

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' STUDY SESSION MEETING MINUTES

The Pima County Board of Supervisors met in a study session at their regular meeting place in the Pima County Administration Building (Hearing Room), 130 West Congress Street, Tucson, Arizona, at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 12, 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**

Chair Allen waived the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. **LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT**

Chair Allen waived the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

PRESENTATION

3. **Recognition**

Recognition of the retirement of Steven King, Permit Regulatory Compliance Officer, Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department, for 26 years of service.

Jackson Jenkins, Director, Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department, acknowledged Mr. King for over 26 years of service, and commended his leadership in wastewater regulation and in educating the community on the safety of biosolids for fertilizer.

No Board action was taken.

4. **Recognition**

Recognition of the retirement of Sheri Prochaska, Business Systems Analyst, Information Technology, for 21 years of service.

Steve Holmes, Deputy County Administrator, acknowledged that Sheri Prochaska had provided 21 years of service to the County. He expressed his gratitude for her

management of ITD's monthly office hours, which provided an opportunity for other directors to engage with the department and for her leadership with the County's telephone system upgrades.

No Board action was taken.

5. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

It was moved by Chair Allen, seconded by Supervisor Cano and unanimously carried by a 5-0 vote, to convene to Executive Session at 1:14 p.m.

6. **RECONVENE**

The meeting reconvened at 2:41 p.m. All members were present.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

7. **Executive Session**

Pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(3), for legal advice and discussion with Outside Counsel regarding the written report received from Sheriff Chris Nanos on April 21, 2026. (District 2)

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

8. **Executive Session**

Pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(3), for legal advice and discussion with Outside Counsel regarding the potential actions by the Board related to the conduct of the Pima County Sheriff at issue in the Board's request for a report pursuant to A.R.S. §11-253(A), and including matters concerning statements, representations, and information provided to the Board in the report submitted, and verification later submitted, by the Sheriff pursuant to A.R.S. §11-253(A). (District 2)

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

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

Chair Allen stated that the Arizona Border Counties Coalition met and discussed FDI updates, potential economic partnerships with several Mexican companies, and there was ongoing discussion to develop a positive narrative about the economic engine of Arizona's border region. She stated the Arizona Department of Transportation confirmed that there would be a road development project in Sasabe, Sonora, that would increase traffic to the Sasabe Port of Entry, and that Cochise County would develop the first Port of Authority Board for the Douglas/Agua Prieta Port of Entry.

Supervisor Scott asked the County Administrator if she could share the news about the Southern Arizona Education Council, that the Santa Cruz County Administrator had shared with her.

Jan Leshar, County Administrator, stated that when the Southern Arizona Education Commission (SAEC) had changed its name (formerly the Metropolitan Education Commission), they indicated to the Board that they would form a new organization with Santa Cruz County and Pima County. She learned from the Santa Cruz County Administrator that Santa Cruz declined to become a partner in the organization, so there were not two counties as part of the arrangement. She stated that she had directed staff to work with SAEC staff to get status updates on their current contracts and to encourage them to have better communication with the County moving forward.

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

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

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

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

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

FINANCE AND RISK MANAGEMENT

11. **Monthly Financial Update**

Discussion regarding a monthly financial update on the County's financial performance.

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

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

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

As there was no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:33 p.m.

CHAIR

ATTEST:

CLERK

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

10. Update on County Initiatives to Address Homelessness and Public Safety

Verbatim

JA: Chair Allen
RS: Supervisor Scott
SC: Supervisor Christy
AC: Supervisor Cano
JL: Jan Leshar, County Administrator
TC: Dr. Theresa Cullen, Director Public Health, Pima County Health Department
BC: Betsy Camara, Program Manager, Office of Heat Relief and Response, Pima County Health Department

JA: We are going to move to Item No. 8. This is an Update on County Initiatives to Address Homelessness and Public Safety and it looks like we have our esteemed colleagues from the Health Department here with us, Dr. Cullen?

