January 7, 2014

Canoa Ranch Conservation Committee

Background

In my December 9, 2013 memorandum to the Board of Supervisors, I discussed the contributions of the Canoa Ranch Community Trust and Oversight Committee (CRCTOC), the most important of which was the formulation and approval of the Master Plan. Now is the time for us to direct our efforts toward effective and efficient implementation of the Master Plan, as well as development of public-private partnerships to facilitate preservation, protection and interpretation of Canoa Ranch for the future.

The purpose of this memorandum is to recommend the Board of Supervisors approve the formulation of the Canoa Ranch Conservation Committee (CRCC), whose mission would be as follows:

To assist the Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation Department in reviewing and making recommendations to the County Administrator and the Board of Supervisors regarding all public/private partnership proposals for the conservation, restoration, expansion and development of Canoa Ranch put forward by foundations and other organizations. In addition, the Canoa Ranch Conservation Committee will work collaboratively to acquire funds and promote future bond funding for the implementation of the Canoa Ranch Master Plan.

The CRCC would be comprised of seven members: five appointed by the Board of Supervisors, one appointed by the County Administrator, and one appointed by the Tohono O’odham Nation. Each member shall be appointed for a term of four years and shall not serve more than two consecutive terms.

I further recommend that a management team of County staff from Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation; Regional Flood Control District; the Office of Sustainability and Conservation; and Facilities Management be formalized to provide technical, management and administrative support to the CRCC. This team will help ensure the open space, watershed and cultural resource values are protected, interpreted and appropriately managed in the implementation of the Master Plan.

Recommendation

I recommend the Board of Supervisors approve and direct the following actions with respect to Canoa Ranch:
1. Formation of the Canoa Ranch Conservation Committee that will, upon formation, replace the Canoa Ranch Community Trust and Oversight Committee.

2. Adoption of the following mission statement for the Canoa Ranch Conservation Committee:

   To assist the Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation Department in reviewing and making recommendations to the County Administrator and the Board of Supervisors regarding all public/private partnership proposals for the conservation, restoration, expansion and development of Canoa Ranch put forward by foundations and other organizations. In addition, the Canoa Ranch Conservation Committee will work collaboratively to acquire funds and promote future bond funding for the implementation of the Canoa Ranch Master Plan.

3. Approval of the Canoa Ranch Conservation Committee organizational structure as follows:

   Seven members: five appointed by the Board of Supervisors, one appointed by the County Administrator, and one appointed by the Tohono O’odham Nation. Each member shall be appointed for a term of four years and shall not serve more than two consecutive terms.

4. Direction to the County Administrator to formalize a management team of County staff from Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation; Regional Flood Control District; the Office of Sustainability and Conservation; and Facilities Management to provide technical, management and administrative support to the CRCC to ensure the open space, watershed and cultural resource values are protected, interpreted and appropriately managed in the implementation of the Master Plan.

Respectfully submitted,

C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator

CHH/mjk – December 26, 2013

C: John Bernal, Deputy County Administrator for Public Works
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   Chris Cawein, Director, Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation
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