

RESOLUTION NO. 2007- 84

A RESOLUTION OF THE PIMA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS IN
SUPPORT OF NEW COUNTY SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES

WHEREAS, sustainability is often defined as improving the quality of life for current generations without compromising the resources needed for future generations; and

WHEREAS, Pima County has supported past initiatives to improve and sustain a livable community, including initiatives in the areas of land and water conservation, air quality improvements, cultural resource preservation, urban development guidelines, recreation, public health, affordable housing, and neighborhood reinvestment; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors adopted the Sonoran Desert Conservation and Comprehensive Land Use Plan in 2001; and

WHEREAS, since 1974, Pima County voters have approved over \$230 million in bond funds for land purchases to conserve our natural and cultural heritage; and

WHEREAS, since 1974, Pima County has purchased over 45,000 acres of open space property, and grazing leases for 86,000 acres of open space, which property is managed by the County for conservation purposes; and

WHEREAS, Pima County has begun collecting environmental enhancement fees as a percentage of revenues from particular development projects in order to mitigate development impacts to conservation areas; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors adopted Pima County Resolution 2003-88 supporting Congressional designation of the Santa Cruz National Heritage Area to promote regional conservation of our natural and cultural heritage areas, and to sustain tourism as a key sector of our regional economy; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors adopted revisions to the Riparian Mitigation Ordinance in 2005 to avoid and minimize impacts to riparian vegetation on local washes; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors amended the golf course ordinance to require new golf courses to be irrigated with directly-served effluent, reclaimed water or Central Arizona Project (CAP) water; and

WHEREAS, in 2006 the Board of Supervisors directed staff to begin an update to the Water Resources Element of the Comprehensive Plan to better address land use and water resource planning, and to provide additional information to the Board on riparian resource issues during the review of developments; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors approved Resolution 2005-124 and 2007-15 opposing mining in biologically important areas of the County that would degrade water quantity and water quality, negatively impact key tourism sites, and compromise quality of life for surrounding residents; and

WHEREAS, Pima County uses effluent, storm water, and reclaimed water for riparian rehabilitation and restoration efforts, as well as recreational facilities; and

WHEREAS, in 2007 the County Administrator directed staff to add energy guidance into this year's update of the Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors has adopted regulations to prevent and reduce air pollution, protect public health, and restore and preserve the quality of the outdoor air in Pima County; and

WHEREAS, in January, 2007 Pima County was the first county in the state to adopt a Transfer of Development Rights program permitting willing sellers of land with conservation value to sell development rights to owners of land more suitable for more intense development; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors adopted the Recreation Areas in Residential Subdivisions Ordinance in 2003 to require recreation areas within new subdivisions and to collect fees to benefit the regional park system; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors in 2007 approved a concept for partnering with Native Seeds/SEARCH to promote the health benefits of eating native foods and the benefits of reduced energy consumption by growing or purchasing locally grown food; and

WHEREAS, voters approved the issuance of a combined total of \$25 million in bonds since 1997 to fund Neighborhood Reinvestment projects in high stress areas of Pima County, such as traffic mitigation devices, street lights, park improvements, sidewalks, walking paths, pedestrian bridges, sports facilities, and community buildings, which neighbors report have positively benefited their communities; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors in 2005 adopted an affordable housing fee to be required for certain new subdivisions that, when combined with \$15 million of bond funding approved by voters in 1997 and 2004, provides revenues to an Affordable Housing Trust fund to expand the supply of affordable housing in Pima County; and

WHEREAS, Pima County recognizes that the scientific community has developed a consensus that increasing emissions of carbon dioxide, methane and other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere is affecting the Earth's climate; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors recognizes and accepts its responsibility to continue implementing and promoting sustainable practices that protect the County's natural and built environment; and

