exemption with the Assessor's Office and was told that they were still seeking clarification from Governor Hobbs on how to implement the exemptions. He asked that County staff work with the Assessor's Office to determine the guidelines that Pima County would follow, so that disabled veterans of Pima County could apply for all exemptions to which they were entitled.

Laurie Moore spoke about the Board's actions on immigration, early childcare programs and the homeless. She stated that government funds should be used for U.S. citizens in Pima County, not the undocumented. She also spoke about transgender rights in sports and stated that gender was determined at conception.

Robert Reus expressed his opposition to the Regional Transportation Authority Next Project and asked the public to vote no in the upcoming March election. He also detailed his proposal for a County-wide sales tax plan, which would reduce property taxes and increase funds to the County.

Jerry Bustamante, representative of HUSBAY and the Copper World Project, extended an invitation to all Board members to tour the Copper World Project site and proposed scheduling periodic meetings with the County Administrator and individual Board members to address any concerns about the project. He hoped they could work towards a more constructive relationship to ensure the Copper World Project brought the greatest possible benefits to the community.

Lucy Howell, co-founder of the Force for Health Network, invited Board members to the February launch of the Team Up Greater Tucson Chamber of Health System. She explained that their goals were to improve health literacy, address the healthcare worker shortage and to bring together community health leaders to improve health outcomes.

J.P. Salvatierra addressed the Board and suggested that executive session meetings be opened to the public to allow for greater transparency. He expressed his concerns with public records requests and that issues expressed at Board meetings should be available to the public prior to the next meeting. He also addressed environmental and health concerns caused by the Copper World Project, and future potential issues with Tucson Electric Power, Fortis, and the aluminum recycling project in Benson.

Rick Grinnell spoke about the inoperable elevators in the El Presidio parking garage and the lack of wheelchair access coming up the ramp towards the west side door of the County Administration Building. He stated this was unacceptable, a potential violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act and requested that the Board communicate with the officials at the City of Tucson to repair the elevators.

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Chair Allen closed Call to the Public.

Supervisor Cano requested the County Administrator follow-up on the parking lot elevator situation. He noted that it had been an issue for several weeks and a constituent was unable to attend a meeting in December due to the elevator situation. He asked for a review and analysis of the location of the handicap spaces and their proximity to the elevators, and a contingency plan in the interim.

Supervisor Christy echoed Supervisor Cano's request and also asked the County Administrator to investigate the reason for the delay regarding the first speaker's public records request. He acknowledged that the delay may be legitimate but that the delay and lack of response reflected poorly on the County and administration. Supervisor Christy asked for Supervisor Heinz, as a member of the RTA Committee, to follow-up with the speaker's concerns regarding transportation for the handicapped within the boundaries of the RTA, and what was preventing the RTA from addressing it. He also requested that the County Administrator reach out to HUSBAY Copper World to coordinate site visits for Board members and discussions with HUSBAY administration.

Supervisor Heinz expressed his concerns about the timeliness of public records requests. He stated that he would bring the speaker's concerns regarding paratransit transportation boundaries to the RTA Board of Directors for more information and to find whether those boundaries could be modified. He requested that staff contact the Assessor regarding State Senate Bill 1749 and the property tax exemption for veterans, to ensure that was being implemented. He confirmed his willingness to visit the Copper World site and recommended the representative from Force for Health contact Dr. Cullen, Director at the Health Department.

Supervisor Scott noted that Ms. Schultz had been in contact with his office when he was on the RTA Board and PAG Regional Council. He explained that one of the issues that needed to be resolved was that paratransit responsibility was divided between the RTA and SunTran, and that there was not a lot of coordination between the two bodies.

12. **CONVENE TO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

It was moved by Chair Allen, seconded by Supervisor Heinz and unanimously carried by a 5-0 vote, to convene to Executive Session at 12:00 p.m.

13. **RECONVENE**

The meeting reconvened at 1:53 p.m. All members were present.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

14. Pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(3) and (4), for legal advice and direction regarding an update on Louis Taylor Litigation with Outside Counsel.

It was moved by Chair Allen, seconded by Supervisor Heinz and unanimously carried by a 5-0 vote, to proceed as recommended by Outside Counsel in Executive Session.

15. Pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(3) and (4), for legal advice and direction regarding Farhang & Medcoff, P.L.L.C.'s request for a conflict of interest waiver.

This item was informational only. No Board action was taken.

16. Pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(3) and (4), for legal advice and direction regarding a proposed settlement in the Bustamante Claim, 16651220.

This item was informational only. No Board action was taken.

17. Pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(3) and (4), for legal advice and direction regarding SB1500/A.R.S. §13-4296 and related claims.

This item was informational only. No Board action was taken.

## **FRANCHISE/LICENSE/PERMIT**

### **18. Hearing - Liquor License**

Job No. 369760, Sung Tae Lee, Seoul Shi, 6462 N. Oracle Road, Tucson, Series 12, Restaurant, New License.

The Chair inquired whether anyone wished to address the Board. No one appeared. It was moved by Chair Allen, seconded by Supervisor Heinz and unanimously carried by a 5-0 vote, to close the public hearing, approve the license and forward the recommendation to the Arizona Department of Liquor Licenses and Control.

## **DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

### **19. Hearing - Rezoning Time Extension**

#### **P20RZ00005, TAYLOR, ET AL. - S. KOLB ROAD REZONING**

Michael Taylor, et al. requests a five-year time extension for an approximate 3.47-acre rezoning from the SR (AE) (Suburban Ranch - Airport Environs) to the CB-2 (AE) (General Business - Airport Environs) zone, located approximately 1,300 feet south of the intersection of S. Kolb Road and E. Valencia Road addressed as 6400 S. Kolb Road. The subject site was rezoned in 2020 and expired October 6, 2025. Staff recommends APPROVAL OF THE FIVE-YEAR TIME EXTENSION SUBJECT TO THE ORIGINAL AND MODIFIED STANDARD AND SPECIAL CONDITIONS. (District 4)

1. There shall be no further lot splitting or subdividing of residential development without the written approval of the Board of Supervisors.
2. Department of Transportation Condition: Prior to Development Plan approval, written proof of coordination with the City of Tucson is required.
3. Regional Flood Control District condition: At the time of development the developer shall be required to select a combination of Water Conservation Measures from Table B such that the point total equals or exceeds 15 points and includes a combination of indoor and outdoor measures.
4. Environmental Planning condition: Upon the effective date of the Ordinance, the owner shall have a continuing responsibility to remove buffelgrass (*Pennisetum ciliare*) from the property. Acceptable methods of removal include chemical treatment, physical removal, or other known effective means of removal. This obligation also transfers to any future owners of property within the rezoning site and Pima County may enforce this rezoning condition against the property owner.
5. Adherence to the preliminary development plan (Exhibit B) as approved at public hearing.
6. In the event the subject property is annexed, the property owner shall adhere to all applicable rezoning conditions, including, but not limited to, development conditions which require financial contributions to, or construction of infrastructure, including without limitation, transportation, flood control, or sewer facilities.
7. The property owner shall execute the following disclaimer regarding ~~Proposition 207 rights~~ Private Property Rights Protection Act: "Property Owner acknowledges that neither the rezoning of the Property nor the conditions of rezoning give Property Owner any rights, claims or causes of action under the Private Property Rights Protection Act (Arizona Revised

Statutes Title 12, chapter 8, article 2.1). To the extent that the rezoning or conditions of rezoning may be construed to give Property Owner any rights or claims under the Private Property Rights Protection Act, Property Owner hereby waives any and all such rights and/or claims pursuant to A.R.S. § 12-1134(1)."

The Chair inquired whether anyone wished to address the Board. No one appeared. It was moved by Chair Allen, seconded by Supervisor Heinz and unanimously carried by a 5-0 vote, to close the public hearing, approve P20RZ00005, Five-Year Time Extension subject to original and modified standard and special conditions.

20. **Hearing - Comprehensive Plan Amendment Resolution**

RESOLUTION NO. 2026 - 1, P25CA00002, Gookin - W. Desert Oasis Trail Plan Amendment. Owner: Jill Gookin. (District 3)

The Chair inquired whether anyone wished to address the Board. No one appeared. It was moved by Chair Allen, seconded by Supervisor Heinz and unanimously carried by a 5-0 vote, to close the public hearing and adopt the Resolution.

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

21. **Board of Supervisors Representative Updates on Boards, Committees and Commissions and Any Other Municipalities**

Supervisor Scott encouraged Board members to attend the County Supervisors Association's (CSA) annual legislative reception at the CSA Headquarters, on January 21, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. He reminded his colleagues that they received weekly emails about the meetings of the Legislative Policy Committee (LPC) and any Supervisor or staff member for the Supervisor could attend those meetings via Zoom. He stated that the Chamber of Southern Arizona had a Board of Directors meeting on January 14, 2026, where the Chamber staff reviewed the work plan for the coming year. He stated that he would provide an electronic version of those materials to the Clerk to share with the district offices.

Supervisor Cano stated that the 2025 Snoop Dogg Arizona Bowl was held on December 27, 2025, and featured a matchup between Miami and Fresno State. He stated that there was 37,232 fans in attendance and it generated an economic impact of \$2.9 million. He noted Visit Tucson's efforts in attracting these major events and their significant contributions to our economy.

Supervisor Heinz reminded the public to vote in the Regional Transportation Authority election in March and noted that he was not advocating for one side or the other. He stated that he, Deputy County Administrator Holmes and other County staff, met with the new Mexican Consul at the Mexican Consulate to discuss Mexico's passenger rail plan, which would connect Mexico City to Nogales, Sonora by 2030. He stated that the County may need to prepare for the local economic impact of Mexico's rail plan and consider any possible modifications to the Port of Tucson due to the increased arrival of goods by train.

Chair Allen stated that the Arizona Border Counties Coalition had an upcoming meeting and that the Southern Arizona Education Council had not yet met.

This item was informational only. No Board action was taken.

22. **Amended Board of Supervisors Meeting Schedule for February 2026**

Approval of the Board of Supervisors' Amended Meeting Schedule for the month of February 2026, to add a meeting on Monday, February 9, 2026, from noon to 5:00 p.m. for a Board Retreat. This meeting will be livestreamed only.

It was moved by Chair Allen and seconded by Supervisor Heinz to approve the item. No vote was taken at this time.

Supervisor Cano asked whether the Clerk's Office validated parking for members of the public who attended Board meetings.

Melissa Manriquez, Clerk of the Board, responded no, the Clerk's Office only validated parking for individuals who attended for proclamations.

Upon the vote, the motion unanimously carried 5-0.

23. **Amended Board of Supervisors Meeting Schedule for March 2026**

Approval of the Board of Supervisors' Amended Meeting Schedule for the month of March 2026, to move the Tuesday, March 17, 2026, meeting date to Tuesday, March 24, 2026.

It was moved by Chair Allen, seconded by Supervisor Heinz and unanimously carried by a 5-0 vote, to approve the item.

