



RICHARD ELÍAS
PIMA COUNTY SUPERVISOR
DISTRICT 5

PIMA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

130 W. CONGRESS STREET, 11TH FLOOR
TUCSON, ARIZONA 85701-1317

TELEPHONE (520) 740-8126
FAX (520) 884-1152
E-MAIL: district5@pima.gov
WEBSITE: www.district5.pima.gov

Community Friends,

As many of you know, Pima County is working to develop another bond package to go to voters for consideration in November 2015. The District Five office of Supervisor Richard Elías is working with a large group of community representatives to ensure that the needs of working families are addressed in this bond package. We seek your help and support.

We are focused on four of the 138 proposals the Pima County Bond Advisory Committee is considering for a November 2015 bond package – open space/habitat protection, affordable housing, neighborhood reinvestment and a new home for JobPath to train workers and place them in good jobs.

This is to alert our supporters and advocates that the Bond Advisory Committee will consider a proposal to earmark \$120 million of the bond money to purchase open space for habitat preservation on November 7, 2014. Some board members want to reduce that figure, which we believe is minimal for the great needs we face. The Pima County Conservation Acquisition Commission recommended allocating \$285 million for this purpose.

Please attend the Friday November 7, 2014, meeting, at 8 a.m. in the RiverPark Inn, 350 S. Freeway, and support the \$120 million level for open-space purchases. If you cannot attend the meeting please send a letter or an email to:

Pima County Bond Advisory Committee
130 W. Congress, 10th floor
Tucson, AZ 85701
bondinfo@pima.gov

We will be addressing our other key issues when they arrive on a Bond Advisory Committee agenda in January and beyond. Expect to hear from us later on those issues.

Here are some key points on the open-space funding issue:

- Adequate public open space is necessary for survival of many unique and rare local native species. Pima County's landmark Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan seeks to protect these plants and animals, many in severe decline and several threatened or endangered.
- To fulfill the Conservation Plan, Pima County is in the final stages of obtaining a permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under the Endangered Species Act. The county must acquire key lands for conservation to provide certainty for private development and capital improvement projects. Preservation of these lands mitigates the impacts of the projects.

- Under the Conservation Plan, open space lands the county owns and preserves are a legal mechanism to allow large scale capital improvement and private development projects to be constructed during and after Implementation of the upcoming bond package.
- Sufficient protected areas and corridors are critical to a healthy Sonoran Desert for both wildlife and people. The \$120 million currently proposed in the upcoming bond package will not buy all the land that needs to be protected, but it can cover critical areas.
- Protecting critical open space from development preserves the Sonoran Desert values that attract people and industries to our region and provide residents with satisfying lives. Countless residents and visitors are in Pima County for the spectacular beauty and ready accessibility of the Sonoran Desert. This unique desert is THE top attraction in Southern Arizona. A thriving economy depends on our public open space!