

My name is Barbara Rose, I live and work at Bean Tree Farm, and I'm a long time resident of the northern Tucson Mountains. My work involves producing and teaching about desert foods with a focus on taking care of Sonoran Desert watersheds, and building local interest in designing desert-smart homes and communities for a more sustainable future.

The alternative and only measure for I-11 that I support is adding to I-10 and the existing interstate system, and following the science and economics-based research and recommendations of the Sustainable Cities Lab, a transdisciplinary study by UAz/ASU/UNevLasVegas on the best location for the I-11 corridor, which was submitted to ADOT in 2016.

The analysis of environmental and other impacts are clear. There is absolutely no reason to destroy another critical watershed and wildlife corridor for a highway.

I believe quite a lot of your promotion of this false "alternative" is developer/speculator-driven, incomplete, incorrect, and disturbingly disingenuous.

There's an ethic among wild harvesters that says "don't take more than 10% of an area when you harvest, so there's plenty for the animals. But what happens when 100 people keep harvesting 10% of what's left? This is where we are with your improbably proposed alternative.

The development of I-11 and its aftermath would decimate lands of the Avra Valley and beyond that have been designated as necessary landscape linkages to protect this part of the Sonoran Desert, in light of natural and cultural resources already over-harvested for many years.

I love this place. And if you live and work here in the southwest, you should too.

So do the right thing. Help protect it and take care of it.

Thank you for your consideration.