TC: Yeah. Good afternoon, Chair Allen, members of the Board, Administrator. We are going to talk with you about heat. So, the name of the session is a little misleading. I am not going to spend that much time on those two topics explicitly and could we have the slides? Oh my goodness. No, they are there. Okay. Thank you. So we know a lot about heat. You guys have these slides in front of you. Our real focus today is really to talk with you about what the County has been doing from last year through this year and what our plans are for this year. So I am not going to go over these details, but you can see up there that in 2025, the earliest 100 degree weather day was April 11th and this month it was March 19th. So as we recognize, we did have some cooling after that, but we are now starting into the warm days of summer, as they are called. So we are going to talk about historic heat trends. Next slide. And then the next slide after that. So in 2025, the heat season reviewed from May 1st to September 30th and you now know that we have extended our heat season starting in April and going into October. But last year it was from May 1st to September 30th, and you can see here the Emergency Department and Urgent Care visits that were seen. We did see a 13% increase in our heat-related visits. Remember, those are visits that are categorized by the provider that sees the individual as related to heat. The demographic breakdown you can see here. And the housing status is 9.1% of unhoused, which are disproportionate to the population size. Next slide. So now we do have some slides to share with you that are related, that are what we were called EPI charts. So you can see in here emergency room and urgent care visits related to the temperature. The bottom yellow bar charts are the temperature, and you can see...or are they heat? Is that right? The heat-related visits. And you can see how they correlate with the temperature. Red is the maximum. Blue is the minimum temperature. So as the temperature goes up, our heat-related illnesses increase. That is when you see there be a heat warning. As you know or may be aware, Maricopa has had some

heat advisories already starting this season. Next slide is the Heat Mortality Glossary. This is important just to understand that prior to 2023, there is concern that heat-related deaths may not have been classified appropriately. So Dr. Hess has actually helped inform this for the country, heat-related death is any cause of death where heat was involved. Heat-caused is caused by the heat and this is important as we go forward because you will see that heat-caused deaths have decreased, but overall heat-related deaths have not because they are the summation of heat-caused and heat-contributed. So the next slide gives you a sense of that. More than half of heat-caused deaths occurred outdoors. So despite the belief that they are all outdoors, a significant number do occur indoors. You can see the data related to male non-Hispanic high risk age groups. We became aware last year of this increase in heat-related deaths in our older population. Not surprising, but in further review, there is really a belief that a lot of this is that individuals do not have appropriate, live by themselves, and appropriate people are not checking on them. So you will see that in some of our planning as we go forward for how we want to mitigate them. The Heat Season Trends on the next slide. This is a three-year process, '23 to '25. Remember in '23 the death changed. What I would call your attention to is on the left bar chart, the blue at the bottom are the heat-caused death, so what you can see is that those are decreasing, however, overall the deaths have decreased but not necessarily a significant decrease. Deaths related to chronic disease have increased. Deaths related to hypertension 150%. This categorization is done by the Office of the Medical Examiner, not by us and it is reflected in the death certificate. So we work closely with Dr. Hess to evaluate the impact of that. Some of the heat contributed deaths related to chronic disease are due to medication and heat interaction. And you will see later that we have been working really closely to make sure that individuals that are on certain medications that may put them at risk for hyperthermia are aware of it. The one thing that I think is significant is the annual unhoused heat-related deaths, which is on the bottom right, have decreased. This, I believe, is somewhat related to the work that we are doing in the community, the access to services for this population, as well as the ongoing outreach that is done both by the multiple jurisdictions as well as the County. Next slide. The Heat Season Notable Patterns. Remember this was for '25, is that substance use and chronic disease contributed to heat-related deaths. 20% of indoor deaths occurred in mobile or manufactured homes. We have actually, big shoutout to the County Assessor, who has been helping us look at mobile homes that are registered within the County. We have done some preliminary evaluation of that for this year in '25. I do not think we had the insight to recognize that the mobile or manufactured homes were so potentially putting people at risk, and 90% of indoor deaths involve nonfunctioning or turned off air conditioning. You have to take this with a grain of salt. The reality is, what that means is that someone reported that the air conditioner was either turned off or unplugged. It is hard to know what happened exactly at the time of death, because these are usually bodies that are discovered not within an hour, but within a 24-hour period. So let's now go to our action plan. And just a reminder, the heat season report, which you guys received last week, I think perhaps a week before that has all the detail in it, many more charts. And now we are going to talk about the heat season plan because I think what is really most important is what are we doing this

