

COB - BOSAIR FORM

06/05/2026 10:52 AM (MST)

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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:	06/23/2026
Project Title / Description:	Resolution of Declaring a Fire Emergency to Authorize Stage II Fire Restrictions

Agenda Item Report

Introduction / Background: Wildfire risk remains a significant concern throughout Pima County, particularly during periods of elevated fire danger and prolonged drought conditions. In anticipation of the potential need to implement fire restrictions during the upcoming fire season, Pima County is seeking to establish a more proactive and responsive framework for wildfire prevention and public safety.

Under A.R.S. § 26-311, the Pima County Board of Supervisors has authority to declare a fire emergency and adopt fire restrictions when conditions warrant. The County has historically implemented Stage II Fire Restrictions in coordination with state and federal land management agencies to reduce the risk of human-caused wildfires and protect public safety, natural resources, and property.

The Southeast Zone Board, an interagency advisory body comprised of federal and state fire and land management agencies, monitors fire danger conditions throughout southeastern Arizona and provides recommendations regarding the implementation and rescission of fire restrictions. The proposed resolution authorizes appropriate Stage II Fire Restrictions on County-owned and Regional Flood Control District lands in unincorporated Pima County and establishes a process for implementing and rescinding those restrictions based on recommendations from the Southeast Zone Board.

Discussion: The proposed resolution largely mirrors the fire restriction framework approved by the Board during the 2025 fire season. However, one significant modification is the proposed delegation of authority to the County Administrator to implement, modify, or rescind Stage II Fire Restrictions upon receipt of a recommendation from the Southeast Zone Board.

During the 2025 fire season, the timing of Board of Supervisors meetings and associated agenda processes occasionally created delays in both the implementation and removal of fire restrictions. These delays sometimes resulted in Pima County being out of alignment with state and federal land management partners that were able to act more quickly in response to changing fire danger conditions.

Wildfire conditions can change rapidly based on weather patterns, fuel moisture levels, and regional fire activity. Delegating authority to the County Administrator will provide the flexibility necessary to respond promptly to recommendations from the Southeast Zone Board while maintaining consistency with state and federal partner

agencies. This approach supports coordinated wildfire prevention efforts across jurisdictions and promotes a unified public message regarding fire restrictions and public safety expectations for residents and visitors.

The proposed resolution also authorizes the suspension of open burning permits issued by the Pima County Department of Environmental Quality while Stage II Fire Restrictions are in effect and continues the Board's authorization for the Chair to declare a fire emergency throughout unincorporated Pima County when appropriate.

Conclusion:

The proposed resolution establishes a proactive and coordinated approach to wildfire prevention and response in Pima County. By declaring a fire emergency to authorize Stage II Fire Restrictions and providing administrative authority to implement or rescind those restrictions based on recommendations from the Southeast Zone Board, the County will be better positioned to respond to changing fire danger conditions in a timely and consistent manner. The proposed process enhances interagency coordination, improves public communication, and supports the protection of life, property, and natural resources.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the Board of Supervisors and the Pima County Regional Flood Control District Board of Directors adopt the proposed resolution declaring a fire emergency and authorizing Stage II Fire Restrictions on County-owned and Regional Flood Control District lands in unincorporated Pima County and delegating authority to the County Administrator to implement, modify, or rescind such restrictions upon recommendation of the Southeast Zone Board.

Fiscal Impact:

None

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
- 4
- 3
- 2
- 1

Department:

Office of Emergency Management

Name:


Lisa Romero

Telephone:

5207249312

Department Director Signature: Sandra Espinoza Date: 6/5/2026 | 11:00 AM MST

Deputy County Administrator Signature: Chad Kosmer Date: 6/5/2026 | 1:44 PM MST

County Administrator Signature:  Date: 6/5/2026 | 2:43 PM MST

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION 2026-_____

RESOLUTION 2026- FC _____

RESOLUTION OF THE PIMA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS and THE PIMA COUNTY REGIONAL FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS IMPOSING STAGE II FIRE RESTRICTIONS ON LAND OWNED BY PIMA COUNTY AND THE REGIONAL FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT IN UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF PIMA COUNTY

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF PIMA COUNTY, ARIZONA and THE PIMA COUNTY REGIONAL FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS FINDS THAT:

1. The Board of Supervisors of Pima County, Arizona has the authority under A.R.S. §§ 11-251(63) to prohibit open fires and campfires on designated lands in the unincorporated areas of the county, and the power granted by A.R.S. §§ 26-311 to declare a fire emergency.
2. The Arizona State Forester has authority under A.R.S. §§ 37-1303 and 37-1305 to coordinate wildfire suppression and prevention efforts and impose fire restrictions on state-managed lands.
3. The Southeast Zone Board is an interagency advisory body comprised of federal and state fire and land management agencies responsible for coordinating wildfire preparedness and response in southeastern Arizona, including all of Pima County, and provides recommendations regarding the implementation and rescission of fire restrictions based on fire danger conditions.
4. The Board of Supervisors has determined that the implementation of fire restrictions on land owned by Pima County and the Regional Flood Control District in unincorporated areas of the county is necessary for the safety and welfare of the residents of Pima County.
5. The Board of Supervisors has determined that delegating authority to the County Administrator to implement or rescind Stage II fire restrictions, upon receipt of an appropriate recommendation from the Southeast Zone Board, is necessary to ensure the timely implementation of such measures

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. Stage II Fire Restrictions are hereby authorized for implementation, which include, but are not limited to, the following prohibitions on land owned by Pima County and the Regional Flood Control District in unincorporated areas of the county:

- a. Building, maintaining, attending, or using a fire, open flame, campfire, charcoal, coal, elevated grill, or wood stove. This includes fires in developed campgrounds or improved sites.
 - b. Discharging a firearm, including target shooting, except at a designated shooting range or while engaged in a lawful hunt pursuant to state, federal, or tribal laws and regulations.
 - c. Any job or task that creates heat, sparks, or open flames and could ignite flammable materials or start a fire, except if such work is deemed essential, in which case strict fire prevention protocols must be followed. These include spark containment, clearance from flammable materials, and implementation of fire watch procedures.
 - d. The use of consumer fireworks.
2. No open burning permits shall be issued by Pima County Department of Environmental Quality for the duration of these Stage II Fire Restrictions. Any previously issued permits are hereby suspended for the duration of the restrictions.
 3. The Chair of the Pima County Board of Supervisors is authorized to declare that a fire emergency exists throughout unincorporated Pima County when appropriate, effective immediately until further notice, and to exercise all powers granted by A.R.S. §§ 26-311.
 4. The relevant County officers and employees are authorized and directed to perform all acts necessary or desirable to give effect to this Resolution.
 5. The County Administrator is hereby authorized to implement Stage II Fire Restrictions, in whole or in part as described herein, upon receipt of a recommendation from the Southeast Zone Board that fire danger conditions meet or exceed thresholds warranting such restrictions.
 6. The County Administrator is further authorized to rescind or modify the Stage II Fire Restrictions, in whole or in part, upon receipt of a recommendation from the Southeast Zone Board that such conditions no longer warrant their continuation.
 7. This Resolution shall be effective upon execution by the Chair of the Pima County Board of Supervisors and the Chair of the Pima County Flood Control District Board of Directors.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors, Pima County, Arizona, this _____ day of _____, 2026.

Chair, Pima County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM

Clerk of the Board



Deputy County Attorney

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Pima County Regional Flood Control District, this _____ day of _____, 2026.

Chair, Pima County Regional Flood Control District Board of Directors

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM

Clerk of the Board



Deputy County Attorney