



MEMORANDUM

Date: June 5, 2026

To: The Honorable Chair and Members
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: Jan Leshner *Jan*
County Administrator

Re: **Pima Climate Action Now! Climate Action Plan for County Operations Update**

Introduction

I recently provided the Pima County Board of Supervisors (BOS) with several memoranda that will be addressed in the June 9th Study session. The [Update on County Projects and Initiatives to Conserve Water Resources in Pima County](#) and the [Update on Pima County Heat Ordinance](#) are both detailed in the Climate Action Plan for County Operations (CAPCO) and the CAPCO Implementation Plan. The presentation prepared for the June 9th BOS Study Session will detail several components of those memoranda.

Pima County's Water Working Group

The comprehensive memorandum provided to the BOS on June 1st details the Core Areas of the Water Chapter (Water – Chapter 5) within CAPCO and oversight of the strategies and tactics by the Water Working Group (WWG)¹. The WWG oversees the projects and strategies within the following four core areas:

- W.1 Augmenting Water Supply with Enhanced Use of and Recharge of Stormwater
- W.2 Promoting the Sustainable Use of Effluent
- W.3 Managing the Demand for Water Both in County Operations and Community
- W.4 Promoting Water Sustainability, Innovation and Connection Between Water and Landscapes

The memorandum details several specific project elements and successes through the comprehensive WWG update. The BOS study session climate update will overview several of these achievements discussing projects such as the Julia Keen Stormwater Park, the Kino Sports Complex and Stadium District water optimization project, and the County operations water use.

The presentation will also highlight several of the planned projects that are active or in progress such as several green stormwater infrastructure projects and stormwater parks,

¹ Pima County Regional Flood Control District, Pima County Regional Wastewater and Reclamation, Pima County Department of Environmental Quality, Pima County Conservation Land Resources, Pima County Parks and Recreation, Pima County Facilities Management and Pima County Project Design and Construction

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sustainable water uses in landscapes, and community partnerships that promote sustainable water use – including, but not limited to:

- Effluent enhancements
- County turf / landscape updates at several County locations (Libraries and Parks, as examples),
- Stormwater park progress (Wa:K and Amphi),
- Updates on the impacts of Detention Basin developments (Rita Ranch Detention Basin),
- Community partnerships and evaluation of Stormwater Parks

Details of all these projects are within the WWG Update provided to the BOS.

Heat Ordinance Update

The County has implemented two substantial Heat Safety policies to protect County and contracted workforce. The history of these policies is outlined in the Heat Ordinance Update provided to the BOS on June 4, 2026. A report on the Heat Ordinance was also requested in the May 12th Study Session.

The County's Heat Safety Administrative Procedure (AP 3-35) and the County's Heat Safety Ordinance for Contractors (2024-010) demonstrate several dedicated activities to inform, develop and implement policies that protect heat vulnerable workforce. While the City of Phoenix and the City of Tucson also implemented similar ordinances, Pima County is the first County to develop and implement such a policy in Arizona. Pima County's Heat Ordinance has been in effect since September 2024, after the BOS approval of the policy in August 2024. Since the adoption of the Ordinance, the County has included the Heat Safety clause on 1,700 contracts and has received no third-party complaints as of this reporting.

Several first-year activities are detailed in the Heat Ordinance Update memoranda and will be highlighted in the BOS study session discussion. There are several opportunities to bolster data collection on workforce safety, enhance partnerships, and evaluate the two policies.

Stipulated in the BOS approved CAPCO (Extreme Heat – Chapter 2) is that the Climate Action Team will proceed with an evaluation of the Heat Safety Ordinance. Specifically, CAPCO states that Pima County Administration, Pima County Procurement and Pima County Health Department will develop an evaluation plan for the Ordinance and the AP.

The team will also create some baseline measurements and data measurement plan for available data that can enhance the safety policies. The CAPCO also states that the County will work with several partners including, but not limited to, Arizona Department of Occupational Health and Safety Administration, jurisdictions that have implemented Heat Safety policies (such as the City of Tucson) Labor Unions and Business community to inform the evaluative strategies. This is progressing and an update will be provided at the completion of CAPCO year 1.

Additional CAPCO Updates

Several additional updates will also be included in the presentation.