year. So based on what our findings were over the last three years and let me just step back a second. The Health Department was assigned a responsibility for heat starting in '21, we did very little there. Starting in '22, we really started doing more. So '22, '23, '24, '25, '26. We are really in our fifth year of being active as the facilitator and the collaborative partner for the heat response throughout the region. And you see that in the first goal. The first goal is really for us to lead and coordinate a unified, coordinated heat response system. This concept is really related to a unified command structure, which really flows from emergency management, similar to what we have done when we have had other situations where we needed to ensure that there was coordination. Multiple partners come to the table, they work closely with us, and we work to ensure that they know each other, understand what the data is, and can work towards the goal that we share together, which is to protect public health and really protect the residents. Part of our heat response goals flows from that, which is strengthening community awareness, understanding. We work closely with Communications. We have a budget that we have pulled together explicitly to look at heat. You guys have all seen Beat the Heat. You have probably seen bus wraps. You have probably seen other information that has been out there. Obviously, our real goal is to reduce illness and emergency system strain. We do that by ensuring that in the field, there are ways for people to get resources to prevent them from having to go to the emergency room. Our libraries once again serve as a really critical place for the community, and they are scattered throughout the County, as you know, and then advanced long term climate adoption. That is obviously consistent with the work that Sarah Davis and other people have done on Climate Action Now and in the Climate Action Plan. Heat priorities and activities are here. I am not going to read all of them. There is a few things that I think are important. One is we are using our community health workers as resource navigation in the field. They are in the field working in different places, providing outreach and service availability, as well as referral patterns at both the heat respite centers, as well as other areas where they are. You will see them at most events that occur. Our vulnerability map I will show you after this, we are working on ensuring that we have transportation to and from cooling centers. That is a new initiative that we started last year. It is funded with a small amount of money, but we are hoping that that in and of itself, as well as the continuation of the free busses for this summer, at least, ensure that people are able to get to and from cooling centers. Now, the caveat to that is the rural areas, because there is really not transportation available in the rural areas. What you do not see here is ongoing work with both tribes, the Tohono O'odham and the Pascua Yaqui tribes. And so that is a place where there is literally a desert in terms of ensuring that there can be transportation for people that live in some of the rural areas. We will talk a little bit about that in that we have a COOLtainer. So the next slide, we have 45 cooling centers registered. We expect to have that number increase 90% opened May 4th. The caveat to that remember, is if you go back to that earlier slide, we hit 100 in March. I think we started anticipating we were going to hit 100 about a week before that. We did not have any cooling centers open specifically at that time, but our Emergency Management Team worked and got a few open that would take people over that weekend. But that gives us a sense of that, we need to be more agile as this comes up, because I believe we are going to

see consistently increased temperatures happening in those earlier months. And yet it may not require us to be open from March 13th to May 4th. So we do have the rest of our centers opening up the first week in June. You can see the library serves a lot of these cooling spaces. We do have a new COOLtainer. We were, we have been bugging ADHS. You will recall the COOLtainer we got in Ajo, was a gift from ADHS. They drove it down here and Jan, you were at the ribbon cutting when we did that. We do have another new COOLtainer because we have been somewhat persistent in our asks that we should get another one. So just so you know, the City of Tucson has two, Tohono O'odham has two. We had one. Now we have a new COOLtainer coming in. It is going into the Los Ninos Park, which is a highly at-risk community based on the data that we were able to look at and there is not a respite center near there. These both COOLtainers will be staffed with our community health workers as we go forward. And once again, we are working to expand the accessibility. You know, there is some work that has been done in other communities, particularly Boston, where what they have done with their respite centers is use that as an entree into care. So they do blood pressure screening. They have clinicians on site. We do not have that right now. There is lots of great ideas that we might be able to incorporate as we go forward. The next slide is Extreme Heat Vulnerability Mapping. And you will see that we call this is for the County. Once again, we do not share data on tribal lands. So that is why you see that being blue. But we do call out here. You can look at the EMS calls, the mobile homes and parks and the heat vulnerability map. So this map is really for us. It is available on the website, but its linkage is really to help guide us in terms of where we should be doing services at this current time. And the next slide is the EPI surveillance update. This is the HRI related visits at the current time and you can see the bottom MMWR weeks. These are not the weeks that you know, but they are weeks that are determined by CDC. It is a Sunday to Saturday week. And you can see the spikes that we had earlier in the year and then the black is what we saw in '25. So obviously when the heat goes up, more people go to the hospital. Understandable. They are seeking refuge. Sometimes people just go to the hospital so that they can sit in the hospital in a cool place. And with that, I am going to stop and we can take questions. I do want to introduce the team that is here, if that is okay with you. I should have done that initially. I did not do this yesterday either with Chair Allen. Do you guys want to introduce yourselves really quick? Betsy?

BC: Hi everyone. I am Betsy Camara. I am one of the program managers with the Office of Heat Relief and Response.

TC: And we have three other people.