WHEREAS, new sustainable development initiatives for Pima County must address the environmental, economic, and social characteristics of our community;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Pima County Board of Supervisors supports sustainable development and the continual emphasis on sustaining a livable community.
2. The Pima County Board Of Supervisors supports implementation of a green building initiative and other sustainable initiatives regarding county facilities and vehicles, including the following goals and aspirations:
 - a) Shifting to more environment-friendly alternative fuels for its vehicular fleet such that: twenty-five percent (25%) or a minimum of one hundred (100) vehicles of the County's fleet of vehicles, excluding Sheriff patrol vehicles, shall consist of Alternative Fuel Vehicles by 2008. This percentage shall increase to thirty percent (30%) by 2009 and fifty percent (50%) by 2010.
 - b) Applying a green purchasing and waste reduction emphasis to all County facilities.
 - c) Maximizing County water resource assets including groundwater rights, surface rights and production and use of effluent to sustain and protect the County's natural environment.
 - d) Reducing water consumption by fifteen percent (15%) in all County facilities by 2025. Water reduction strategies will include conducting water audits, replacing high water-use fixtures and replacing high water-use decorative landscaping with drought tolerant native landscaping.
 - e) Doubling the number of County parks served by reclaimed water by 2018, subject to voter approval of bond funds to extend reclaimed water lines.
 - f) Designing and building all new occupied County buildings, including additions over 5000 square feet, for which design is initiated after July 1, 2007, to achieve a minimum of LEEDTM Silver certification level.
 - g) Maintaining All LEEDTM certified County facilities under LEEDTM for Existing Buildings and attempting to apply the same standard to all existing facilities.
 - h) Applying the above LEEDTM criteria to all projects funded through County bonds as a condition of funding and regardless of jurisdictional project sponsorship.

- i) Designing and constructing at least one medium size County building with a net zero energy consumption.
 - j) Adhering to the Renewable Energy Standard adopted by the Arizona Corporation Commission such that fifteen percent (15%) of all County facilities' electrical energy consumption shall be generated from renewable resources by 2025.
 - k) Maximizing renewable energy resources from the production of methane in County wastewater treatment and landfill operations and use them to offset non-renewable energy needs.
3. Pima County will encourage the construction of new residential, commercial, and industrial facilities employing green building concepts throughout the county by embracing a sustainable development emphasis and by considering:
- a) The creation of incentive-based green building residential and commercial programs.
 - b) The incorporation of solar systems, solar orientation of structures, solar access, and smart growth principles into County development planning including exploring the possibility of requiring that that a minimum of fifty percent (50%) of homes constructed after 2010 include direct solar assisted energy through solar hot water or photovoltaic elements.
 - c) The amendment of land use regulations to require that all new houses discharging to septic systems also be provided with a grey water reuse system.
 - d) The revision of design and construction standards to capture and mitigate storm-water generated on-site for purposes of water harvesting and the incorporation, into the pavement of parking lots and roads, of light-colored permeable materials to reduce heat-island effects, water runoff, and dust emissions.
4. In order to maintain an emphasis on sustainable development initiatives organizationally the County Administrator is hereby directed to:
- a) Appoint a sustainability coordinator from existing staff to identify departments and organizational units within Pima County that contribute to sustainability efforts, establish an organizational structure that facilitates the coordination of efforts between departments and organizational units, and coordinate sustainable policy and initiatives with other jurisdictions.
5. Appoint an Energy Manager from existing staff to produce a comprehensive County facilities energy plan, track progress of County energy programs, and help facilitate LEEDTM implementation.

Passed and adopted by the Pima County Board of Supervisors this 1st day of May, 2007.



Chairman, Pima County Board of Supervisors

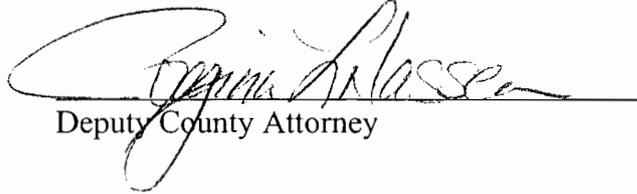
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ATTEST:



Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Deputy County Attorney