24. **Board of Supervisors Meeting Schedule for July 2026 through December 2026**

Approval of the Board of Supervisors' Meeting Schedule for the period of July 2026 through December 2026.

It was moved by Chair Allen, seconded by Supervisor Heinz and unanimously carried by a 5-0 vote, to amend the August meeting dates to August 11, 2026, and August 25, 2026, and to schedule the Tax Levy Adoption on the August 11, 2026 meeting.

It was moved by Chair Allen, seconded by Supervisor Heinz and unanimously carried by a 5-0 vote, to amend the December meeting schedule and move the December 22nd meeting to December 15, 2026.

It was then moved by Chair Allen, seconded by Supervisor Heinz and unanimously carried by a 5-0 vote, to approve the item, as amended.

## **COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

25. The Board of Supervisors on November 18, 2025, continued the following:

### **Central Arizona Project Presentation**

Presentation by Karen Cesare, Board Secretary, Central Arizona Water Conservation District, to provide an update on the Central Arizona Project.

(Clerk's Note: See the attached verbatim related to this item.)

This item was for discussion only. No Board action was taken.

26. **Update on County Initiatives to Address Homelessness and Public Safety**

Jen Darland, Senior Advisor to the County Administrator, provided a brief slideshow presentation and stated that a more thorough presentation was forthcoming in February, which would consist of the first of two Board approved progress reports on the One Pima Initiative. She stated that updates were grounded in one or more of the five priorities that were critical to the foundation of the Office of Housing Opportunities and Homelessness Solutions. She summarized Priorities 1 through 5 and stated that this update would touch briefly on Priority No. 5, which was to check in on program response in terms of the protocol. She stated that the Board had requested at the December meeting, to come back and provide early performance of the Board approved master agreement aligned with One Pima but also supportive of the County Administrative Procedure - Encampment Protocol. She stated that it was a land managing response that was also married together with connection to resources and supported the master agreement approved in December. She stated that it provided expedited cleanup that was complaint and maintenance driven, the ongoing cadence of cleanup in areas, washes, waterways, channels that were adjacent to the Chuck Huckelberry Loop, as well as other County owned washes throughout the region. She stated that the Board approved the contract on December 2nd and work began the following week. She stated that the slide showed a time frame between December 9th and December 31st that included holidays, and that there was 12 total sites that were cleared by the contracted vendor, with over 37 tons of debris collected. She stated that not all of it was encampment related, due to trash and debris that ended up collecting in these waterways and channels through various different weather events. She stated that the total cost for this first stretch of programming was just over \$37,000.00. She reiterated that this was work, as called for in One Pima, that was adjacent to both maintenance and complaint driven, meaning that any time a report of an encampment was received and verified to be within a waterway or a channel under the Regional Flood Control District's maintenance responsibility, it would be for the vendor agreement to ensure that cleanup was facilitated within 72 hours after the

site had been outreached to and posted. She stated that Supervisor Scott had requested some feedback from County staff and that the four full-time personnel charged with facilitating the enhanced protocol included site inspections, verifications of the space that it was an encampment, coordinating with outreach services and other community resources to ensure folks were connected to care, and managing the data associated with that. She stated they had met January 13th with all four team members to hear what their perspectives were, and they discussed topics listed on the slide show. She stated that overall, it was positive feedback from the team and emphasized that for the expanded resource response, they had two additional individuals that had experience with the County's protocol response. She stated that what was communicated was that they appreciated seeing the whole protocol from beginning, middle and end. She stated that there were perspectives that would continue to inform on the improvement of that outreach strategy and the cleanup and coordination across departments and with other jurisdictional partners. She stated that they also heard about the need for expanded training for land management response that was led by land managing personnel. She stated that when they continued to engage in these sorts of environments where they encountered individuals in the middle of having a homeless crisis, or episode, it could take an emotional toll. She stated that they requested to incorporate ways to expand their training to account for trauma-informed practices, as well as finding ways to bolster their response by ensuring that they had access to outreach support, not only for the site inspections and the postings, but also on day of remediation. She stated that they also talked about the survey tools and reporting and she received great feedback on ways to improve those processes, but overall it was a positive conversation that would lead to more dialog as they went through the rest of the calendar year. She stated that feedback received on the need to better coordinate across departments and other jurisdictional colleagues was something that had been echoed in conversations she had with other departmental personnel and other jurisdictional partners in this space. She stated that collectively, there was a team that represented a total of 60 years' of experience. She stated that as shown that morning with the dedicated awards that went out to the two individuals with over 30 years of service to the County, there was a long history and practice of the County being an employer of choice. She stated that two individuals had left the County to pursue work outside of the County and they came back, so, that was a good testament to Pima County programs and Pima County departments being a place that folks called home. She stated that they continued to participate in bi-weekly meetings with the City of Tucson, Tucson Fire Department, Tucson Police Department, their environmental services team, as well as their encampment assessors and other folks on ways to coordinate resources and response. She stated that they discussed what the County did to partner for effective strategies adjacent to the Chuck Huckelberry Loop, not just from an outreach perspective, but ensuring their land managers were made aware of those efforts as well. She stated, additionally, they had the 2026 Point-in-Time Count occurring on January 28th, the volunteer registration had closed, and they were well-situated with that. She stated that anecdotal data information on the number of individuals experiencing homelessness would be available by early March. She added that the Notice of Funding Opportunity, as

facilitated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, had gone through a dramatic pivot since it was released in December. She stated that the funding competition was open under fiscal year '24 terms, meaning that for fiscal year '25 they had opened a competition with some extraordinary changes and pivots in that programming requirement. She stated that those pivots were enjoined by a U.S. District Court Order, and instead, they reverted to reopening the competition for the prior year with no changes to the programming. She stated that it was not truly a competition but reopened it for agencies or communities to reapply for funding. She stated that it created multiple pivots over several weeks that eventually led to an adjudication that had not changed much of anything in the County's homeless programming but would be known more definitively later in the spring, between March to May. She stated that at the February 17th Board meeting there would be a more comprehensive update on the progress of the One Pima, the actions taken with multiple departments to carry out on the five priorities. She stated that they continued to work closely with the City of Tucson to get the Sobering Alternative for Recovery (SAFR) Center operationalized and working to get people into low-barrier forms of treatment and care. She stated that the Community and Workforce Development Department met with the Housing Commission to review the Gap Funding recommendations and those would be forthcoming to the Board in February. She stated they also worked with the District 5 Office on ways to increase resources and support to that community. She added there would be an event on March 28th, ensuring these outreach and community events were provided with all of the County programming and opportunity into the community. She stated that Senior Advisor Vasquez had brought Tucson Fire Department into the community resource events and there were opportunities to bring in roll offs to help with the mitigation efforts that she and the Office of Emergency Management were also working on together.

Supervisor Cano thanked the County Administrator and Ms. Darland for assisting with the One Pima Initiative. He stated that he was excited about the update that would be provided to the Board in the coming weeks. He stated that he had many neighborhood association meet and greets in the evenings, on weekdays and weekends, and those conversations informed him that the County needed to do a better job of promoting the One Pima Initiative. He stated that he hoped the County Administrator could work with Ms. Darland and the Communications team to have an online portal that focused on the tenants, but more importantly, if it could mirror the City's homelessness encampment web page, which tracked various forms of data. He stated their website was at [encampment-protocol.tucsonaz.gov](http://encampment-protocol.tucsonaz.gov) and it showed that 183,000 pounds of trash was removed. He stated that the County's equivalent just shown was about 74,000 pounds of trash, and he wanted those numbers to paint the story of the impact. He stated that since the SAFR Center was currently operational, he questioned how referrals would be made, how a member of the public would refer somebody to the SAFR Center and that the Transition Center had been expanded, as a result of the One Pima Initiative. He wanted a way for this to tell a better story and to have it in one reporting dashboard, similar to the one at the City of Tucson. He appreciated the progress that had been made,

neighborhoods were responding well and for the work Ms. Darland had done with District 5 staff on implementation.

This item was for discussion only. No Board action was taken.

27. **Wildfire Mitigation Plan Midyear Update**

Presentation/Discussion: Midyear Update of the Wildfire Mitigation Plan.

(Clerk's Note: See the attached verbatim related to this item.)

This item was for discussion only. No Board action was taken.

**CONSERVATION LANDS AND RESOURCES**

28. The Board of Supervisors on November 4, 2025, continued the following:

**Contract**

SunZia Transmission, L.L.C., to provide for SunZia Transmission Line Project Mitigation Agreement, contract amount \$33,600.00 revenue/2 year term (CT2500000069)

At the request of the County Administrator and without objection, this item was continued to the Board of Supervisors' Meeting of February 17, 2026.

29. The Board of Supervisors on November 4, 2025, continued the following:

**Contract**

El Rio Sol Transmission, L.L.C., to provide for El Rio Sol Transmission Line Project Mitigation Agreement, contract amount \$850,500.00 revenue/2 year term (CT2500000070)

At the request of the County Administrator and without objection, this item was continued to the Board of Supervisors' Meeting of February 17, 2026.

30. **Pima County Cooperative Extension Annual Report**

Presentation of the Pima County Cooperative Extension Annual Report.

Jenn Parlin, Interim Director, Pima County Cooperative Extension, provided a slide show presentation regarding their 2024 activities and progress on Wildfire Fuels Reduction Programming. She stated that the Cooperative Extension was a nationally authorized institution implemented through land grant universities to bring agriculture and health education to the people funded by federal, state and County funds. She stated that they also relied on grants, program revenues and

philanthropy for the programs. She stated that Pima County provided one office and they rented two additional offices at a low cost, that the Campbell and River location was their provided office, they rented the Garden Kitchen in the City of South Tucson and had an office in Green Valley that also included a community garden. She stated that Pima County supported them financially through appropriations for 2025, which were approximately \$226,000.00. She stated that they reported to the public through an annual report and a bi-monthly newsletter called, the Round-Up. She stated they also reported to Pima County Conservation Lands and Resources and contributed to reporting in a presentation to the Board regarding wildfires. She stated they primarily focused on three areas; Agriculture and Natural Resources, Family Health and Consumer Sciences and 4-H Youth Education. She stated that through these programs, they provided 176,000 hours of education to residents throughout its lifespan in 2024, and they accomplished this with 43 staff and 1,500 volunteers. She stated that volunteers were important to their ability to expand their reach and that they dedicated 50,000 hours of their time and effort in 2024. She stated that the Master Gardeners provided 34,000 hours of volunteer services, and 37 new Master Gardeners joined the program in 2024. She stated that Master Gardeners reached participants through lectures both in-person and online, through home tours, campus tours, hands-on gardening seminars, with information about garden planning, plant selection, irrigation and water use, and much more. She stated that the Invasive Species Program reached 1,200 people through presentations at public libraries, neighborhood associations, clubs, school groups, conducted home visits, participated in invasive species volunteer removal events and interacted with residents at outreach events and that the program organized a series of monthly invasive grass removals. She stated that 88% of Smartscape participants earned a certificate of completion for the 24 courses offered by the program. She stated that the professionals learned the principles and practices essential to designing, installing and maintaining sustainable landscapes. She stated that Pima Smartscape offered seven residential classes that educated residents about efficient drip irrigation systems and prepared them for receiving a City of Tucson rainwater harvesting rebate. She stated that the Garden Kitchen reached more than 3,500 participants through partnerships with Child-Parent Center, Catholic Community Services, the Pascua Yaqui Tribe, and Pima County Libraries. She stated that 400 organizational leaders and early childhood teachers were trained in trauma awareness, seed-to-table concepts, gardening, physical activity and nutrition. She stated that at PLAZA Mobile Market, 40% of sales were completed with nutrition assistance benefits, and team members were able to enroll 132 people in the Farmers Market Nutrition Program, distributing \$12,000.00 in coupons for local produce purchases. She stated that the Pima Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program staff taught almost 500 classes to approximately 300 adult community members, with half of those individuals participating in eight or more hours of education on nutrition, food safety, physical activity, and more. She added that classes had taken place in family resource centers, schools, and low-income housing programs. She stated that over 700 youth received nutrition and physical activity education, with over 400 graduating from the program in the youth portion. He stated that the Family Engagement Program taught over 7,500 hours of education through 344 free workshops, with 100% of participants indicating that