BC: Yes. So, we have Cheyenne McChesney who is one of our epidemiologists with the Health Department, and then we have Amanda Anderson, who is the Division Manager for the Emergency Mitigation and Preparedness Division, who is kind of the overarching for the Office of Heat. And then we have Nate Young, who is the other Program Manager with the Office of Heat Relief and Response. Thank you.

JA: Supervisor Scott.

RS: Thank you, Chair Allen. Dr. Cullen, thank you for that presentation. Thank you also for appearing on our podcast to talk about our responses to heat.

TC: Supervisor Scott. Did that go out yet?

RS: It did.

TC: Oh, I missed it.

RS: That is okay.

TC: I will have to check it.

RS: I will send it to you. But I wanted to ask, you have done a terrific job of outlining who our key players are within the County and you also made reference to COOLtainers that the City of Tucson and Tohono O'odham Nation have. Who are our outside the County partners, and how are we working with them to coordinate our efforts?

BC: So we work with partners all over the County. So we have about 45 partners that we are actively engaged with, some of them being the University of Arizona. A lot of researchers through there doing heat work and we work with the City of Tucson. We work with a lot of nonprofit partners. A lot of those do run our cooling centers. And then various partners, like we work with a lot of the emergency managers within the County, but also external to the County to understand what they are doing. So we work very closely with the Maricopa County Department of Public Health with their work that they are doing with heat. We are all kind of collaborating, learning from each other, how we are responding to heat.

TC: Do you want to talk a little bit about DRC and Red Cross?

BC: So we do a lot of outreach with the Red Cross, specifically our mobile home outreach and a lot with unhoused encampment outreach we have done last year. And so we worked with them. The map, specifically the vulnerability map to identify areas that we see increased rates historically over time, and especially our mobile home populations and we were doing door to door canvassing. So they helped mobilize volunteers. They did a lot of outreach with us, and then we were able to supply them with the kits to actually communicate and educate about the different vulnerabilities we are seeing in the community. So Red Cross is a huge partner, and then City of Tucson does a lot with unhoused outreach as well.

TC: And Betsy, do you want to just talk briefly about how we are trying to extend the hours?

BC: Yes, yes. So one of the initiatives we actually just released, the request for quote, last week is to extend hours. So a big request that we have seen is that cooling centers are not open late enough in the evenings. It is still hot by 5, 6, 7 p.m. When

most places have closed their doors. And so we have gotten some funding to extend the hours. So we are offering up certain funding to certain partners who apply into this program so they can extend their hours so we can keep them open on the weekends, which many centers are not open as well because they are they are running on normal business hours. So we are asking them if they can open up with this additional funding to open that. Yeah.

JA: First of all, thank you for the thorough report, as well as the plan for 06. I am a huge fan of the heat vulnerability mapping. In fact, I think my staff just sent it to me to like take a look at what it looks like today. The thing is, you know, District 3. I am curious about how doing a heat plan in an urban area is different than in rural areas with the access to resources and services and partners. It is just very different. So I wonder if you could talk a little bit more about some of the partnerships in places like Ajo, and Arivaca, Three Points and kind of who, you know, a little bit more of just how you are thinking about it. I do not need you to get like granular but just how you are thinking about those differently. And as you acknowledge transportation in the rural areas, getting to cooling centers is an issue in and of itself. So maybe just a little more on that.

BC: Yeah, you are absolutely right. There is a difference in the approach that we are doing in these rural areas and how we are working with them. And so we are really relying on the partners. We rely on them a lot within the City as well. But it is really kind of focusing on who is doing the work and how can we support them doing that work. So can we open up? So in Ajo, specifically in Green Valley and Arivaca, we have the library systems that are open during the week. So they are opening up and we are giving them the supplies so they can do it. They might not be able to buy their own water and heat relief resources. So we are getting those out to them so they can distribute to people. And Ajo, specifically, we have the COOLtainer that is open on the weekends, so we can fill that gap as well over the weekends. And we know that they are hotter than the rest of the County. So this also fills that gap to make sure those residents are safe. And then in Green Valley, Sahuarita, Amado, we have a CHW out there that is doing active work. And so they are able to communicate resources available and to get them to the cooling centers that are available. We do see decreased visitor numbers just because there is a smaller population. So we keep that into account. But we are trying to make sure that we have at least one cooling center available to people within those areas. It may or may not be walkable, which again, comes into the transportation issue, but we do have at least something accessible to people so they can access a cooling space.

