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# MEMORANDUM

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Date: August 16, 2022

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

From: Jan Leshner   
County Administrator

Re: **Pima County Economic Development Plan Update**

As the Board of Supervisors is aware, Pima County has recently embarked on a comprehensive and collaborative approach to analyze the regional economy and create a new and revised Pima County Economic Development Plan. The creation of this plan will be markedly different than past iterations of the Pima County Economic Development Plan, which was first created in 2012 and was last updated as the 2019-2021 edition.

The previous Plan and subsequent updates rightfully focused on regional strengths and placed emphasis on Pima County infrastructure development, manufacturing and foreign direct investment. With new leadership team in the Pima County Economic Development Department, Pima County began the Plan update in May of 2022 with the selection of Stiletto Consulting, Ltd. This firm has a strong data-driven approach to economic development planning and extensive experience in economic development strategic planning that includes successful positioning of the University of Arizona's Tech Parks.

The intent of this update is to better position Pima County in driving Economic Development throughout the region, improving our economy, reducing poverty, and recalculating our economic priorities and strengths in the midst of a rapidly changing global economy. The Plan will also allow for realistic implementation and metrics and serve as a document to allow Pima County to compete for federal Economic Development Administration grant opportunities.

In addition to extensive data collection and community surveys, the Economic Development Department and Stiletto have developed a stakeholder engagement and outreach strategy, which includes involvement by the Board of Supervisors, for the development of a Plan that is expected to culminate in a final report issued in November 2022.

An administration-level stakeholder meeting was held with Stiletto on July 6, 2022, which included me, the Deputy County Administrators, Economic Development staff and leaders of various Pima County departments involved in aspects of Economic Development. The feedback I received is that the initial meeting, and the planned approach for updating the Plan, is engaging, collaborative and insightful in its approach.

The Honorable Chair and Members, Pima County Board of Supervisors

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On August 9, 2022, the Economic Development consultants began engaging with chambers of commerce, business support organizations and economic development agencies operating in Pima County. A broader community survey will occur in September, and Stiletto will be contacting Board of Supervisors offices beginning this week to schedule meetings individually with you and your staff.

Attached is a timeline of the economic development update process (Attachment 1) and a stakeholder timeline (Attachment 2). I will continue to update the Board on the progress of the plan and I look forward to your participation in the development of an economic development strategy that positions Pima County as a leader in the development of our economy and our regional prosperity.

JKL/anc

c: Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator  
Francisco García, MD, MPH, Deputy County Administrator and Chief Medical Officer  
Steve Holmes, Deputy County Administrator  
Heath Vescovi-Chiordi, Director, Pima County Economic Development

# ATTACHMENT 1

# Pima Economic Development Strategy Timeline



# ATTACHMENT 2

# Pima Economic Development Strategy Timeline - Stakeholder