they intended to use the program information to better support their children. She stated that 38% of classes were held at Arizona State Prison Complex - Tucson, or the Federal Corrections Institute with nearly 300 participants and 771 community members participated in financial literacy classes. She stated 643 youth at 26 4-H clubs learned about animal care and production, civic engagement, STEM education, ranching, and leadership, under the guidance of 120 adult volunteers and leaders. She added that clubs provided access to state-level learning experiences and delivered over 34,000 hours of education and skill-building activities to 4-H members. She stated that before the annual County Fair, nearly 400 4-H members participated in the State 4-H Stock Show. She stated that at Tucson Village Farm (TVF), there were 441 unique learning opportunities engaging participants in dynamic activities including growing and harvesting food, cooking, hiking, and art. She stated that the summer of 2024 was packed with outdoor adventures, offering 22 unique summer camps for youth. TVF campers spent a cumulative of 54 nights in tents, over 400 nights in cabins, and over 500 nights under the stars. She stated that these camps fostered a connection with nature, providing youth with the opportunity to grow, explore and develop independence. She stated that they just finished their second quarter of the Wildfire Fuels Reduction Program, having developed and delivered a Train-the-Trainer Fire Fuels Reduction course for 110 Master Gardeners with instruction emphasizing defensible spaces and the importance of reducing fuel load across diverse landscapes. She stated that they presented wildfire ecology and Firewise landscape concepts through Master Gardener public Zoom class series and an invasive species presentation, directly educating 344 community participants on fire-prone versus fire-resistant plants, defensible space principles and how those concepts integrated into horticulture practices. She stated that they also developed Smartscape materials that emphasized wildfire risk reduction for landscaping professionals, at the first Urban and Suburban Weeds and Fire Risk class. She added that education included landscaping best practices to reduce fuel load, and decreasing wildfire risk in a variety of settings, including around residents and businesses, in rights-of-way, and along riparian areas, at various elevations. She stated that the Wildfire Outreach Coordinator was scheduled to be hired this month and duties would include working with local fire departments and districts, the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management, federal fire managers and others, to reduce wildfire fuels, promote wildfire resistant ecology, and increase urban and rural wildfire preparedness. She stated that funding from Pima County was crucial to the maintenance of their operations and programming, including assisting community members with invasive species removal and educating diverse audiences in the management of vegetation to reduce the risk of wildfires in urban and rural areas of the County, and thanked the Board for their continued support.

Supervisor Christy commented that Wildfire issues were a particular area of interest for him and his district. He stated that it seemed as though there might be a duplication of effort with the County's Wildfire Mitigation Plan. He asked what kind of coordination they had with it, would it be necessary to hire a new director and if there could be more connection and collaboration with the Wildfire Mitigation Plan that was already being worked on and implemented in Pima County.

Ms. Parlin clarified that it was part of the Wildfire Mitigation Program implemented in Pima County, which was the educational arm of it, so the appropriation had reached them to provide education and outreach to the community, based on the plan that was passed for Pima County.

Supervisor Christy asked what kind of outreach was done with communities, and if they worked with Homeowners Associations (HOAs), the Green Valley Council, or the Vail Southeast Regional Council. He stated that Mt. Lemmon had a Firewise Program and asked if this coordinated with the Firewise Certification Program.

Ms. Parlin responded in the affirmative.

Supervisor Christy asked if these entities were aware of such things as the Firewise Program, as well as other wildfire mitigation efforts, and if they were aware of what Cooperative Extension did as far as wildfire mitigation.

Ms. Parlin responded yes that they were aware and was the reason they were hiring a staff member. She stated in the plan that was submitted to Pima County, the new staff member would be hired in January to start all of those connections. She stated that their outreach to the public had already started with Master Gardener training and invasive species, and HOAs had been in collaboration with those educational units. She stated that their plan going forward was to hire someone to really manage all of those relationships and bring everything together to have sustainable and thoughtful communication.

Supervisor Christy stated that his suggestion would be that they reach out and provide programs and speakerships to these organizations. He stated that he attended the monthly Green Valley Council Board of Representatives meeting, and he did not believe there was an opportunity for Ms. Parlin to address them yet, but he knew they would, as well as the Southeast Regional Council. He stated that it seemed there could be added value to both what the County already implemented, as well as by the Cooperative Extension with that County plan in those venues.

Ms. Parlin stated that was definitely part of the plan and targeting more rural areas and fire-prone areas for their outreach.

Supervisor Christy asked if they had any collaboration with fire districts.

Ms. Parlin responded that they had started to talk with fire districts, which would also be part of the plan with their new hire.

This item was for discussion only. No Board action was taken.

## **DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

### **31. Final Plat With Assurances**

P18FP00020, Saguaro Ridge Estates, Lots 1-26 and Common Areas "A, B, C". (District 1)

It was moved by Chair Allen, seconded by Supervisor Heinz and unanimously carried by a 5-0 vote, to approve the item.

### **32. Final Plat With Assurances**

P25FP00014, Bajada Ranch, Lots 1-22. (District 4)

It was moved by Chair Allen, seconded by Supervisor Christy and unanimously carried by a 5-0 vote, to approve the item.

## **REAL PROPERTY**

### **33. The Board of Supervisors on October 14, 2025 and November 4, 2025, continued the following:**

#### **Contract**

El Rio Sol Transmission, L.L.C., to provide for Pima County Highway Maintenance Reimbursement Agreement, contract amount \$200,000.00 revenue (CT2500000067)

At the request of the County Administrator and without objection, this item was continued to the Board of Supervisors' Meeting of February 17, 2026.

### **34. The Board of Supervisors on November 4, 2025, continued the following:**

#### **Contract**

SunZia Transmission, L.L.C., to provide an Agreement to Donate Real Property and Special Warranty Deed, conveying 6 parcels of vacant land totaling 139.6 acres to Pima County located in the San Pedro River Valley in Sections 24, 25, 30, T11S, R17, 18E, Pima County, Arizona, term date 11/4/25 to 5/3/26, CLR-Mitigation/Special Revenue Fund, contract amount \$3,000.00 for closing costs (PO2500031450)

At the request of the County Administrator and without objection, this item was continued to the Board of Supervisors' Meeting of February 17, 2026.

35. **Option Notice and Rent at 75 E. Broadway**

Staff recommends approval of the Option Notice as well as the Rent in the amount of \$204,820.00 per year in accordance with the requirements of the Ground Lease Option Agreement with Rio Nuevo Multipurpose Facilities District.

(Clerk's Note: See the attached verbatim related to this item.)

It was moved by Chair Allen, seconded by Supervisor Heinz and unanimously carried by a 5-0 vote, to approve the item.

**GRANT APPLICATION/ACCEPTANCE**

36. **Acceptance - Health**

Arizona Family Health Partnership, d.b.a. Affirm Sexual and Reproductive Health, Amendment No. 4, to provide for reproductive health services, extend grant term to 3/31/26 and amend grant language, \$509,500.00/\$131,872.00 Health Special Revenue Fund match (GA-HD-69993)

It was moved by Chair Allen, seconded by Supervisor Heinz and unanimously carried by a 5-0 vote, to approve the item.

37. **Acceptance – Health**

The University of Washington, to provide for the Doxycycline Post-Exposure Implementation Study, \$480,370.00 (G-HD-103261)

It was moved by Chair Allen, seconded by Supervisor Heinz and carried by a 4-1 vote, Supervisor Christy voted "Nay," to approve the item.

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

38. **Communicating Board of Supervisors' Opposition to HUBBAY Copper World Project to all Relevant Parties**

Discussion/Direction/Action: Directing the County Administrator to communicate the Pima County Board of Supervisors' continuing opposition to the HUBBAY Copper World project - including transmitting a copy of the Board's Resolution No. 2025-49: Resolution of the Pima County Board of Supervisors Reaffirming Opposition to the Proposed Copper World Project, passed October 21, 2025 (attached) - to relevant regulators, other stakeholders of HUBBAY, and other relevant parties. (District 2)

It was moved by Chair Allen and seconded by Supervisor Heinz to approve the item. No vote was taken at this time.

Supervisor Heinz stated that it was brought to his attention that the resolutions the Board had passed with regard to the bipartisan opposition going back years 20 years were never conveyed to the Board of Directors for HUDBAY, their regulatory authorities in Canada where the company was located. He stated that counsel had advised for a dedicated item for consideration, so this was requesting staff to convey with a cover letter, the most recent resolution passed that was in opposition to this project, to the relevant parties.

Supervisor Christy stated that he was astounded that anyone would think that the Board of Supervisors in Pima County, were not in favor of the HUDBAY resolution. He stated that he was sure they were very intimately familiar with the fact that the Board were not in favor of the HUDBAY Copper World Project. He requested to be provided with a list of all the relevant regulators and other stakeholders that the intentions of this resolution would be sent to. He stated that he would also send a letter indicating that as the sitting Supervisor whose district housed the HUDBAY Copper World Project, that he was in favor of and supported it. He stated that he wanted job growth, economic development and workers to have strong family entities that could provide money for their well-being, education, homes, food on their table and economic growth. He pointed out to the construction community, the contracting community, unions, mechanics, shop people, everybody that had jobs, as a result of the HUDBAY project, that his Board colleagues were not to be taken as friends and were not supportive. He stated that there had been, on numerous occasions, and on many projects, where his colleagues voted projects down and they spoke in one term that they supported unions, workers, and families, but then they voted against the project that did exactly that. He stated that they were all up for election in a few years, and urged those communities, contractors, unions, mechanics, to remember who voted for them and supported them because it was not his colleagues. He stated that he looked forward to the list of all the relevant regulators and reiterated that he was sure they were very familiar with this Board's decisions in the past when it came to resolutions.