TC: And I think as we looked at getting one COOLtainer, we actually applied for more, but we only got one from the state this year. I think depending upon what happens this year, at least in Ajo, that in my opinion, was successful. So what does success look for a COOLtainer in a rural area if for six people come? I think that that is a success story versus if we are at Valencia, we might expect that there be 100 people a day. We do know that there are other areas in the County that do not have adequate cooling options available to them, and we will be looking for them over the next few years of how to mitigate that. A cooling center is actually, as you guys

remember, it is what they use to build the border. What are they called the container? It is a container and which is retrofitted. And it is actually a fairly nice. They are run on solar. And they have a backup generator. So they are really effective. I want to give a call out to Parks and Rec because they have been really helpful with us. And as you know Chair Allen, we are moving the one in Ajo, so that it can be more central so that people can walk to it. We put it at parks, we put it at the swimming pool last year, which worked but was not great. So we are hopeful that we will get additional help there. The one other thing I do want to call out is the, the health centers, the health systems, TMC, Banner, El Rio, Marana Unified Community Health Center have always been really great partners for us as we go look at this. And Desert Senita in Ajo, we are out there actually next week with a mobile van. They have set up a meet and greet with Desert Senita to make sure that we are not replacing services that another owner or another NGO or another CBO is doing. And that is true in town. Our goal is to really be the convener. But a lot of the work is really these public health heroes that are out in the community that we were doing this before we started coordinating. And what you see, I think, is the ability for everyone to leverage each other's resources, because now there is a coordinated, unified structure that ensures that people can know what others are doing. Every week, these guys run a committee, a meeting, a virtual meeting where people report, they report what their needs are, they report what they are seeing, they report their numbers. So there is a way that we can then track the number of visitors that we are seeing at the heat, the different respite centers.

JA: And if I may, I am also curious if the, so a number of the objectives and activities in the plan were about kind of partnerships with some of the medical centers and whether it was kind of medication education about which drugs get exacerbated by high heat and other kind of learning. So I guess I am just specifically interested in knowing whether you are already in relationships with like Desert Senita about some of that education with community members, but Desert Senita and then is it UCHC in Amado, Arivaca, Three Points and the other places that there is rural community clinics?

TC: Yeah, we are. And I will take the medications and heat specific areas. So we have developed with the university and with the state resource guides specifically about medications and heat. I will say the idea came from Pima County and everybody else grabbed on to it, which I think was successful. So we have information that we have pushed out to through the community health centers, through Banner, through TMC, through what we call our provider hub directly to providers. But in addition, we have specific relationships with the federally qualified health centers. However, even if you add up all the FQHCs and I do not want to minimize, that is about 10% of the population at one point may have a touch point with an FQHC. So we have 90% of the population that is not being seen there, many of which may or may not be getting care at all other than the ER or the urgent care centers. So that is where we have a big push to make sure that there is appropriate education happening. Our real goal, however, is to protect people from going to the ED to keep them out of the emergency room by making sure they can be in the respite center. Last year, we worked closely with MRCSA, the Medical Reserve Corps of Southern Arizona, and

they help staff many of our sites in the libraries. It turned out that that was not that effective. The vast majority of individuals that were visiting the libraries for respite were did not have a need that could be met by the MRCSA but that is another tool that is available to us. You know, we have the very first MRCSA in the country, there is about 500 clinically licensed individuals, some physicians, some nurses, some pharmacists, blah, blah, blah that work there. So.

JA: Two last things. We might be finding that this new venue just makes me a chatty Cathy. So we will just say that in working with the manufactured home, mobile home parks in District 3, just let us know and we would love to help out with the door knocking and the outreach. And then my last question is about the county's heat ordinance and I would actually love a report on how the implementation of that is going. It is my understanding that community organizations, groups like Jobs with Justice and other labor unions around the State are advocating for and have been advocating for statewide regulations that sort of creates stronger enforcement. And I just want to ensure that what we have done is, I would love to know how it is being implemented. And if there are things that we can do that can help strengthen it at the County level, then love to just know more about that. Supervisor Christy.

SC: I heard a number of areas that these heat centers are located. I did not hear anything out in Redington in that area. Anything? They are very remote. They have travel difficulties. You can cross four County lines within two miles. They have a very slow response due to distance with Sheriff and UPS deliveries and medication deliveries, and a lot of emergency issues, particularly when it is health related. Do you have any plans or any opportunities for the folks out there?

