



MEMORANDUM

Date: August 26, 2019

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

From: C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "CHH", is written over the printed name "C.H. Huckelberry".

Re: **2019-2021 Economic Development Plan Update**

On July 15, 2019, I provided you with an Executive Summary of our Economic Development Plan for 2019-2021. I am now providing you with a full and complete copy of the Plan.

Despite the statistical full employment status, there are still large numbers of underemployed county residents and too many of our key employers are having to recruit from outside the area. While the 2019 update of the Economic Development Plan continues to focus on growing what is already strong in our local economy, it also focuses heavily on developing our local workforce to meet our region's current and future employment needs.

To gauge the effectiveness of the Economic Development Plan over the last three years, the full cash value of the tax base increased from \$79.5 billion in 2015 to what is projected to be \$95.1 billion in 2019. This represents more than a \$15.7 billion increase in the full cash value of the tax base in three years. According to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment increased from 441,671 in 2015 to 473,491 in May of 2019 adding 31,821 Pima County residents to the workforce. We will continue to update the tax base expansion as we implement the Plan. The best way to lower taxes is through an expanding economy. As we fully recover from the largest economic downturn in the last 50 years, we are in a better position to weather another recession and provide well-paying meaningful employment to our residents.

Another major focus of this Plan is to identify the teamwork necessary for our region to succeed. Chapter 5 of the Plan includes brief statements from our regional partners, including other southern Arizona counties, along with a link to their individual economic development web pages so you, and site selectors, have a one-stop location to see the region's plans.

No plan is valid without action items. Appendix A of the Plan is a report card on our execution of the 99 action items from the Plans of 2015 through 2018. This 2019-2021 Plan has 172 action items that we are already working on with our partners to continue improving Pima County's workforce and our regional economy.

The Honorable Chairman and Members, Pima County Board of Supervisors
Re: **2019-2021 Economic Development Plan Update**
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The Plan is also available at http://webcms.pima.gov/government/economic_development/.

CHH/dr

Attachment

c: John Moffatt, Director, Economic Development
Patrick Cavanaugh, Deputy Director, Economic Development