Supervisor Scott stated that he understood why the Board passed the item referenced back in October 2025, because it had given Supervisors Allen and Cano, which were new to the Board, the opportunity to express the same opposition to Copper World that others had. He stated that it seemed like this item was brought up based upon a discussion Supervisor Heinz had with the County Attorney regarding who received those previous items. He asked if Supervisor Heinz could provide clarification because he voted for all the previous ones, but he was not sure why they needed this one.

Supervisor Heinz stated that he was also puzzled that this required an item and had initially checked with Nicole Fyffe and then with County Administration leadership to confirm that the resolutions passed had not gone anywhere. He stated that he had heard that HUDBAY was framing this as a project that was being welcomed with open arms by the region, in their comments. shareholder discussions and Board of Directors meetings. He stated that he believed they were mischaracterizing the region's lack of interest in this particular project and when he heard that he asked

how many times copies of a resolution were sent to them, but none had been sent. He stated that the Board's legal counsel advised that an item be considered instead of just sending the resolution to some of these folks, so they were aware of the Board's opposition.

Chair Allen clarified that her understanding of the item was not to repass the resolution that was already passed but to direct that it be distributed and that when the Board wanted to communicate and share passed resolutions, it needed to be agreed on, that the County Administrator could not send out resolutions to different entities without the Board's knowledge of that. She asked if this information was correct.

Supervisor Christy asked where the County Administrator sent the resolutions to.

Jan Leshar, County Administrator, explained that the previous resolutions had been sent as instructed, which had tended to be the federal delegation, the Governor, the State Land Department and sometimes to the state legislature or County Supervisors Association, but those had been the parties to which they had been officially forwarded to on behalf of the County. She stated that they were also posted, but in a case like this, it was not sent to a variety of other parties.

Supervisor Christy inquired about the variety of other parties.

Ms. Leshar responded that it was to relevant regulators and other stakeholders and Supervisor Heinz intent was to ownership, which was the Board of Directors of HUDBAY.

Supervisor Christy stated that it boggled his mind that there would be any thought process that the ownership of HUDBAY would have no idea about how the Board felt about their project after all these years, all the resolutions and litigation, that they would not know that this Board was against the project.

Supervisor Cano stated that perhaps the Board, when considering other resolutions, asked the Administrator to inform the Board where they went to. He stated that he was not sure an item was needed for this and that it could have been worked from an administrative lens instead of going through the Board. He stated that he had always found County Administration willing to send the Board's correspondence after a public vote, to any entity, and wanted to ensure that it was a standard practice moving forward. He stated that the Board had an ally in the Administrator's Office to assist with that on any resolution. He stated that HUDBAY representatives reached out to him to have a conversation about their project and a meeting was scheduled but then it was subsequently canceled by HUDBAY representatives. He stated that he was offended by the conversations heard today regarding accessibility and transparency. He stated that their action of cancelling the meeting showed them not having a cooperative discussion which was indicative of the kind of sentiment heard from their representative earlier today. He looked forward to meeting with HUDBAY, if they were willing to meet with him. He stated that he knew

this was a very important issue to Supervisor Christy and he asked him to refrain from personality and impugning from the dais. He stated that Supervisor Christy had interrupted several times during this discussion, and he wanted to work with him to have a collaborative conversation and decorum was important to run a meeting.

Supervisor Scott stated that he wished to abstain. He stated that he previously indicated his opposition to both Rosemont and Copper World on numerous occasions since coming to the Board in 2021 and he was not comfortable voting for or against the item.

Upon the vote, the motion carried 3-1, Supervisor Christy voted "Nay," and Supervisor Scott abstained.

## **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

### **39. Conflict of Interest Waiver**

Discussion/Direction/Action regarding Farhang & Medcoff, P.L.L.C.'s request for a conflict of interest waiver.

It was moved by Chair Allen, seconded by Supervisor Heinz and unanimously carried by a 5-0 vote, to approve the conflict of interest waiver.

### **40. Proposed Settlement in Bustamante Claim, 16651220**

Discussion/Direction/Action regarding a proposed settlement in the Bustamante Claim, 16651220.

It was moved by Chair Allen, seconded by Supervisor Heinz and unanimously carried by a 5-0 vote, to approve authorization as discussed in Executive Session.

### **41. Authorization for Future Legal Actions Related to SB1500/A.R.S. §13-4296**

Discussion/Direction/Action regarding authorization for future legal actions related to SB1500/A.R.S. §13-4296.

It was moved by Chair Allen, seconded by Supervisor Heinz and unanimously carried by a 5-0 vote, to authorize the Pima County Attorney's Office as recommended and described in Executive Session.

## **CONTRACT AND AWARD**

### **PROJECT DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION**

42. Green Valley Coordinating Council, d.b.a. Green Valley Council, to provide for Green Valley Council Services, Health (27.1%), DOT (25.7%), RWRD (17.1%),

DEQ General (12.9%), DSD (8.6%) and RFCD Tax Levy (8.6%) Funds, contract amount \$87,500.00 (PO2500036059)

It was moved by Chair Allen, seconded by Supervisor Christy and unanimously carried by a 5-0 vote, to approve the item.

### **BOARD, COMMISSION AND/OR COMMITTEE**

43. **Board of Adjustment, District 1**

- Reappointment of Vicki Balentine. Term expiration: 12/9/29.
- Reappointment of Bruce Call. Term expiration: 3/31/30.

It was moved by Chair Allen, seconded by Supervisor Heinz and unanimously carried by a 5-0 vote, to approve the item.

44. **Public Safety Personnel Retirement Board**

Appointment of Joshua Laughlin, to replace Cami Evans. No term expiration. (Chair recommendation)

It was moved by Chair Allen, seconded by Supervisor Heinz and unanimously carried by a 5-0 vote, to approve the item.

45. **County Attorney Investigators Local Retirement Board**

Appointment of Joshua Laughlin, to replace Cami Evans. No term expiration. (Chair recommendation)

It was moved by Chair Allen, seconded by Supervisor Heinz and unanimously carried by a 5-0 vote, to approve the item.

46. **Corrections Officer Retirement Board**

Appointment of Joshua Laughlin, to replace Cami Evans. No term expiration. (Chair recommendation)

It was moved by Chair Allen, seconded by Supervisor Heinz and unanimously carried by a 5-0 vote, to approve the item.

### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

47. **Approval of the Consent Calendar**

It was moved by Chair Allen, seconded by Supervisor Heinz and unanimously carried by a 5-0 vote, to approve the Consent Calendar in its entirety.

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## **CONTRACT AND AWARD**

### **County Attorney**

1. Pascua Yaqui Tribe of Arizona, Amendment No. 1, to provide an intergovernmental agreement to coordinate the prompt processing, execution, and enforcement of state or tribal warrants, demands for extradition and protection orders, and to authorize the appointment of a tribal prosecutor as a Special Deputy County Attorney, amend scope and contractual language, no cost (SC2400000668)

### **Health**

2. Helping Ourselves Pursue Enrichment, Inc., Amendment No. 1, to provide for crisis cooperative for opioid misuse/abuse and prevention, extend contract term to 9/29/26 and amend contractual language, no cost (PO2500009108)
3. Arizona Board of Regents, The University of Arizona, Amendment No. 3, to provide for Pima CARES Project and amend contractual language, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Fund, contract amount \$195,702.29 (PO2400001342)
4. The State of Arizona - Arizona Department of Health Services, to provide an intergovernmental agreement for the CHEMPACK Program, no cost/5 year term (SC2500000636)
5. Arizona Department of Health Services, Amendment No. 3, to provide an intergovernmental agreement for Senate Bill 1847 Funding, extend contract term to 6/30/26 and amend contractual language, contract amount \$241,334.00 revenue (CT2500000089)

### **Procurement**

6. Infor Public Sector, Inc., Amendment No. 3, to provide for Infor Public Sector Licensing Services, amend contractual language and scope of services, General Fund, contract amount \$230,000.00 (SC2400001685) Administering Department: Information Technology, on behalf of Regional Wastewater Reclamation
7. Infor Public Sector, Inc., Amendment No. 1, to provide for Infor Public Sector Licensing and Services, amend contractual language and scope of services, General Fund, contract amount \$750,000.00 (SC2400001822) Administering Department: Information Technology, on behalf of Regional Wastewater Reclamation

8. West Publishing Corporation, d.b.a. West, a Thomson Reuters Business (Headquarters: Eagan, MN), to provide for legal research online databases, General Fund, contract amount \$320,000.00 (SC2500000661) Administering Department: County Attorney

### **Real Property**

9. Global Water-Ocotillo Water Company Inc., to provide a Non-Exclusive Right-of-Way Use License for Public Utility Facilities, no cost/25 year term (SC2500000664)

### **SPECIAL EVENT LIQUOR LICENSE/TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF PREMISES/ PATIO PERMIT/WINE FAIR/WINE FESTIVAL/JOINT PREMISES PERMIT APPROVED PURSUANT TO RESOLUTION NO. 2019-68**

#### **10. Special Event**

- Rebecca Jane Roberts, Rotary Club of Green Valley, Green Valley Recreation West Center, 1111 S. GVR Drive, Green Valley, February 11, 2026.
- Nick Hamm, The Warrior Built Foundation, The Farm by Miller Made Events, 15701 W. Avra Lane, Marana, February 14, 2026.
- Alejandro Torres, Corpus Christi Catholic Parish - Church, 300 N. Tanque Verde Loop Road, Tucson, January 24, 2026.

#### **11. Wine Fair/Wine Festival**

Katherine Spencer, d.b.a. Light Work Winery, L.L.C., Voyager RV Resort, 8701 S. Kolb Road, Tucson, February 24, 2026, from 12:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

### **CLERK OF THE SUPERIOR COURT**

#### **12. Document and Digital Evidence and Retrieval Conversion Fund**

Pursuant to A.R.S. §12-284.01, staff requests approval to expend \$13,950.96 from the Document and Digital Evidence and Retrieval Conversion Fund to purchase a new copier machine for the Criminal Support Services area of the Clerk of Superior Court.

### **TREASURER**

#### **13. Request to Waive Interest**

Pursuant to A.R.S. §42-18053, staff requests approval of the Submission of Request to Waive Interest Due to Mortgage Satisfaction in the amount of \$99.80.

#### **14. Certificate of Removal and Abatement - Certificate of Clearance**

Staff requests approval of the Certificates of Removal and Abatement/Certificates of Clearance in the amount of \$39,558.04.

**RATIFY AND/OR APPROVE**

15. Minutes: November 4, 2025

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48. **ADJOURNMENT**

As there was no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 2:23 p.m.

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CHAIR

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
CLERK

## COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

25. The Board of Supervisors on November 18, 2025, continued the following:

### Central Arizona Project Presentation

Presentation by Karen Cesare, Board Secretary, Central Arizona Water Conservation District, to provide an update on the Central Arizona Project.

