



MEMORANDUM

Date: March 11, 2015

To: Thomas Weaver
Chief Civil Deputy County Attorney

From: C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator

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

Re: **Historic Rillito Racetrack, Inc. Threat of Litigation**

Attached is a March 9, 2015 letter I received through hand-delivery from Assistant County Administrator Nanette Slusser.

As you know, the County has been making a number of improvements to Rillito Park to convert it to a more useful regional public park. To this end, soccer facilities, restrooms and ramadas have been added; and some horse barns have been replaced with modern facilities.

The reference to bond funds for Broadway Boulevard is simply acknowledging that I have previously stated a bond implementation plan that includes less than the required six lanes for Broadway Boulevard widening would make the project ineligible for funding unless and until the bond implementation plan was amended to reduce the number of lanes required. It is unlikely such will happen.

The funding now being used to make additional soccer improvements to Rillito Park, i.e. more soccer fields and lighting, is part of General Obligation bonds approved to make recreational improvements on the Rillito property. Originally, the City of Tucson requested a recreational or community center; then, for a variety of reasons, the City requested the funding be used to improve the number of soccer fields and other public park uses of Rillito Park. An appropriate bond ordinance amendment was processed and approved by the Bond Advisory Committee and the Board of Supervisors for this purpose.

The initiative referenced in the attached letter from Mr. Moore is a 1986 initiative that expired in 2006. The award of the continued park improvements at Rillito Park will be on the May 17, 2015 Board of Supervisors Agenda for award and possible hearing of any bid protests that have been raised by unsuccessful bidders on the project.

The present low bidder, Durazo Construction, is a responsible bidder.

CHH/anc

Attachments

c: The Honorable Chair and Members, Pima County Board of Supervisors
Nanette Slusser, Assistant County Administrator for Public Works Policy

HISTORIC RILLITO RACETRACK, INC.

March 9 , 2015

SUBJECT:

The use of bond money that the voters approved for a different purpose to tear down part of a National Historic District and possibly terminate horse racing in Pima County.

To the Pima County Board of Supervisors,

Historic Rillito Racetrack, Inc. paid the cost and got Rillito Racetrack listed as a NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE. It is the birthplace in our country of Quarter Horse racing and of the internationally recognized University of Arizona Race Track Management Program. The Arizona State Historic Preservation Officer, Mr. Garrison, stated that Pima County, as owner of the west side barns on the property, could tear them down even though it would detract from the historic value. We do not think that it benefits the tax payers to spend millions of dollars to tear down historic barns to build three soccer fields. The same money could build up to 20 soccer fields on land already owned, and would be available to children and adults, not just those who are mostly paying clients of one soccer organization. The tearing down of those barns may compromise and terminate horse racing in Pima County. Rillito Park horse racing is a business that attracts thousands of spectators and provides jobs for hundreds of people. The economic impact of the Rillito Racetrack provides millions of dollars to our community every year.

A separate letter is attached to Chuck Huckelberry detailing the steps we contemplate taking to protect this historic site and provide many more soccer fields NOW without harming our National Historic Site. Make more soccer fields available for Tucson citizens on government land in the Tucson area. You can save our historic site for an industry that provides jobs and entertainment for thousands of locals and winter visitors.



Historic Rillito Race Track, Inc. by Ed Moore

cc: Local and National media

The Arizona Historic Preservation Office

Local groups that support tourism and business for Pima County

Various local, state and national organizations that support the horse industry

Groups that support Historic Sites

HISTORIC RILLITO RACETRACK, INC.

March 9, 2015

Chuck Huckelberry

Dear Chuck,

You recognized the legality in your recent comments about the use of Pima County Bond Money on Broadway, that the money could only be used for what the voters had approved. The proposal to spend money to tear down the historic barns at Rillito Racetrack from bond money originally approved as part of a 5.5 million dollar bond issue for a totally different use violates the State Constitution as determined by the Supreme Court in 2013. The Rillito Racetrack Ordinance Initiative was approved by an overwhelming majority of voters in 1984. It had more than one purpose. It was an ordinance that required the preservation of historic improvements at the Rillito Racetrack and to support the historic preservation of the improvements. As you know Mo Udall suggested the Initiative and some of its language, and was the first person to sign it. We would respectfully request that Pima County not take action on approving the contract in tomorrow's agenda to tear down the barns.

We would include the Initiative Ordinance in any legal action to preserve the barns and horse racing. Other than this issue, we think Pima County has benefitted our community in the manner in which they have protected soccer and horse racing.



Historic Rillito Inc., by Ed Moore, Pres.