



MEMORANDUM

Date: December 27, 2021

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

From: Jan Leshner 
Acting County Administrator

Re: **Retirement of Natural Resources Parks and Recreation (NRPR) Director & Recruitment to Fill Position**

Natural Resources Parks and Recreation Director Chris Cawein will be retiring January 4, 2022. Mr. Cawein has served the County in various positions since 1994, most notably as NRPR Director and Regional Flood Control District Deputy Director. In these roles Chris has been instrumental in enhancing operational effectiveness and service delivery and utilizing GIS to inventory and manage assets of the departments.

Mr. Cawein's leadership has led to the expansion and enhancement of countless County recreational and natural resource facilities and programmed services throughout the region. His influence and success are seen across diverse areas ranging from parks to community centers; pools and splash pads to BMX and skate park facilities; natural resource parks to open space and ranch lands; trails and campgrounds to river parks and The Loop; shooting sports facilities to golf courses and historic landmarks; recreational programs to environmental education; environmental conservation to sustainable operations.

Chris' numerous contributions are greatly appreciated, as is his steady commitment to the betterment of the Department and Pima County. Upon his retirement, leadership of the Department will be directly undertaken by Deputy County Administrator for Public Works, Carmine DeBonis Jr. Additional support will be provided by Assistant County Administrator Yves Khawam. Open recruitment to fill the Natural Resources Parks and Recreation Director position will be initiated in early January 2022.

c: Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator for Public Works
Francisco Garcia, MD, MPH, Deputy County Administrator & Chief Medical Officer,
Health and Community Services
Yves Khawam, PhD, Assistant County Administrator for Public Works
Chris Cawein, Director, Natural Resources Parks and Recreation Department
Robert Padilla, Deputy Director, Natural Resources Parks and Recreation Department