#### Verbatim

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JA: Chair Allen  
RS: Supervisor Scott  
MH: Supervisor Heinz  
SC: Supervisor Christy  
AC: Supervisor Cano  
JL: Jan Leshar, County Administrator  
KC: Karen Cesare, Board Secretary, Central Arizona Water Conservation District  
MT: Mark Taylor, Co-Chair of Public Policy Committee, Central Arizona Water Conservation District

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JA: Per the Clerk's Note earlier, we are now going to move to Item No. 22 on the Regular Agenda, which is unfinished business that was originally scheduled for the 18th of November. This is a presentation from the Central Arizona Project (CAP) by Karen, and I hope you will correct me, if I mispronounce your name, Cesare [attempt]?

[Inaudible response from audience]

JA: Caesar [clarified pronunciation], oh, easier. Who is the Board Secretary of the Central Arizona Water Conservation District.

KC: Good morning, Madam Chair, members of the Board of Supervisors. I am Karen Cesare and I am the Board Secretary for the Central Arizona Water Conservation District Board of Directors. I am also joined here with me today by one of my board colleagues, Mark Taylor and Mark serves as the Co-Chair of our Public Policy Committee. And like all of you, we represent the citizens of Pima County on the CAP Board of Directors. We are popularly elected. People do not always remember that because we have not shown up on a ballot for a while. But we run in the general election, nonpartisan office, and serve to represent the Pima County citizens on the Central Arizona Water Conservation Board of Directors. And we are very happy to be here today. To give you just a little bit of update on what is going on with Arizona's largest renewable water supply, which is the water we get from the Colorado River. You know, we all live in the desert. We are aware of this. And I do not know if someone is going to, forward, thank you, excellent. I just want to say, living in the desert and doing it successfully for a long time is important. It is

important to our lives, our prosperity, our businesses, our families, our communities. And so, it is important to know, where are Arizona's water sources? And about a third of our water comes right now from the Colorado River. We get a little bit more than that, about 41% statewide from groundwater. We get 18% from in-state rivers. When you are talking in Pima County, that is a head scratcher but our in-state rivers are actually the Salt River Project systems of lakes and rivers that mostly benefit Maricopa County. Then 5% is from reclaimed water and I am also happy to report that the Tucson area writ large, is one of the leaders in developing and using reclaimed water as a renewable water supply. That is kind of like where our water is coming from. But specifically, we are concerned with the Colorado River. Here in Arizona, we are one of seven basin states in the Colorado River basin, we're divided into the Upper Basin and the Lower Basin. The Upper Basin is Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, and New Mexico. New Mexico is always kind of counterintuitive, but they are an Upper Basin state in the watershed, and the Lower Basin states, which is Arizona, California and Nevada. Altogether, that area supports about 40 million people. It provides water to all the major cities, including, of course, Tucson, but Phoenix, Denver, Los Angeles, Salt Lake City, San Diego, amongst others. The water serves altogether 30 Native American tribes, 22 of which are in Arizona, 11 of which are CAP tribes. So, some are on river and some get their water through our canal. We support 5 million acres of irrigated farmland in Arizona, particularly in the Yuma area, on river. They call it the nation's "Salad Bowl." They produce a lot of winter vegetables that feed the region, if not the country. We generate clean hydropower and we support our national parks and recreation and wildlife areas. So, you know, the hardest working river in the West, of course, is, we think, is the Colorado River and CAP is the entity that provides this water to Arizona and provides us our water security.

JA: Ms. Cesare. I hate to interrupt, but I do not think the slides are moving along with you.

KC: Okay. Should I cue?

JA: Cue them, yes.

KC: Sorry.

JA: Thank you.

KC: Okay, there is the basin and then you can go to the next slide, which is the water security. Now you can go to the next slide. All right. There we go, okay. But we all know that we have been in a drought for 25 years, and counting, with no relief in sight. And so the important thing is, what are we doing now and how are we preparing for a smaller river and a future that is going to be hotter and drier than what we have had in the past? And I do not know if that slide, there we go, with the chart. One of the things that is critical to the Colorado River is the snowpack runoff that occurs. And the snow primarily falls in the Upper Basin, primarily in Colorado, a little bit in Wyoming and Utah, of course, but that snowpack is the major source of

water that feeds the Colorado River. And what we have also experienced in the past several years is a declining runoff. So, we might even have gotten some good snow years but because of the hot, dry nature of the soil that has the big sponge, the water melts, it does not run off and find its way to the Colorado River, it soaks in the ground. This chart that you can see, and that people listening online can hopefully see, too, shows that last year, in 2025, we had only a 92% of average snowpack, but only a less than 50%, 49% of runoff. So, we had a couple good years before that, but it just underscores the situation that we are in and the concern that we all are trying to share with everybody. And also the problem that we are trying to solve here in Arizona is, how do we continue to ensure that Arizona has its fair share of renewable water? A lot has been talked about shortage. If you could go to the next slide, please. Shortage, we are now in a Tier 1 shortage and we have been for the last couple years. That is really driven by the elevations of the water in Lake Mead. And you can see that as the lake levels decline. Our shortage tiers get deeper. The deeper the shortage translates into more cuts on the river. Next slide, please. But Arizona has really been doing its part. We have been using a lot of large-scale conservation in Lake Mead. We have been leaving water in Lake Mead, both required amounts of water and voluntary amounts of water. The important takeaway from this chart is just to show that Arizona has really been leading the way of all the basin states in leaving water in Lake Mead to keep those elevations from plummeting to lower elevations and triggering deeper levels of shortage. Arizona has been proud to do this. Tucson and Tucson Water is one of our major partners, as are a lot of the tribes. Locally, the Tohono O'odham and the Pascua Yaqui have contributed to this, as well as other users in the Maricopa County area. Overall, we have saved well over 5.5 million acre-feet of water in Lake Mead. So, we cannot tell you how important that has been to our situation. But what I am going to do right now, since I am sharing this presentation with my colleague, I am going to hand this over to Director Taylor, and I am going to have him kind of talk about what we have done specifically and where we are going with this. And then if there is time, of course, we are both available to answer any questions. So, thank you and I am going to turn this over to Mark.

MT: Thank you, Madam Chair, members of the Board. My name is Mark Taylor, Director. I am representing Pima County for CAP. I have been on CAP Board for about 11 years right now, co-Chair of Public Policy Committee. Normally, I am pretty optimistic person, but we are going through some really critical times right now for negotiations with the upper basin. We started in 2007, with 2007 Interim Guidelines. That was because water levels in the two main reservoirs, Lake Powell and Lake Mead, were full in 2000 and because the beginning of this drought dropped almost half that elevation within 3 or 4 years. Hence, we needed something to essentially stop the use of Lake Powell and Lake Mead. That is where the 2007 Interim Guidelines came into being, as a way that mainly the Lower Basin states could share the shortage. It has been successful, it was there for 20 years, it was made for 20 years and expires this year in December. There is nothing behind it now to replace it, other than last two and a half years we have been negotiating with the Upper Basin and we have not gone very far with that. We have started right from the very beginning, offering the Lower Basin, as we mentioned before, is California,

Nevada and Arizona. We give up 1.5 million acre-feet in time of shortage, most of that from Arizona, about half of that from Arizona. We have gotten nowhere with the Upper Basin. They have so far agreed to not save one acre-foot or release, stop one acre-foot of shortage, or conserve one acre-foot. That is a real problem. We are down to less than a year now, we have to have an agreement made. So, we have been two and a half years in the negotiating table. The Bureau of Reclamation gave us until February 14th, which is coming up for the seven basin states to come to an agreement and still are not even close to doing that. At that point, after February 14th, the Bureau will probably choose or direct where we are going to go, and who was going to lose that water. It is critical for Arizona, you have to remember, Arizona is highly dependent on CAP and the Colorado River. Tucson is almost 100% dependent, and the surrounding communities in Pima County are nearly totally dependent on CAP and Colorado River. So, these negotiations are incredibly important right now, and it is important that we all understand what is at stake. Arizona does have the lowest priority on the river, and essentially, central Arizona, CAP is the lowest priority on the river based upon old contracts. So, it is something we want to keep in mind. We want to watch what is going to happen. February 14th is going to be incredibly important to see what the Bureau does. Either we come to some type of agreement or litigation is next, and nobody really wants litigation. So anyway, it looks like my time is up, but if there is any questions, we would be glad to talk about it because it is very critical for Arizona and of course, Pima County.

JA: Thank you. Supervisor Christy?

SC: Thank you, Madam Chair. I would like to thank Directors Taylor and Cesare because they are always available, always willing and accommodating, to discuss these issues to any groups, at any time, at any place. Director Cesare just spoke to the Vail Chamber recently. Did an excellent presentation, much like the one we are hearing today and it is very appreciative to know that there are directors of this very highly volatile issue that affects us all, that are so willing to express themselves and express what the whole CAP program is all about. You are doing an excellent job, and on behalf of my district, I can tell you they like to hear what you are saying, and they appreciate your hard work. So having said that, in a thumbnail Reader's Digest version, I know the City of Tucson gave some allocation back to the CAP. You also mentioned, I think that some of the Nations have done the same thing. How does that work, what does that mean, what is the significance of that? Is it actually water being shipped back to Lake Mead or Lake Powell from Tucson allocations, or is it future allocations being traded off?

KC: Madam Chair, Supervisor Christy, again, Karen Cesare. In a nutshell, there has been conservation programs that have been occurring for the last several years. Some are sponsored by CAP in the state of Arizona, some are sponsored by the Bureau of Reclamation but at a high level, what they involve is, current water users forgoing their regular delivery that they would normally take. I will use City of Tucson as an example, all their CAP allocation is taken and recharged out in their recharge facilities, mostly in Avra Valley. In lieu of taking some of their water, they have left that water in Lake Mead, large volumes, in exchange for being compensated for it.

That compensated conservation is, that water is no longer City of Tucson's, it is system water, it is there for the benefit of the whole system, and each water user has had the opportunity, and this includes tribes too, to do this on a short-term basis, one, two, three years. And they have just decided, well we have got enough water, for example, in the ground, we can forgo some deliveries for a little bit, not hurt ourselves or our customers, but reap some rewards financially, as well as benefit the whole system. So, it has been a very creative win-win situation and that is sort of the high level of how that has been working.

SC: Thank you for that. Madam Chair, Ms. Cesare, when that occurs in our region, does this help in any of the negotiations you are experiencing with the Upper Basin folks, or do they say thank you very much and then move on, or does it benefit us eventually?

KC: Madam Chair, Supervisor Christy. Everything helps, but I think as Director Taylor said, Arizona has stepped forward for many years and contributed large volumes of water in Lake Mead to keep us out of shortage. Arizona does not want to be the only one solving the problem. We cannot solve the problem on the backs of just Arizona and particularly the backs of the Central Arizona Project. So, it demonstrates proof of concept, yes, you can do this, but I do not want to say, it is a "Thank you very much, but what have you done for me lately?" Might be a little bit of the attitude of some of the other basin states but we definitely applaud our efforts, and we have, and Arizona has for a long time acknowledged that we have really stepped up and done our part. Our message to the rest of the basin states and to the federal government is Arizona cannot be expected to do this on their own, everybody that benefits from the Colorado River needs to participate and share in this, the next thing, the next solution. So, thank you for that question.

