



MEMORANDUM

Date: March 13, 2017

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

From: C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator 

Re: **Formation of the Arizona Border Counties Coalition**

Pima County, in affiliation with Santa Cruz, Cochise and Yuma Counties, will soon be launching the Arizona Border Counties Coalition (ABCC). The primary purpose of this coalition is to create a unified voice and agenda that can help advocate for state and federal legislation and action related to economic development and other shared topics along the Arizona border.

The initial concept of the ABCC developed during policy discussions between Supervisor Board Chair Sharon Bronson and Santa Cruz County Supervisor Bruce Bracker. While there is a long and mutually beneficial history of collaboration among the four counties, the increased need for coordination has become even more important in light of the strengthening trade economy, as well as recent actions and proposals at the state and federal levels.

The first meeting of this Coalition will take place in Pima County on March 30, 2017 with a Supervisor from each of the affiliated counties appointed to discuss and identify the next steps for the ABCC. Future meetings will be small and focused on policy development and the creation of definitive action steps.

Chair Bronson will represent Pima County, and Supervisor Bracker will represent Santa Cruz County on the ABCC. Cochise and Yuma Counties will determine their representatives by March 23, 2017. We anticipate the County Administrators of the four border counties will also be involved in the Coalition. If other members of the Pima County Board of Supervisors would like to attend any of the ABCC meetings to observe, please advise me in advance so the Clerk of the Board may properly notice the meeting as required by State statute. It is likely some of the future meetings will be held in the other affiliated counties.

The ABCC will be staffed by Pima County Economic Development. All participating counties will be responsible for their own travel expenses. Any additional costs associated with the ABCC will be shared proportionally among the four counties.

Attached is a draft of the ABCC mission and goals that will be discussed and edited during the March 30 meeting. Please let me know if you require any additional information.

CHH/mjk

c: Jan Leshner, Chief Deputy County Administrator
Tom Burke, Deputy County Administrator for Public Works
Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator for Administration
Dr. John Moffatt, Director, Economic Development
Patrick Cavanaugh, Deputy Director, Economic Development



An Affiliation of Cochise County • Pima County • Santa Cruz County • Yuma County

About:

The Arizona Border Counties Coalition will consist of one representative from each participating County selected by the participating County's Board of Supervisors. The role of this coalition will be to help move state and federal legislation forward that help advocate and/or accelerate economic development opportunities in southern Arizona with a specific focus on economic development projects related to security, trade, infrastructure, transportation, education, and tourism.

Mission:

The Arizona Border Counties Coalition mission is to advance economic development opportunities along the Arizona-Mexico border as well as identifying fiscal cost transfers to the Border Counties disproportionately.

Goals:

- Improve Ports of Entry Efficiency
 - Advocate for the creation of a funding mechanism for border infrastructure
 - Staffing – Advocate for adequate staffing at all Arizona Ports of Entry
- Identify and support the implementation of innovative inspection programs and technologies that offer gains in effectiveness and efficiency
- Promote multimodal transportation alternatives at the border
- Promote cross border business opportunities
- Partner with like-minded organizations that promote trade and tourism with Mexico
- Increase awareness of the direct economic link between Arizona and Mexico
- Promote programs that enhance the quality of life of the residents of the border region
- Reduce or eliminate costs for funding to Border Counties by the federal government

Membership:

- This will be a voluntary membership/association and each member will be responsible for covering their respective travel expenses
- Participating County representatives will form board and/or create/select executive committee