

**Date:** February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**To:** Melissa Manriquez, Clerk of the Pima County Board of Supervisors

**From:** Chair Jennifer Allen  
Pima County Supervisor for District 3 and Chair of the Pima County Board of Supervisors  
33 N. Stone Ave, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Tucson, AZ 85701

**Re: Resolution of the Pima County Board of Supervisors Designating the Avra Valley Portion of the Critical Landscape Linkage Identified in the Conservation Lands System as the William Shaw Wildlife Corridor**

Dear Melissa,

Please add the following item to the agenda for the February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026 meeting of the Pima County Board of Supervisors:

**RESOLUTION NO. 2026 – XX, RESOLUTION OF THE PIMA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DESIGNATING THE AVRA VALLEY PORTION OF THE CRITICAL LANDSCAPE LINKAGE IDENTIFIED IN THE CONSERVATION LANDS SYSTEM AS THE WILLIAM SHAW WILDLIFE CORRIDOR**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2026-\_\_\_**

**RESOLUTION OF THE PIMA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DESIGNATING THE AVRA VALLEY PORTION OF THE CRITICAL LANDSCAPE LINKAGE IDENTIFIED IN THE CONSERVATION LANDS SYSTEM AS THE WILLIAM SHAW WILDLIFE CORRIDOR**

WHEREAS, in 1986 Dr. William W. Shaw, Ecologist and Professor of Wildlife and Fisheries Science at the University of Arizona's School of Natural Resources and the Environment, published his report *Critical and Sensitive Wildlife Habitats of Eastern Pima County* and the now-infamous "Bunny Map"; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Shaw's study marked the first effort in his field to incorporate considerations for wildlife, wildlife habitats, and wildlife movement corridors, informing policy regarding local land use planning in Pima County; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Shaw was the first ecologist to recognize the geographic isolation of the Tucson Mountains and to identify the east-west wildlife movement corridor around the Garcia Strip of the Tohono O'odham Nation in the Avra Valley, connecting the Tucson Mountains with the Roskruge and Silverbell Mountains; and

WHEREAS, on September 7, 1999, with the express purpose of segregating science from political pressures, the Board of Supervisors approved a contract with Dr. Shaw to form and lead Pima County's Science Technical Advisory Team (STAT) to advance the development of the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan (SDCP) and the subsequent Multi-Species Conservation Plan (MSCP), to develop science-based data and information that would be foundational to future County land use planning and regulatory undertakings, that preserve the biological diversity of the flora and fauna within Pima County and that equitably strive for species protection, environmental health, thoughtfully configured development, and a robust economy; and

WHEREAS, in 2001, grounded in data and information provided by the STAT, the Conservation Lands System (CLS) Map and Conservation Guidelines were incorporated into the Environmental Element of Pima County's Comprehensive Land Use Plan; and

WHEREAS, the wildlife movement corridor around the Garcia Strip connecting the Tucson Mountains to what is now the Ironwood Forest National Monument and the wildlife movement corridor connecting the Tucson Mountains to the Tortolita Fan and Tortolita Mountains identified in the 1986 "Bunny Map" are included as two of the six most at-risk wildlife movement corridors identified by the CLS and are also known as Critical Landscape Linkages; and

WHEREAS, during 2026, Pima County and partners are celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the SDCP and recognizing and honoring those who significantly advanced the SDCP and MSCP; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors wishes to honor Dr. Shaw's leadership and expertise in advancing the SDCP, the MSCP, and the recognition and conservation of wildlife corridors.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Pima County Board of Supervisors hereby designates the Avra Valley portion of the Critical Landscape Linkage identified in the Maeveen Marie Behan Conservation Lands System and Dr. Shaw's "*Bunny Map*" as the William Shaw Wildlife Corridor; and
2. The Pima County Board of Supervisors directs the County Administrator to take the necessary measures to ensure that signage of the William Shaw Wildlife Corridor is installed in a visible location and the name is reflected on County maps where appropriate.

Passed by the Board of Supervisors of Pima County, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

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

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy County Attorney