SC: Thank you, Director Cesare, and thank you, Madam Chair.

JA: And Supervisor Christy, can you adjust your mic for next time? Supervisor Cano [pointing to the next Supervisors that will speak] and we will go this way.

AC: Thank you, Chair Allen. I also want to echo the appreciation to Director Taylor and Director Cesare. We worked a lot together during my time in the Arizona Legislature, and one of the items that I am most proud of during my term, as the ranking Democrat on the House Natural Resources Committee, was a program called the Water Conservation Grant Fund, which is through the Water Infrastructure Finance Authority. Just want to echo that it is going to involve several partners in agriculture, industrial users, government, to continue to conserve water in our region and throughout our state. The 200 million that we appropriated in 2002 for these efforts have funded more than 200 projects throughout the entire state, advanced system upgrades for metering, metering is not a bad word in Arizona, the legislature thinks it is, water-efficiency fixtures, recharge, turf removal. These are all the projects that have helped conserve a thousand acre-feet of water and I just implore the board at CAP to continue to ask our legislature to fund vital programs like this. I believe that that is a win-win for both the short-term and long-term gain

and really appreciate you and the entire Pima delegation for the leadership that you have demonstrated during your service, and of course, the entire board. I was at the legislature last week and also saw Mr. Goddard, who I am very pleased is one of your colleagues in this effort, as well. Thank you, Chair Allen.

JA: Supervisor Scott.

RS: Thank you, Chair Allen. And also want to extend my thanks to Directors Cesare and Taylor for being with us today. When Pima County property taxpayers look at their property tax bill, one of the property taxes that is assessed is from the Central Arizona Water Conservation District. Just for the benefit of the Board and the public and media, could you let us know how you determine where that rate should be set and what it is used for?

MT: Chair Allen, Board member Scott. We usually use about \$0.10 per dollar, is what is allocated. Every year we do a vote on whether we need that money and how that is to be allocated. Only about 10% of our total revenue comes from taxes, the rest of it comes from rates, where we actually charge our ratepayers actual cost of delivering that water. That 10% is used a lot of times for infrastructure upgrades for mainly infrastructure upgrades, we use it for. It is important that that money is available because right now our infrastructure is over 50 years old. We need to maintain it in a position that we are always there, we are always able to deliver that water reliably, and that is one of probably the most important things we need to do right now. Essentially, we vote on it every year, and we have a lot of opportunities coming up, but we do not really know what is going to happen with potential water acquisitions, or we are definitely going to have to come up with some type of new water sources over the next few years to meet what we are going to lose, because we are going to lose about 50% of our water. So that needs to be made up. There will be a lot of uses for those funds in the future. As Board member Cano said, infrastructure is going to be the key, and new sources of water are going to be the key.

RS: And if I could ask one other question, Chair Allen? I cannot remember the percentage of our total water resources that are used by agriculture, but I think it is by far the majority of water use in this state. I think it is in the high 60s, low 70s in terms of percentage of total water resources used. I know that eventually we are going to have to, as a state, move towards not just less water intensive crops, but perhaps just as significant, and maybe easier to achieve, is moving to more less water intensive forms of irrigation. And I know that those are issues that Supervisor Cano, when he was in the legislature, as Supervisor Heinz when he was in the legislature, heard about. What input does your board have into those issues and how do you make your concerns heard?

MT: You know, agriculture is probably the most important thing we need to look at right now, because when there is a shortage coming up at the end of 2026, starting 2027, that shortage is going to have to be made up, have to be made up pretty quick. Going and building a desalinization plant or large infrastructure could be 20 years in the future, but our opportunity to work with agriculture is something that can be

done much quicker and much more efficiently. Your original question is, about 70% of all Colorado River is used for agriculture. It is one of the numbers right away to look at. For CAP, it is pushing near zero right now. We had quite a bit of CAP that was dedicated to agriculture, but after we went into the Tier 1 shortage that Director Cesare talked about, our agriculture was the lowest priority and that is been cut out. So, all that agriculture you see in Pinal County and up from Maricopa, we do not serve anymore. But Arizona still has a lot of agriculture that is still being served along the Colorado River in Yuma and up in Mohave County. Those communities are going to be incredibly important that we, as CAP and legislature, work with those communities where there is a potential for either fallowing, which is a rugged word right now, but at the same time, crops switching and using less water, and using proper crops could be a great opportunity for bringing new water sources to central Arizona. So, I think our communities, our agricultural communities are incredibly important to be working with right now, and we hope that is a potential source of water through more efficient use and crop switching and potential fallowing of areas that really are not viable.

RS: So, just to clarify, because of the Tier 1 shortage, agricultural resources are not using CAP water, what they are using then is a combination of groundwater and river water?

MT: They are using groundwater right now. And we are talking about central Arizona. What we served previous to the Tier 1 shortage, which again, was primarily Pinal County and some areas of Maricopa County, they use groundwater now, and I believe over 40% of that land has been fallowed since we stopped serving them, and the remainder are now using the background groundwater sources.

RS: Thank you, sir. Thank you, Chair Allen.

MH: Thank you, Chair Allen. Actually, Supervisor Scott and I were recently, in November, at the Department of the Interior meeting with, I do not know, it was the relevant undersecretary for a long, I had a federal job for a couple of years and they loved titles, so, but a gentleman who seemed to be very intimately involved with the discussions among the seven states, just based on what I heard from you all, I do not know, maybe Supervisor Scott can tell me what he thinks, but it sounded like there was more optimism a little bit, that there was going to be some progress, at least in November. But then what you just reflected to us in your comments and I was just curious, I do not know if you might happen to know why or if you can give us a little more of an update as to what kind of, what is going on there? And I am sorry I did miss part of your presentation.

KC: Director Taylor and I will tag team these questions. I appreciate that. Again, Chair Allen, Supervisor Heinz. We were optimistic. There is a part of us that is still remaining optimistic. However, the deadlines come and go, and meetings come and go and meetings of the principles of the seven basin states are held, no progress has been made yet. And so, I would say we are not as optimistic that we are going to get to somewhere positive shortly, as we were in November, sadly. In December,

our board staff, along with several hundred, thousands other people, attended the Colorado River Users Association Conference in Las Vegas. I think it was like its 80th year where anybody involved with the Colorado River meets in Vegas to discuss policy issues, technical issues, hydrology issues, everything and we were hopeful that there was going to be some breakthroughs at that meeting and there really were not. So, everyone is still talking, I guess the good news is everyone is still at tables talking, everyone is still engaging, nobody has completely retreated to their corners, at this point in time. But, in a nutshell, the Lower Basin in Arizona, in particular, as I said is, our position is everybody that shares in the Colorado River and benefits from it, needs to help and participate in the reductions and we all need to work together. Arizona has demonstrated that we can grow without growing our water use. There is some, I am going to mess this up, and this is where I look over to Mitch, who will tell me if I am right or wrong, but essentially Arizona is using about the same amount of water that we used to in the 50s, and we have clearly grown a lot since the 50s. We know in Tucson, the water use right now remains the same as we had in the 70s. I think we are a model, and every time I can get up in any forum and just tout Pima County and our communities' efforts around water conservation, while maintaining green infrastructure and quality of life, I do so. So, we are a great example of how to do it. Our Upper Basin colleagues have basically said, "oh, we need, not only can we not cut our water, we need more water to continue to grow to our vision." And again, we, you know, in Arizona, we can say no, that is, you know, you can grow, we support your growth and your prosperity, but we also think there is a lot of ways to grow that does not require a whole lot more water. So, stay tuned. I mean, you know, stay tuned. And one other thing I am going to say, and it was toward the maybe the end of the presentation, is CAP has convened and we have kicked off an effort called the Coalition for Protecting Arizona's Lifeline. We started with mayors, we have got business leaders, legislative, tribal members. What we are trying to do is, at this time, just kind of get everybody pulling in the same direction in Arizona, joining our coalition, There is actually a simple, you can join a pledge online. And right now, you all are invited to do so. It is a way that we in Arizona can show ourselves and show the other basin states that Arizonans are united in protecting our lifeline. And when the time comes, we will stand together and stand firm in the fact that having this Central Arizona Project go to zero is not an option. We are vital for national security, we have defense, we have agriculture, we have education, we have health care. All these things are important and that is why we will continue to stand and advocate for and fight for Arizona's water, because as of now, Supervisor Heinz, there is not happy things to report but things can change at any minute and that is what we are hopeful for. Thank you.

JA: And perhaps, Director Cesare, you just answered the question, but I was just going to ask if there are things that this body could be helpful. What is the ask of us? Are there things that we could be doing more, differently, better?

KC: A very straightforward ask that you can all do today, and it was on the presentation, but you can stay informed. You and everybody in Pima County can sign up for the Know Your Water News website. That is a CAP, that is little info graphics and bite size bits of information about what is going on. So, you are not overwhelmed, but

you can go to KnowYourWaterNews.com and sign up for regular updates. You can enroll, CAP has something called CAP University and that is an online, little deeper dive into what the Central Arizona Project is in our water. And anybody that is interested in doing that can do that, and that just gets you informed. And then always, you can join the coalition, and you can go to ProtectingArizonasLifeline.org and join and sign a pledge. You can do that today. And the more people we have, particularly leaders like you, particularly our elected official leaders that are signing this pledge and joining our coalition, just demonstrate more support and more grassroots and critical mass support for our efforts. So those are specific things you can do. Appreciate you asking.

JA: Well, thank you. Thank you both.

DRAFT

## COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

### 27. Wildfire Mitigation Plan Midyear Update

Presentation/Discussion: Midyear Update of the Wildfire Mitigation Plan.

Verbatim

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JA: Chair Allen  
RS: Supervisor Scott  
MH: Supervisor Heinz  
SC: Supervisor Christy  
AC: Supervisor Cano  
JL: Jan Leshar, County Administrator  
CD: Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator  
MV: Mari Vasquez, Senior Advisor to the County Administrator

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JA: I am going to move us to Item No. 24. Just to provide some segue, this is a report on Wildfire Mitigation Plan. It is the mid-year report by Senior Advisor to the County Administrator, Mari Vasquez. Just so we have some continuity, even picking up from the discussion about wildfire mitigation and presentation update on the plan. So, we will turn it over to you, Ms. Vasquez.

