



MEMORANDUM

Date: November 8, 2016

To: The Honorable Chair and Members
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "C.H. Huckelberry", is written over the typed name and title.

Re: **Pima County Multi-Species Conservation Plan Receives Metropolitan Pima Alliance's 2016 Common Ground Award**

On November 4, 2016, the Metropolitan Pima Alliance (MPA) recognized the Pima County Multi-Species Conservation Plan (MSCP) with the attached Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition signed by Congresswoman Martha McSally and Common Ground Award at their 12th Annual Awards ceremony. The Common Ground event honors community leaders, real estate projects and development-oriented programs that overcame great obstacles through unlikely and atypical collaboration. Over the years, this ceremony has recognized over 225 exemplary projects.

MPA received nearly 50 nominations in 2016. The MSCP was one of the 10 awardees. Several other County projects were finalists, including Colossal Cave Road, Paseo de las Iglesias, and the South Rillito West Central Interceptor Rehabilitation. Each finalist went through a multi-step process, including participating in a panel interview where nominees were scored against weighted criteria including quality, size and complexity of the collaboration.

The MSCP provides a simpler, faster way for the public and private sectors to address endangered species compliance for new development actions occurring in the nearly 1.7 million-acre permit area. The unique process used to develop this plan required the US Fish and Wildlife Service and US Army Corps of Engineers to cooperate with each other to simplify complex federal procedures.

Among the many local stakeholders in developing the MSCP, County staff listened carefully to the concerns of developers, realtors, homeowners, environmentalists and ranchers who were initially at odds with each other. The public planning process that led to simplifying federal regulation is considered by many in the United States as a premier example of community-based, collaborative conservation land use planning that successfully balances growth and natural area conservation.

Attachment

c: John Bernal, Deputy County Administrator, Public Works
Nanette Slusser, Assistant County Administrator, Public Works
Suzanne Shields, Director, Regional Flood Control District
Chris Cawein, Director, Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation
Linda Mayro, Director, Office of Sustainability and Conservation



Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition

PRESENTED for

PIMA COUNTY MSCP
SECTION 10 PERMIT

A TOP 20 COMMON GROUND PROJECT OF THE YEAR BY COMMON GROUND AWARDS

Martha McSally

U.S. REP. MARTHA McSALLY, ARIZONA 2ND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

10-4-16

DATE