TC: Supervisor Scott, we have been working with, I am going to forget the individual that you or your group, your office, put us in touch with. We do not at this point have any plan specifically for heat, but we will go back and look at that and see what option is available for that. Okay. And then Chair Allen, let me respond to that. I was privileged enough to be a member of the Arizona Committee that developed recommendations for the governor and ADOSH, the Arizona Department of Occupational Safety and Health, to review. I was the public health representative for the State on that group. There were very specific recommendations that were developed. I will tell you, many of them were informed by what we did at Pima County. So I look kind of like I knew what I was doing because I had done so much work here. And then those recommendations did go to the governing body of ADOSH. They were recommended at that point to not be a regulation, but to be a recommendation. Obviously, there are many people that were on that committee, including labor, different businesses, small businesses, large businesses, other health care related people that felt that they should be enforceable. But at this point, I actually do not think the governor has made a decision. Ultimately will be her decision what to do with them. But those recommendations really mirror what we have in our ordinance that the Board of Supervisors passed because of that work, however, I think that there was a delay to see what would happen in terms of enforcement, whether the state would be able to take on that role. Remember, the way it is written is that individuals can report to us. And as of yesterday, there had

been no complaints that we were able to determine. That came specifically to, there is a line you can call, or through just input to the County or to the Health Department. So I think there is additional work to be done based on what we have seen at the statewide level. As you know, the City of Phoenix, the City of Tucson and Pima County are the jurisdictions and the County that have done ordinances specifically around heat. So and I do not know if I want to defer to the Administrator.

JL: Chair Allen, we will get you an update and report that explains all of the efforts that has been occurring. Thank you.

JA: Supervisor Cano.

AC: Thank you, Chair Allen and Director Cullen. I want to also send District 5's appreciation for all your work on heat safety. Under the Ducey administration I actually was the first state legislator to introduce heat safety standards and was proud when Governor Hobbs continued that protection from an executive position. I do want us to ensure that we are having compliance with the county's contractors. I have an outstanding request of Administration and Mr. DeBonis, about the number of jobs created by our contractors, and I know that that number is being worked on to figure out how we can ensure that we are tracking those numbers. But in that same realm, with this report that the Chair is requesting, ensuring that there are safety tenants into our contract language as well, might be really important to make sure that that entire world, which is certainly one of its own with the amount of contractors we have, are paying attention to heat safety. Thank you.

JA: Supervisor Scott.

RS: Thank you, Chair Allen. Dr. Cullen, if I missed this in in the presentation from either you or your team members, I apologize, but I know that a lot of our K-12 districts reach out to their families during the summer to address other needs that their families might be having. I am wondering if some outreach to the K-12 districts in terms of enlisting them as partners in our heat awareness and heat prevention efforts would be advisable.

TC: Supervisor Scott, thanks for that. As you know, we do run a school team, and we have ongoing monthly meetings with the different districts and the parochial public and charter schools. We have not done that, and it is a great idea so, we will take that back.

RS: Thank you very much.

BC: We actually, just to add on to that, we did have a communication today with some of the school staff to an education about heat safety so that they can pass it along, just because we know that the heat season is starting earlier. So it might not have been something they have dealt with in the past, but since at the end of their school year, they are having to kind of make these changes and make sure that school staff and like the athletics departments and band teachers and all these people doing outdoor

activities, are aware that this is a huge risk to kids and they need to do something to protect the kids. And so to give them kind of the opportunity to learn about heat safety and heat awareness and building in heat action planning to their programming. So we are working on that with them and giving them tools and resources to do that. But yes, I think reaching out to families and using that as an opportunity to connect to resources is a great idea.

RS: Fantastic. Thank you.

TC: And during the heat wave in March, we do work with Arizona Interscholastic Athletics, and we did push out guidance for how to do practice in a safe way. We do push that out through our school teams there. A few years ago, we did do more outreach to families and there is probably a way for us, I think, to piggyback even on the lunch programs that are happening in the summer. Right. So I think there is more opportunities and we all come back to you with those.

RS: I appreciate that and then referencing a comment that you very generously made when you appeared on our podcast, could you share with our colleagues the role that former County Administrator Huckelberry played in terms of expressing his belief that the County should play a leadership role in this area?

TC: Supervisor Scott, thanks for that memory jogger and I do not remember what I said. I apologize.

RS: No, I asked you how we came to be this convener when it comes to dealing with heat awareness and heat emergency, and you made reference to Mr. Huckelberry saying, well, we should be doing that.

TC: Yes and I do recall that. And that was at a time, if some of you recall, when Shane Clark was here at OEM. And OEM and PCHD, Office of Emergency Management and the Health Department, we are like, that is literally the metaphorically a hot potato and none of us really wanted to take it. And by default, I said, okay, we will lead. So yeah, that is how that came about.