MV: Chair Allen, Supervisors. Honored to be able to give you a mid-year update on the Wildfire Mitigation Plan that the Board of Supervisors requested in February of last year. Oh, is it possible to get the slides up for Item 24? Perfect. And, just as a reminder, the plan was requested in February of last year. It was presented to you in May, and then the plan was put into action in July. Perfect. Thanks to the hard work of internal County departments and external stakeholders working closely with emergency management officials, fire agencies and land managers. All 45 tasks identified in the Wildfire Mitigation Plan have moved out of their discovery phase, and they are now in a planning, progress, or completed and under monitoring. We are on track for both budget and future schedule of all deliverables on the plan. Next slide please. The first of the three major focus areas is Public Education and some key achievements in this mid-year report include the creation of the Desert Fire and Invasives Collaborative, which works to provide strategic, coordinated messaging with partners like Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum and Tucson Electric Power, by elevating wildfire prevention through joint initiatives. Learning from other communities, we are continuing to emphasize the Firewise principles, which are the gold standard for wildfire protection. Our initial focus is heavily on defensible space, especially in Zone Zero, which is the first five feet around your home structure, which should be kept lean, clean and green, which means free of debris, combustible materials, and dry or dead vegetation. You also just heard from the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension, which has been an outstanding partner in delivering educational effort, helping to deliver classes on Smartscapes and Master Gardener programs that cover invasive species information. And now,

wildfire preparedness will reach a much bigger audience as they hire their Wildfire Education Coordinator. I will be in strong communication with them as well, as part of the plan. Next slide please. Our wildfire messaging calendar was developed with partners for the 2025/2026 plan. It included two topics per month that were shared with fire agencies Public Information Officers and regional partner communication departments to amplify messaging. It is being reviewed now for any upcoming year updates as this calendar is designed to be fluid, allowing us to address any emerging regional needs. Next slide please. Our next goal was mitigating Invasive Species. County departments, including Conservation Lands and Resources, the Department of Transportation and Regional Flood Control District worked with partners from Tucson Bird Alliance, Sonoran Institute and UA Cooperative Extension to treat over 12,000 acres and volunteers have contributed over 700 hours since July 1st in mitigation of buffelgrass and stinknet. We are also in close communication with Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management Southeast District Forester, to plan upcoming efforts where we can start to do some cross-jurisdictional work. The first chipping day event, in partnership with the Summer Haven Homeowners Association (HOA) and Mount Lemmon Fire District, was conducted in December. This event combined educational outreach on defensible space with actionable steps for vegetation removal. And looking ahead, we are looking at coordinating roll off container events, specifically in communities identified as having a high wildfire risk. These events are designed to help residents safely dispose of vegetation and debris that could ignite from wind-blown embers, reducing hazards in critical, defensible space zones. Selections of location will be based on wildfire risk assessments, ensuring resources are directed where they are most needed. Next slide please. Key achievements in Emergency Response include working closely with the Office of Emergency Management to continue increased sign-ups for MyAlerts. This year, each quarter saw a rise in registrations and we are encouraging anyone who has not yet signed up to visit the Office of Emergency Management website to do so. Funds were also allocated in the plan for additional Wildfire Coordinator Training. Based on local fire responder feedback, a wildland fire leadership course is scheduled for this third quarter. We are also mapping pre-developed evacuation zones that could be shared with responding agencies, and this is being done in help with Pima County's Information Technology Department and ArcGIS. In October, a wildfire tabletop exercise was conducted with 55 participants from 35 agencies attending this exercise, as well as other after-action reports highlighted opportunities to strengthen emergency alert communication, and we are actively working with partners to address opportunities to strengthen this process. Next slide please. Some upcoming headlines. The Community Wildfire Protection Plan, also known as the CWPP, is the 5- to 10-year long-range plan that takes a deep dive in identifying wildfire risks on all lands throughout Pima County and outlining specific treatments. The CWPP is often a prerequisite for state and federal grant applications, and I am happy to report that it has completed its first edit, and it will soon be open for public comment. The CWPP is the macro plan, which will guide future wildfire mitigation efforts, while this current plan that we are covering today will continue to serve as our region's annual action plan. We are also working on bilingual wildfire messaging materials to reach a broader audience, and that is currently underway with Pima County's

Communications Department. The Department of Insurance and Financial Institutions recently completed its report to Governor Hobbs. Pima County, with the involvement in the council by Deputy County Administrator DeBonis, provided input on insurance coverage considerations related to wildfire risk to the state task force. Better coordination of invasive species data to track growth mitigation efforts and emerging hotspots is also underway. This will be helpful in order to better align efforts and prioritize areas to reduce possible duplication of efforts in mitigation and funding. And a very special congratulations to the Sonoran Desert Weedwackers and Pima County's Restoration Program staff who received the Southwest Vegetation Management Award for their outstanding work in Invasive Species treatment. Next slide. All of these accomplishments would not have been possible without the incredible involvement of regional partners, both those mentioned directly today and everyone represented on this slide. There are so many that it is hard to call out individually, but a huge thank you to everyone involved. This network is strong, coordinated and is making a difference. This concludes the presentation. Happy to answer any questions you may have.

SC: Madam Chair?

JA: Yes, Supervisor Christy.

SC: And perhaps, Mr. DeBonis could chime in because of his service on the Insurance and Resilience Committee. Are you seeing or are you sensing any kind of movement or change of policy with insurance carriers who are offering homeowners insurance, as well as the availability of homeowners insurance or the rates? Or is this going to require more legislative activity? And if so, what specifically is it going to require from the legislature?

CD: Chair Allen and Supervisor Christy. During the time on the State Department of Insurance and Financial Institutions Council, the Resiliency and Mitigation Council, we received a lot of presentations, the council did, across a wide spectrum of different states, looking at it from fire service providers, state agencies, private insurance, and also private companies that are developing tools to help in this area. I think that it is vastly varied in terms of how insurance providers are approaching it. That was something that the council had identified in the County's comments back to the council, we identified the need for greater transparency and consistency in terms of the use of tools to determine what the fire risks are and setting of insurance rates for homeowners. And so, as we concluded that, the council acknowledged that a task force has been set up by the state legislature. I think to your point, that work is going to be critically important to see noticeable and sustainable changes and benefits to homeowners in terms of insurance rates and how they are set and what options they have, even in knowing what tool was used to identify the risk, how did they score with the use of that tool? Is there the ability for them to provide information or appeal the ruling and affect the ultimate rates that they are provided? So, I would say that while much work was done identifying the range of different things that are happening, this task force and its work is going to be crucial. And so, County Administration will be monitoring the work of that state legislature enacted

task force, and looking forward to actions that result in, either changes or modified approaches, to how insurance rates are set and how homeowners can participate more actively in their own outcomes.

SC: And Madam Chair, Mr. DeBonis. In that report in December, you made a number of recommendations. Can you highlight some of those recommendations?

CD: Certainly, Chair Allen and Supervisor Christy. You know, wrapped in what I had just indicated. I think one of the most crucial ones, is the ability for homeowners to understand the tool that the insurance industry is using in order to determine the risk and the setting of rates, or even the insurability for particular properties. I think that is currently opaque at best when homeowners are trying to obtain insurance and understand the basis from which the insurance industry participated, or the basis in which the insurance industry determined those things. There are also other models that were utilized or are being utilized in other states that provide for funding assistance for property owners to address whatever risks that they have on their property. So, that was a component of the recommendations made saying, "Hey, the state should look at providing funding to enable homeowners to harden their residence with fireproof roofing or fireproof siding, creating defensible space areas within proximity to their residence." Also, looking at greater ability for homeowners to appeal determinations that are being made, look at standardization of tools. Right now, the insurance industry has the ability to decide what tools they will utilize to model what those risks are. So, those were some of the recommendations that were forthcoming from Pima County to that council and those were also reflected in some of the input from others who participated in that, notably the County Supervisors Association.

SC: Madam Chair, just one final comment. I want to thank everybody for their diligent efforts and hard work on this issue. It is, in my district at least, it is top of mind. We have many constituents that, as you know, are dealing with this homeowner's insurance and premium affordability issues. And I have to say from the meetings that I attend and the public gatherings and feedback that I get from my constituents, they are embracing this process. They are embracing the Firewise certification process. I think we have got some 33 HOAs in Green Valley alone, that could be wrong, but it is a very significant number of the HOAs are embracing the Firewise Certification Program. Mount Lemmon has been the gold standard, and I do know that there are at least 13 in Green Valley and the community is really embracing this. As a matter of fact, we just received a \$20,000.00 grant, as you know, from Freeport-McMoRan, dedicated to wildfire mitigation. So, the community is behind it, the community wants it and I know the community is very appreciative of all the work you are doing. Thank you, Madam Chair.

JA: Any other questions from the Board?

[no responses given]

- JA: No? Well, actually, I did have a question about some of the areas that are the wildland urban inter-mix areas in District 3, like Three Points, Arivaca, Picture Rocks and what work is happening there, as folks are right on the edge of wildfire?
- MV: So, Chair Allen, a lot of what is happening with that long-range plan with the CWPP is working with fire agencies and land managers to look at specific spots and find what are the best targeted tools to mitigate in those areas, which will be nice because that is the big macro plan and then from there, we can take an actionable year plan and work through those. So, we are in constant contact with the fire agencies to kind of pre-plan for the mitigation of invasives, as well as, work with the communities to get this educational messaging. That is our low hanging fruit. We want to make sure that we are getting the defensible space, all the Firewise messaging out to them. So, we are in constant contact with the fire agencies and land managers within that area, within those spaces.
- SC: Madam Chair? And one final question, in my notes. It appears the Rincon Valley has not received a lot of activity from our programs or have been involved in a lot of our programs, and I would just urge whatever activities that you have available, that they be reached out to and included. We got some feedback that the Rincon Valley folks are very interested in the Firewise Program and wildfire mitigation and, of course, the homeowners issue, so, if you could make an effort to reach out to the Rincon Valley folks, and we would be glad to help you with that, if you need any assistance.
- MV: Chair Allen, Supervisor Christy. Absolutely.

## REAL PROPERTY

### 35. Option Notice and Rent at 75 E. Broadway

Staff recommends approval of the Option Notice as well as the Rent in the amount of \$204,820.00 per year in accordance with the requirements of the Ground Lease Option Agreement with Rio Nuevo Multipurpose Facilities District.

#### Verbatim

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JA: Chair Allen  
RS: Supervisor Scott  
MH: Supervisor Heinz  
SC: Supervisor Christy  
AC: Supervisor Cano  
JL: Jan Leshar, County Administrator  
FM: Fletcher McCusker, Chair, Rio Nuevo Multipurpose Facilities District

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JA: We are now going to move on to Item No. 32. This is the Option Notice and Rent at 75 E. Broadway. I believe we have...

JL: Chair Allen?

JA: Yes.

JL: If I may, thank you. We, as I think you know, has been working for several years to look at a way to develop, in cooperation with the Rio Nuevo Multipurpose Facilities District, a project for Mixed Use, of our land located at 75 E. Broadway. What you have before you today is the next step of that conversation, an Option Notice and rent amount. We have with us today, the Chair of the Rio Nuevo Board, Fletcher McCusker, and staff is also available for comment. So, if I may, we can ask Mr. McCusker to speak to the issue.

JA: Please.

