



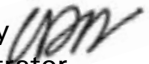
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# MEMORANDUM

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**Date:** January 19, 2016

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

**From:** C.H. Huckelberry   
County Administrator

**Re: Multi-Species Conservation Plan and Regulatory Streamlining**

I am very pleased to inform the Board of Supervisors that the US Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is currently preparing the final documents and completing their procedural requirements necessary to issue the Section 10(a)(1)(B) incidental take permit to Pima County and the Regional Flood Control District (District). The Multi-Species Conservation Plan (MSCP), developed by Pima County over the past decade with assistance and support from a wide variety of community stakeholders, is the basis for the issuance of the permit. This permit streamlines compliance with the Endangered Species Act (ESA), and we expect to receive this permit from the Service in the next several months.

When the permit is finalized, it will provide regulatory relief and provide protection and conservation of 44 species while enabling Pima County, the District, and certain private development to pursue construction activities without the worry of being in violation of the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

Two very significant aspects of the regulatory relief provided by the permit are important for our efforts to revitalize the community's economy. First, the permit will create stability and certainty in complying with what — up until this point — has been a continually changing ESA regulatory environment with each new species addition, critical habitat designation, or court decision. Second, it creates a local and more abbreviated process for achieving compliance with the ESA that obviates the need to directly interact with the Service. Simply put, the permit saves time and money while leveraging the County's investment in natural area conservation, which itself provides a healthier environment for our citizens, promotes tourism and invests in our long-term sustainability.

The attached booklet explains the purpose and benefits of the MSCP in anticipation of the forthcoming issuance of the permit and to inform the pressing conversations regarding economic recovery. It is posted electronically at [MSCP booklet online](#) and hard copies are available in quantity as well. Please distribute freely to interested constituents and direct any inquiries for copies to Julia Fonseca or Sherry Ruther at the Office of Sustainability and Conservation. The MSCP and accompanying documents are also available at [www.pima.gov/mscp](http://www.pima.gov/mscp).

The Honorable Chair and Members, Pima County Board of Supervisors  
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I will provide more information regarding the timeline for permit issuance and additional actions the Board of Supervisors will need to take to approve the permit as details become available. We expect the notice of the availability of the Final MSCP and Final Environmental Impact Statement in February 2016.

CHH/mjk

Attachment

c: John Bernal, Deputy County Administrator for Public Works  
Nanette Slusser, Assistant County Administrator for Public Works  
Suzanne Shields, Director, Regional Flood Control District  
Chris Cawein, Director, Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation  
Linda Mayro, Director, Sustainability and Conservation