RS: Thank you. Thank you, Chair Allen.

JA: Any further questions or comments? Seeing none. Well thank you. Thank you both. Thank you all for the work and for being here.

TC: Thank you for the opportunity to present.

FINANCE AND RISK MANAGEMENT

11. Monthly Financial Update

Discussion regarding a monthly financial update on the County's financial performance.

Verbatim

JA: Chair Allen
MH: Supervisor Heinz
AC: Supervisor Cano
JL: Jan Leshar, County Administrator
ART: Art Cuaron, Director, Finance and Risk Management

JA: We will go next to Finance Director Cuaron and this will be for Agenda Item No. 9. This is our Monthly Financial Update.

ART: Administrator Leshar, Chair Allen, nice to see you. We have our financial update. It is a little dry, not to steal from Dr. Cullen's presentation there. Are the slides pulled up? So, much like my presentations the last few months the County is in a good financial position, much like we have been fortunate enough to be in the last few months. Our General Fund revenues remain, they continue to exceed the budget by \$15.6 million. There is no change from last month's forecast so this remained flat. Our expenditures continue to trend lower than budget by \$10.7 million. This is an increase of just over \$3 million from last month, so the departments continue to do a good job of monitoring their budgets month over month. That has led to fund balance increase of \$42.5 million. I am going to break this down a little bit for you because \$37.3 of that \$42 was included in the County Administrator's recommended budget, which came out on April 17th. The other \$2.1 million is an increase of our General Fund reserve requirement over the current year's requirement of \$92 million. That is a \$2.1 million increase to \$94.1, which leaves us this fiscal year with \$3.1 million in available fund balance. Next slide please. This slide here and I did not print the materials. I do apologize for that. I will be better about that next month. This slide is just a visual representation of what I just explained here. The top bar is the Fund Balance. The middle bar is our Revenues. Our Transfers In is the third small bar. We have our General Fund expenditures there at \$10.7, and then our Fund Balance again at \$42.5. Next slide. These charts really just track the progress of our revenues and our expenditures against our trend from last year. As you can see, we are right on trend and right on the pattern that we have seen in FY25. Next slide. So this is the General Fund Reserve Reconciliation. So you have that \$134.5 million overall reserve. You reduce the FY26/27 estimate, which is \$94. Again, that \$94.1 that I mentioned at the top less the \$37.3 there that is included in the County Administrator's recommended budget leaves you an unrestricted fund balance of \$3.1 million. Next slide. This slide outlines our General Fund Contingency. The one addition there was the St. Luke's funding that the Board

authorized on March 24th. Currently, we have a balance of a little over \$383,000.00 in General Fund contingency for the balance of the fiscal year. Next slide. Key dates, the budget again was delivered on April 17th, the recommended budget. Our next meeting on May 26th will have the County Administrator's recommended budget presentation, along with the tentative budget adoption, which again sets the ceiling for the budget. We will come back before you on June 23rd for final budget adoption, and then August the 11th will be the adoption of the tax levy. Next slide. That concludes my prepared remarks. Be happy to answer any questions the Board may have.

JA: I wonder if you could explain, one of the slides shows the Transfers Out, I wonder if you could explain a little bit of that item.

ART: Chair Allen, you want to wait for the slide to be pulled back up?

JA: It is like the 3rd slide.

ART: While it is pulling up, Transfers Out are transfers out of the General Fund to other funds within the County. So specifically, what is driving these million dollars are two projects, Transfers Out from the General Fund to CIP projects. One is in juvenile court for surveillance equipment, and the other is the Clerk of the Superior Court. I believe they are doing some renovations to one of their floors, so that is what this category encompasses. That is obviously not all that is in there. We have transfers out to debt service. So when we pay our debt service, we transfer out to the Debt Service Fund. And so it is those types of expenditures that come out into those other special revenue funds and capital improvement funds.

JA: Supervisor Cano.

AC: Thank you, Chair Allen. Director, this is not really the focus of your report, but I have a general inquiry. You mentioned expenditures and revenues coming in from the Treasurer's Office and the Assessor's Office. I am sure you are aware that there continues to be some discussion about whose numbers are right. Is your department offering any kind of technical assistance or any kind of training to ensure that the Board is receiving accurate numbers from both departments, specifically the Treasurer and the Assessor?