FM: Thank you, Jan, Madam Chair, members of the Board. I have three quick slides. One is our screenshot which, as soon as she shows you, we are very proud of. This is Rio Nuevo over the last 15 years. We have now developed a half a dozen hotels, but we are still ranked 11th according to the state in terms of hotel area near our convention center. We love this screenshot. A lot of people think it is Dallas or Austin, Denver, it is downtown Tucson. What you are voting on today, next slide, please, is this spectacular property across the street from Tucson Electric Power. As Jan mentioned, we have been working on this since 2021. The first effort was in cooperation with the County to develop a primary employment base, office complex and retail. That was dismantled during COVID. It is important that you remember why we partner with you and the city. Rio Nuevo is exempt from the gift clause. We

are the only jurisdiction in the state that can do something under market. We can donate land. We can invest in equity. We can rebate sales tax to private developers. That has been the case in every single hotel that we have enabled downtown. But for Rio Nuevo, those hotels would not have been built. As Jan mentioned, this is the middle of a three-step process for the Board. We have indicated to you that we have done all the homework with this developer and the land. We sent notice to the County to exercise our lease option. You are allowed to approve the operator. That is why we are here today, is to ask for your approval to develop this hotel on this site. Supervisor Cano and staff had negotiated some conditions to that. We have indicated in writing, as in your packet, we are fine with those conditions. We do not see any challenge in developing local retail. There is going to be some challenges, I think, with Council on how we describe local. But if you wanted to see the next two slides, you will see how we categorize the companies that we work with. Quite simply, if you reside in Pima County and you have a business that you are a principal in, we consider you local. You can see how we have done that throughout the last 18 months. If you just go down that list, these are probably people's names you recognize, local operators, local businesses. When it is not local, it is identified as either a franchise or an out-of-the-city operation. We are pleased with this track record. Over 90% of the work that we do is on behalf of local and small businesses. The exception to that has been hotels, with the exception of the HSL property, which is on its way to be a Hyatt. Every hotel that we have had help with has come from out of town, Dallas, Phoenix, California, and now Oregon. We can go to the last slide. This is the last six months, similar activity. We are investing almost exclusively in local retail, and we have agreed that we will continue to do that on behalf of this property. If we fail to do that, we have offered a penalty to the County that we would forgo our discount on the property value and pay full value for the property. So, we are ready to advance this. It would go to our board next week. It would come back to you when the Lease and Option Agreement are final.

JA: Thank you. Questions?

AC: Thank you, Chair Allen and Mr. McCusker. Really appreciate the conversations that you have had with staff and our Council to ensure that this exciting development is aligned with Tucson values and supporting small businesses and ensuring a living wage for the contract work. This will be a lot of construction. I understand it is a \$60 million project.

FM: Exactly.

AC: So, I want to express to my colleagues, with this parcel being in District 5, the County has a unique opportunity to hold hands with local business owners. I am supportive of today's contract and feel as though it is the first step of many discussions that we have to have, and I want to thank the Obie team as well, for giving me and our staff a briefing on this exciting proposal, and we look forward to their investment. But, Mr. McCusker, I do want to ask a question, because I looked at the economic study that was provided in the supporting material, and page 30 says, "The highest and best use of the subject property is for the development of a

mixed-use, high-rise development with ground-floor retail and upper-level multifamily residential uses and on-site parking.” You have told me that the economics are not working out right now, with developers wanting to build housing. And separate from this agreement, I just want to hear from you as the leader of the Rio Nuevo Board, and thank you for your years of exceptional service. What is the role of housing in downtown moving forward, and how can we as a County government hold hands with you? Because the direction we are going in today is obviously going to be a hotel and will not be housing. And I wanted to just have that conversation with you in public.

FM: Chair Allen, Supervisor Cano. Thank you for that. It is a struggle for us as well. In this situation and most of the situations where we are dealing with public land, it is a competitive Request for Proposal process. We have not seen a single affordable housing developer bid into those environments, because of the costs and the rents that are available to those projects. The original project was indeed a combined retail/office/housing complex. It failed. A large part of the reason it failed was financial markets collapsed. Every one of these projects is financed independently of Rio Nuevo, they bring a commercial lender. They are very leery to finance affordable or even live-work spaces because of the rents that are applied to service that debt. I believe that the only way we are going to build mixed-use affordable, and I do not encourage you to build standalone public housing but do it in a mixed-use environment, is to provide those developers incentives. We can do that with you, especially if some portion of that is retail. However, we do not own any land. So, somebody has to acquire the land, partner with us, or allow us, like we are doing here, to acquire that land, to issue some incentives to the developer. We provided the city with a list of 16 parcels that are inside our district that could be developed as affordable, but it would require someone to acquire the land to partner with us, to use our incentives to attract a developer. Most of the builders that I have met with that do affordable housing would probably work with us if we could substantially discount the property. In this particular situation, and in every hotel we have enabled, we have donated, donated the property to the developer. And I think if we were to do that with housing incentives or mixed-use incentives, part of the problem is the cost of high rise. You get above this hotel, you are into a whole new scale of expenses associated with building that, and they have been extremely hard to finance. The other, frankly, is we are in Tucson, Arizona. We are still in a blighted community. We have had a lot of local operators fail, very well-known operators, Cafe Poca Cosa, Jano’s, Delta, Maynards. So, when you have an environment that is not sustaining its own business, it is hard to find money to finance new business. We have yet to find, and maybe combined with the County, and combined with the city, I think the city has to engage with us. If we had a parcel of land that we could contribute to a developer, I believe we could find a mixed-use project.

AC: Chair Allen and Mr. McCusker, thank you for that explanation. I think it is really important that we hear that Rio Nuevo is committed to additional housing within its boundaries. Certainly, that is a District 5 priority. This Board allocated \$10 million this year in stopgap financing for affordable housing projects, and that will continue to stair climb over the ten-year plan. And so, I offer that as guidance to both our

administration and our private partners, that with this exciting addition of this particular Tucson Inn and Market, adding an additional hotel, the news from HSL that the Hyatt will be coming, I am feeling a little bit as though we are having some hotel density, and I want us to focus now on the housing side as we move forward. So, Chair Allen, I just want to thank you for the opportunity to ask those questions and continue to ask that Rio Nuevo and our council work on language for local operators. The exciting part about this, colleagues, is that it is both the hotel and an outside market and the visuals that I have seen are, this is going to be a huge investment in downtown, and I am really excited about it. My hesitancy is that I do not want to see big box stores in our downtown area and I sympathize with the need for you to have a tax base that contributes to the district but we have got to listen to our small business operators, and we will define that in the contractual negotiations moving forward.

FM: We are free to use our incentives as we see fit, and we do not intend to incentivize a big box store. So, we will continue to do what you seen that we are doing. One of the challenges we have, if you have read the recent Auditor General (AG) report, they were very critical of us in hotel development. We are 11th out of 11 cities, and we are state. I am appointed by the Governor, I report to the legislature. They want us to build another 900 hotel beds. There may be a way to do that in combination, but the state tax money that comes to us is attached to those economic development strings and we are held accountable to the AG. So, they are looking for us to increase the number of hotel beds.

JA: Thank you, Mr. McCusker. Further questions? Supervisor Scott.

RS: Just wanted to share with my colleagues what Mr. McCusker and Administrator Leshner know, which is that Mayor Romero and I are interested in having a conversation with the Rio Nuevo Board about following up on the audit results and addressing some of the concerns that the auditors mentioned. You had said in an Arizona Daily Star article, shortly after those audit results were released, that following up with the city and the County would be important in terms of meeting the expectations of the auditor. I wonder if you could address for the Board, what roles the city and County could play, and perhaps especially frame that around the potential creation of a convention district?

FM: Rio Nuevo is an assigned boundary. It is a dog bone from the base of A Mountain, along Broadway to Park Mall. We can only operate inside of that boundary. There is a conversation ongoing about expanding those boundaries, which will enable us to move north/south, along that line. We have been suggested not to approach the legislature this session. I think Supervisor Cano would understand why. So, we need political cooperation. We are a state agency. Our budget is appropriated through the legislature and signed off by the Governor. So, it takes a political act at the legislature to expand us. The AG audit is used by leadership, particularly President Peterson, to hold us accountable to our appropriated dollars. So, the good news is this is a go-forward request. The audit determined us to be in 100% compliance, currently, which is astonishing, given what we all know where Rio

Nuevo started. Going forward, in order for us to keep these state tax dollars flowing, we have to respond to the AG. Part of our response will indicate that we are desirable to build additional hotel beds in and around the convention center, and I will repeat what I just said to the Board. However, we do not own any land. We are going to need partners, private-sector partners, public-sector partners to identify and invest state dollars into those projects. The legislature would not allow us to invest exclusively into housing, we are a sales tax, Tax Increment Financing (TIF), we have got to produce sales tax. So, anything that we do, to Supervisor Cano's goal, has to include some portion of retail. But I think that is what we all want. But we are stymied given our economics without the help from the state, and probably without the help from the County and the City.

RS: So, just to follow up, Chair Allen. The recommendation is to look at Mixed Use opportunities, including within those 16 parcels that the Rio Nuevo District shared with the city, but specific to following up on the audit, even given that it is not advisable to follow up with the legislature at this point. In terms of following up on the audit recommendations, what can the city and the County do now that would be helpful towards following up on those audit results?

FM: Chair Allen, Supervisor Scott. Our primary component, our primary focus is on the Tucson Convention Center. Everything around that, that is within the boundary, is considered supportive of that. So, according to the AG, they want us to increase hotel density in and around the convention center, in order for us to be competitive as a convention desire, and I think Visit Tucson would agree with this, we need to increase the number of hotel beds that are walkable to a convention, and that is our primary goal. It does not necessarily align with what the County wants, nor what the city wants. So, for us to focus on the auditor general would be in generally the downtown core and providing additional hotel beds. I can be pretty flexible with our appropriation, and you have seen us invest in things that are important to all of us. So long as I meet my primary goal, and we have got three years now to demonstrate that we understand.

RS: Three years before the next audit?

FM: Yes.

RS: Okay. So I just wanted to reiterate that, and Chair Allen and I talked about this when we made the transition from my position as Chair to hers, that I would continue to be the Board's representative to any conversations between you and the city about following up on the audit results, and would like to reiterate a request made to the County Administrator and the City Manager in our last Mayor and Chair meeting, that we look for an opportunity for the three of us to have that conversation, so that we can help to address some of the concerns of the auditors. And again, very interested in what you have said today, and also what was referenced in that article in the Star about the potential of a convention district. Is that something that would need to be approved by the legislature?

FM: Chair Allen, Scott. No, that would be something we could do...

RS: Okay.

FM: ...legally here, it is already inside the Rio Nuevo District, so the chances of them creating an overlay inside of an overlay are not good. We currently sunset in 2035, however, there are long-term issues now that we have all elected to save this convention site rather than to build a new one. So, at some point, having a convention center district where the taxes created inside that district supported convention center development would be desirable. It is not likely to happen as long as Rio Nuevo is currently in the statute.

RS: Understood. Thank you, Mr. McCusker. Thank you, Chair Allen.

JA: Okay. If there are no further questions...

FM: Thank you.

JA: ...I will move the item.

MH: Second.

JA: Seconded by Supervisor Heinz. All those in favor? Aye.

RS: Aye.

MH: Aye.

SC: Aye.

AC: Aye.

JA: All those opposed? The item passes 5-0. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. McCusker.