Carbon / Energy – Renewable Energy

I will provide a robust update from the Carbon and Energy Working Group in Fall / Winter 2026 that will detail not only this project, but broader energy / emissions assessment recommendations for the upcoming CAPCO years and recommended projects to meet the 60% emissions reduction goals. I will also update on development of the fiscal year (FY 2026 / 2027) renewable energy projects (planned solar installations).

Waste & Materials

The Waste & Materials Working Group is set up to inform on overall waste, recycling and procurement of sustainable goods. There are several activities to date such as reviewing contracts, policies and procedures on handling of waste, materials, and surplus across County operations.

In alignment with those strategies, the County deployed its first Surplus Event. Developed as a pilot, this event was incredibly successful – drawing over 200 staff from over 28 county departments to reuse and distribute over 2,000 pounds of office supplies, valued at an estimated \$25,000. This is an incredible achievement that diverted unnecessary waste and demonstrated a cost (and storage) saving impact.

Landscapes

The Landscapes Working Group updates are being prepared for the BOS August Update. The Working Group is working on several data informed strategies that will improve tree planting, conservation and ranching lands, food systems and data-informed connections to the WWG activities, and several other efforts, such as Heat Vulnerability and Wildfire Mitigation.

Attached please find the Climate Update prepared for the June 9th Study Session.

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Attachment

- c. Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator
Steve Holmes, Deputy County Administrator
Chad Kasmar, Deputy County Administrator
Sarah Davis, Senior Advisor, Pima County Administrator's Office
Pima County Climate Action Executive Team Directors



pimacan!
CLIMATE ACTION NOW

Climate Action Plan for County Operations (CAPCO) 2025-2030

Pima County Board of Supervisors Update June 9, 2026



Climate Action Plan for County Operations 2025-2030



CHAPTER 1

Carbon & Energy

CHAPTER 2

Waste & Materials

CHAPTER 3

Extreme Heat

CHAPTER 4

Wildfire & Invasive Species

CHAPTER 5

Water

CHAPTER 6

Landscapes

CHAPTER 7

Climate & Community



CAPCO June Update

Water Working Group Update

- Enhance Water Supply,
- Reduce Water Demand at County Operations, Enhance Sustainability – sustainable use of effluent, and
- Build innovative strategies to connect water and landscapes

Heat

Heat Safety and Workforce – Ordinance and Administrative Procedure

Waste and Materials
Surplus Event May 2026



Water Working Group

Enhance Water Supply

Regional Flood Control District

Stormwater Parks, Detention Basins, and Green Stormwater Infrastructure

Updates, Accomplishments & Active Projects

- Opening of **Julia Keen Stormwater Park** (completed)
- Wa:K Park (active)
- Amphi Stormwater Park (active)
- Rita Ranch Detention Basin

RFCD has **seven completed Stormwater Parks:**

Seneca, Richey, Cherry Avenue, Las Vistas, Elvira, Peter Howell & Julia Keen

UA Stormwater Parks Evaluation



Water Working Group

Reduce Water Demand at County Operations, Enhance Sustainability

County Operations Demand & Sustainable Use of Effluent

Update, Accomplishments & Active Projects

County Turf, Landscape and Water Use

- Martha Cooper, Richard Elias Mission and Himmel Park **Libraries** – artificial turf, xeriscaping / water containment and desert vegetation
- Effluent at **Arthur Pack Regional Park**
- Pima County Kino Sports Complex and Stadium District Water Optimization – **all fields on reclaimed water**



Pima County Kino Sports Complex & Stadium District Project Infrastructure to deliver reclaimed and collected stormwater – saving 30 acre-feet of potable water, annually – the equivalent of 90 households

County Water Use & Demand

- Opportunity to pursue water monitors-priority in remote areas
- Continue to assess and evaluate fixtures, equipment, and air handling in the downtown buildings
 - Overall County water use up 22%

Water Working Group

Build Innovative Strategies to Connect Water and Landscapes

Enhanced data use and geospatial strategies such as flooding conditions, heat vulnerability & heat islands, tree canopy, census tract & vulnerable neighborhoods, multiuse spaces

Reducing Demand:

- Economic Development Related Water Consumption – BOS Policy;
- Large Water User Opportunities – Industry;
- Groundwater Wells, Acquisition and Retirement of Groundwater Uses
- Additional Water Harvesting