ART: Chair Allen, Supervisor Cano, early on in that process, we did meet with the Treasurer's Office to really understand what the NOPC process was. But to date, you know, we have not yet provided specific training to each one of those departments. We are always available if they have questions or need guidance with respect to how they are processing those or handling those, but we do very much remain in the correspondence loop and the communication loop and are available as necessary to address questions that come up. I do not know if Administrator Leshar has any additional commentary.

JL: I may just add, Chair Allen and Supervisor Cano, there is a couple of issues, very specific issues that are being worked on in the Treasurer's Office right now that we do have staff from County departments working on. One is the IT needs so that we are understanding that we are sure that the request being made. We clarified what those costs are and are working closely with them. The other relates to the selection of a new bank and the company with which we do banking, Directors Cuaron, Collins, Baca, we have got a variety of people working with them as well, so that we ensure that when there is interaction with all the other County departments, that we are fully informed on that. I will say that we do have some questions and concerns right now to make sure we are understanding the authority of the Board and County Administration related to functions in the Treasurer's Office and the Assessor's Office, and are working with the County Attorney's Office on that, but we will be reporting back. Thank you.

AC: Thank you, Administrator Leshner. My comments really to both the Treasurer and the Assessor is to use our finance experts as your allies throughout this process. When the Board, who ultimately has the fiscal jurisdiction of the entire County as a jurisdiction. I just, when I see a roller coaster effect happening on revenue coming in or revenue coming out related to overpayments or under assessing a parcel, I do not know who to point fingers to other than to say, we have got to work on this collaboratively and with one another. And in these financial reports, we ultimately, as a Board, see the end result of all of those discussions. Right. And so I just want to make sure that we are there. Related to something in the budget, an inquiry, Administrator Leshner and Director Cuaron, that I would like to see, you know, about a quarter of all of our primary property tax goes to state cost shifts and one of the largest items in that particular spreadsheet that was sent in the recommended budget is the ALTC program. Is it Arizona Long Term Care? I want to see the formula that we are required to comply with and really just see kind of from a statewide perspective, how other counties are paying into that and what the state's portion is. It is our fastest growing cost shift. And obviously, with an elderly population, I am sympathetic to the issue, but I think folks going into budget adoption need to recognize that out the door, a quarter of our assessment is from cost shifts. That is Phoenix telling Pima County what core services should be funded by County taxpayers, not the other way around.

MH: How do we know that we have the money? Like, do you look at the bank statements? Excuse me, Chair Allen, I think I have asked this before, but I am just picturing that disaster from Santa Cruz County. But are you seeing like account balances or are you just getting a report from the Treasurer, which is, I am casting no shade at anyone, I just do not want to misplace \$39 million, you know?

ART: Chair Allen, Supervisor Heinz, that is an interesting question. We do work closely with them, and we have cash flow forecasts for each one of our funds. So we are able to monitor those. My office does do the bank reconciliations for each one of our accounts. So we are seeing the bank reconciliations and making sure that the dollars that are coming in are accounted for, as well as the dollars that are going

out. So we do that, and we do work in concert with the Treasurer's Office. So the short answer is yeah.

MH: Okay.

JL: And if I may...

MH: Thank you.

JL: ...Again Chair Allen, Supervisor Heinz, you do receive a monthly report from the Treasurer. Thank you.

JA: I have, if I may, just a broad question. I saw some comments recently from the executive office federally about potentially one way to deal with the high gas costs of reducing the federal gas tax. And I know that there is, you know, nothing on the table explicit that I have seen about that, but just generally in broad strokes, how could that potentially affect the County and is that something that we need to monitor? And maybe I just need a little refresher around state gas tax versus federal gas tax, and which come to us, both come to us through HURF funds.

ART: Chair Allen that is a good question. I have seen recent articles that would indicate that the federal government is considering that. If they did do that at a high level, we you know, the State of Arizona would be impacted and depending on the severity of the reduction, we could potentially see reductions in our HURF revenues as well. What that would be, you know, I cannot tell you right now. We can certainly bring back some analysis if the Board would be interested in that. I think the reduction was, I do not even want to hypothesize, but we could bring that information back.

JL: And Chair Allen, I think Supervisor Christy and Supervisor Scott and Supervisor Heinz, who have worked with, sat on the RTA Board, know the importance of our state transportation dollars and what those dollars are, and I believe the \$0.18 or so has not been increased since the '90s. But let us get you an update, I think would be appropriate, on all transportation funding through gas tax, etc.

JA: Thank you. Any further questions? Well, thank you very much, as always for the monthly presentation Director Cuaron.