

# COB - BOSAIR FORM

04/21/2026 11:24 AM (MST)

Submitted by Kris.Gade@pima.gov



## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AGENDA ITEM REPORT (BOSAIR)

\*All fields are required. Enter N/A if not applicable. For number fields, enter 0 if not applicable.\*

**Award Type:** Agenda Item

**BOSAIR Activity:** Board Meeting Request

**Requested Board Meeting Date:** 05/12/2026

**Project Title / Description:** Pima County Resolution to Approve an Exception to the Multi- Species Conservation Plan Restrictive Covenant to Improve Wildlife Habitat on Tumamoc Hill

### Agenda Item Report

**Introduction / Background:** Pima County (County) owns certain property (Property) that is a contiguous part of Tumamoc Hill, an internationally recognized ecological and cultural preserve. A power and transmission line owned by the United States Department of Energy Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) is currently located within an existing easement that runs through the heart of the Property.

**Discussion:** WAPA has agreed to remove infrastructure within the existing easement, abandon it, and relocate the transmission line to a different easement on the western edge of the Property (see attached map). To relocate the line to this easement, WAPA requires an additional 35' easement to be added to its edge to allow for vegetation and encroachment management. The property is potential mitigation land under the Multi-species Conservation Plan (MSCP) and is encumbered with the MSCP Master Restrictive Covenant, which prohibits the granting of easements for new utilities. However, the Covenant provides an exception for "Any use of the Restricted Property which the County Board of Supervisors in its reasonable discretion determines is necessary to retain, restore, or enhance the mitigation of incidental take covered by the Permit."

**Conclusion:** Granting the new easement will facilitate the necessary restoration and repair of the habitat fragmentation caused by the existing easement, improving wildlife habitat on the Property, and increasing the Property's contribution to landscape connectivity.

**Recommendation:** Approve the resolution and find that granting the new easement on the Property is necessary to retain, restore and enhance the mitigation of incidental take covered by the MSCP and is therefore allowed under Section 5.1 of the MSCP Master Restrictive Covenant.

**Fiscal Impact:** N/A

**Support of Prosperity Initiative:** N/A

Provide information that explains how this activity supports the selected Prosperity Initiative N/A

Board of Supervisor District: • 5

Department: Conservation Lands and Resources

Name: Kris Gade

Telephone: 520-724-9500

Department Director Signature: Kristof Gade Date: 4/21/2026

Deputy County Administrator Signature: [Signature] Date: 4/22/2020

County Administrator Signature: [Signature] Date: 4/22/2020

## RESOLUTION 2026-\_\_

### PIMA COUNTY RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AN EXCEPTION TO THE MULTI-SPECIES CONSERVATION PLAN RESTRICTIVE COVENANT TO IMPROVE WILDLIFE HABITAT ON TUMAMOC HILL

The Pima County Board of Supervisors finds:

1. Pima County (County) owns certain property (Property) located at the intersection of W. Starr Pass Blvd. and S. Greasewood Rd. The Property is a contiguous part of Tumamoc Hill and is known by the following Assessor's tax identification number: 116-26-754A.
2. Tumamoc Hill or *Cemamagi Du'ag* (O'odham), Horned Lizard Mountain, has prominent cultural and sacred significance to the Tohono O'odham Nation, including the San Xavier Wa:k District, and other Native nations, and is a US National Historical Landmark.
3. Tumamoc Hill also includes an internationally recognized ecological preserve and is home to the Desert Laboratory, which was founded in 1903 to study desert ecology and currently manages the longest running population vegetation plots, saguaro plots, and annual desert plant studies in the world.
4. A power and transmission line owned by the United States Department of Energy Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) is currently located within an existing easement that runs through the heart of the Property.
5. WAPA intends to upgrade the transmission line as part of its "Tucson-Del Bac" project and, at the request of tribes and other stakeholders including Pima County, WAPA has agreed to remove infrastructure within the existing easement that runs through the Property, abandon the existing easement so that the property interest reverts back to Pima County, and relocate the transmission line to a different easement on the western edge of the Property adjacent to S. Greasewood Rd.

6. To relocate the transmission line to the easement on the western edge of the Property adjacent to Greasewood Rd., WAPA requires an additional 35' easement to be added to the edge of the existing easement to allow for vegetation management and encroachment management in connection with the adjacent transmission line. No new infrastructure or associated ground disturbance will occur within the new 35' easement.
7. The Property is currently encumbered with the Multi-species Conservation Plan (MSCP) Master Restrictive Covenant, which is intended "to prohibit uses of the Restricted Properties that would impair or interfere with the mitigation efforts of the County" and to conserve those properties in perpetuity, as required under the MSCP and associated Section 10(a)(1 )(A) permit issued under the Endangered Species Act. Such restricted properties are potential MSCP mitigation lands.
8. The MSCP Master Restrictive Covenant prohibits the granting of access, rights of way or easements for new utilities.
9. Section 5.1 of the MSCP Master Restrictive Covenant provides an exception for "Any use of the Restricted Property which the County Board of Supervisors in its reasonable discretion determines is necessary to retain, restore, or enhance the mitigation of incidental take covered by the Permit."
10. MSCP Section 5.1.3 states that ecological restoration to improve site-specific conditions is necessary "to achieve MSCP goals and ensure the persistence of many covered species in Pima County."
11. MSCP Section 5.1.3.2 states that "some upland areas on potential mitigation lands are in poor ecological condition as a result of past land-use actions" and "mitigation credits may be sought for upland restoration efforts."
12. Granting the new easement so WAPA can relocate the transmission line, remove infrastructure, and abandon the existing easement that runs through the center of the Property will facilitate the necessary restoration and repair of the habitat fragmentation caused by the existing easement, improving wildlife habitat on the Property, and increasing the Property's contribution to landscape connectivity.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors finds that granting the new easement on the Property is necessary to retain, restore and enhance the mitigation of incidental take covered by the MSCP and is therefore allowed under Section 5.1 of the MSCP Master Restrictive Covenant.