Growing Supply:

- Mountain Front Runoff Recharge
- GSI Quantification Project

Sustainable Use of Effluent:

- Advanced Water Purification & El Corazon Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration,
- Marana High Plains and Green Valley Managed Recharge Projects

Looking Forward





Heat and Workforce

Evolution of Heat Policies 2024

Oversight of development, implementation and oversight of Heat Safety Policies

Pima County Administrator's Office
Pima County Procurement
Pima County Health Department

Heat Safety – Workforce and Pima County Policies *Timeline and Evolution of Heat Safety Policies*

BOS Direction to Explore and Draft Heat Safety Policies

Resolution 2024-17 Adopted Heat Awareness Week and **directs the County to develop and enact policy and / or procedural recommendations for worker safety**

Rulemaking – OSHA, partner jurisdictions; Administrative Procedure 3-35 County's Heat Safety Policy

Pima County's Heat Safety AP effective June 5, 2024

City of Tucson Mayor and Council approval of Heat Ordinance for City Contractors
OSHA Proposed National Rulemaking for Heat Safety

BOS direction to draft a Heat Safety Ordinance (Ordinance), adjusting Pima County's Procurement Code

Approval of Heat Safety Ordinance August 16th, Effective September 19th, 2024

Public comment and comment from the AG's office added to Ordinance language.

BOS approval of Ordinance August 16th, 2024 – effective September 19th, 2024

Feedback Gathering – Staff Survey, Focus Groups – Labor Unions, Business / Industry

Pima County, City of Tucson and partner organization **feedback gathering** – focus groups and survey input – labor unions and business / industry community, Pima County employee survey (1,500 respondents)

Led to **framework and priorities of essential elements of Pima County AP 3-35 Heat Safety for Pima County Workforce**

Draft Ordinance for BOS Consideration and Public Comment

Ordinance language provided to Pima County BOS and open for public comment.

Several comments, mostly in favor of heat safety rulemaking. Comment also provided by Arizona Attorney General (AG) Kris Mayes.



Heat and Workforce

Core Elements of Pima County's Heat Policies

- Recognizing Heat Related Illness / Emergencies and Protocol
- Acclimatization for Worksites
- Water, Shade, Breaks, Personal Protective Equipment
- Adjusted work schedules
- Buddy systems / post-worksites check-ins
- Clear communication / multilingual
- Clear and safe reporting of heat safety non-compliance

Implementation of Heat Policies and Opportunities

Key Milestones in Implementation

- Creation of accessible resources for Heat Safety Planning – Heat Safety Planning (guides and templates, publicly available)
- Annual Heat Summit 2025 – **Heat Safety for Workforce Breakout Session** – facilitated by Labor Union partners, City of Tucson and Pima County
- State Directives to **explore state-wide heat safety policies**
- Baseline / gaps in data for workforce safety
- BOS Approval of CAPCO, directing the evaluation of the Heat Safety Policies (H.2.2a & H.2.2b)

Opportunities:

- Heat Safety Training coupled with Heat Safety Plans
- Heat Safety Plans that are accessible across all levels of the workforce
- Data on heat safety, incidents and heat safety plans





Waste & Materials

Pima County Pop-Up Surplus Event



Organized by Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Facilities Management (FM), Project Design & Construction (PDC), and Pima County Green Stewards

Event Impact

- Over **200 employees** participating from 28 County Departments
- Over **2,000 pounds of office supplies** redistributed to County departments, **valued at an estimated \$25,000** and diverted from landfills



CAPCO Upcoming Reports



Bi-monthly Update Topics – August BOS Study Session

- Landscapes
 - Waste & Materials
 - Update on Carbon / Energy and Water Use Assessments
 - Tucson Electric Power Integrated Resource Plan Update
 - GIS Maps and PimaCan Website Enhancements
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Get Involved!



Pima County Employee Engagement in Climate! **Monthly Roundtables In Alignment with CAPCO Activities**

June: Invasive Species and Wildfire

(Aligns with CAPCO, Wildfire Mitigation Plan, CWPP, and Invasive Species AP)

July: Water Working Group



PIMA COUNTY

Questions and
Thank you!