Passed and adopted this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair, Pima County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

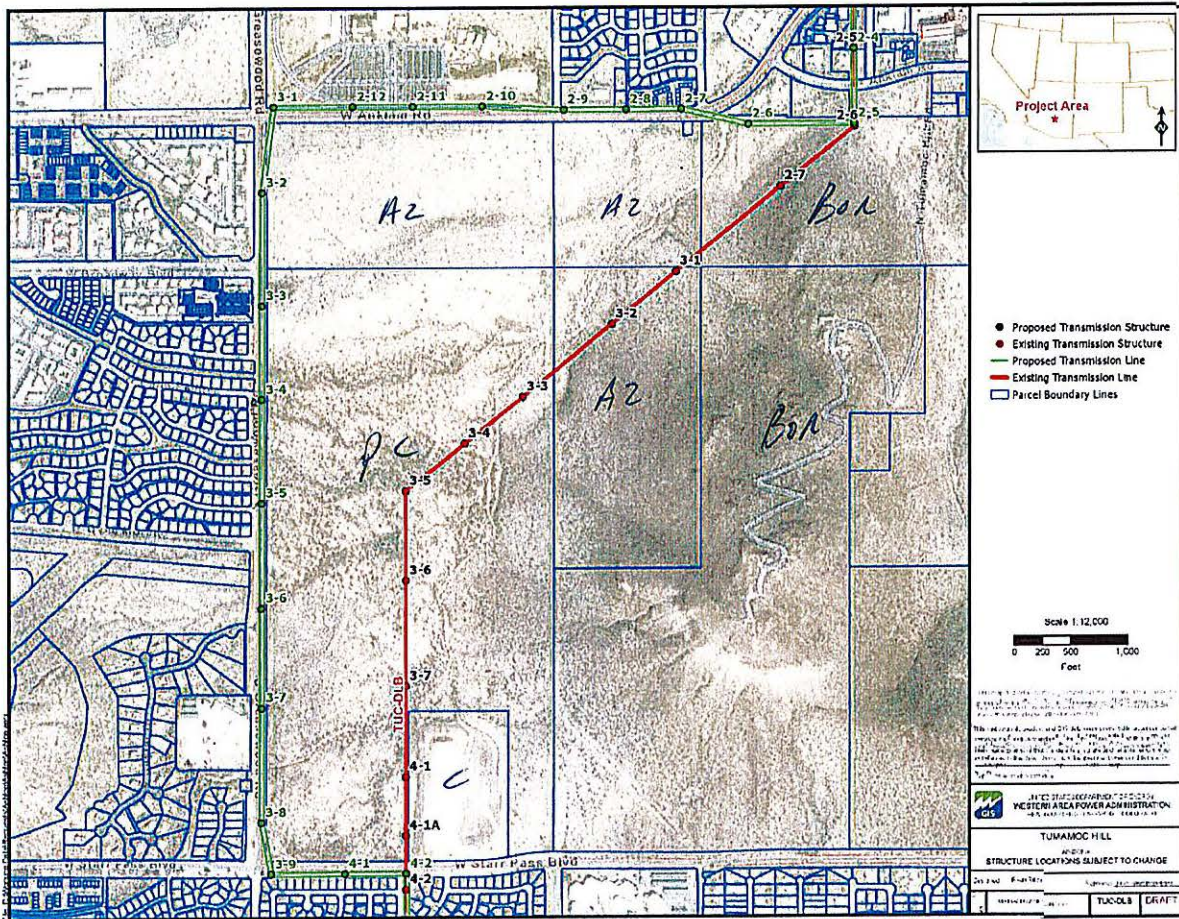
\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of the Board

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kyle Johnson, Deputy County Attorney

# TUMAMOC HILL REROUTE

## DESCRIPTION OF ADDITIONAL COSTS

The map below shows the original transmission line alignment over Tumamoc Hill in red and the rerouted alignment around Tumamoc Hill in green.



### Original Alignment:

- Approximately 1.6 miles long
- 9 in-line\* structures
- 1 turning\*\* structure

### Rerouted Alignment:

- Approximately 2.5 miles long
- 14 in-line\* structures
- 3 turning\*\* structures

Over the entirety of the project, the estimated cost per mile is approximately \$2.87 million.