



MEMORANDUM

Date: May 13, 2014

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

From: C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator 

Re: **Pima Prospers First Draft Online Release**

The first review draft of the Pima County Comprehensive Plan Update, Pima Prospers, has been posted on line at www.pimaprospers.com and is now available to the public. Ten public meetings in the form of open houses are slated to begin on May 19 and run through June 3. A press release (attached) will be issued today to announce the draft; and, in addition, the announcement will be distributed to a broad list of stakeholders and interested parties, as well as people who attended one of the workshops on the plan last fall. There also will be advertisements in several weekly newspapers and the *Arizona Daily Star*. A copy will be placed in each Pima County branch library as well.

The draft comprehensive plan represents a significant shift from the past. The existing comprehensive plan is predominately a land use plan, from both land development and land conservation perspectives. Pima Prospers changes that by focusing on creating healthy communities, promoting economic development along with raising per capita income, laying out a more regional focus and vision, recognizing anticipated demographic shifts, and creating strong ties between the plan and the financial and budgetary resources of the County. This planning process has been truly multi-disciplinary, and the plan reflects multiple interconnections of County activities. This draft is a work in progress, but it is a good starting point to begin the community discussion about the County's future.

This first draft includes a vision, core themes and principles, and key background material to set the stage for what the plan contains and the reasoning behind the content. It sets out only draft goals and policies in each of the major focus areas of the plan. The core of the draft plan is divided into four chapters:

1. Use of Land
2. Physical Infrastructure Connectivity
3. Human Infrastructure Connectivity
4. Economic Development

The policy document does not include either the cost of development element or the fiscal analysis, which will be written after the goals, policies, and maps have received suitable review and have been revised. Similarly, the implementation strategies will also follow the

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public review and revision, and the background material in appendix chapters will be written in final form later this summer.

There are 13 draft land use maps covering the metropolitan area, the Highway 286 corridor from Robles Junction to Sasabe, and western Pima County. On these maps, staff has identified areas under consideration for land use change, but no designations are yet specifically proposed. These areas need further study; and in the end, they may or may not be recommended for change. Other properties may be brought forward by the public in the months to come. The maps will undergo a fine-tuned accuracy review so any errors, conflicts, boundary issues or illogical designations counter to what is physically on the ground will be addressed as proposed changes.

Staff is thinking critically about some of the existing land use categories based on coming demographic trends. For example, there may be too many categories of land use today, especially given the shrinking area under County jurisdiction due to annexation. Also, if the County is likely going to see a trend toward smaller homes for some and multi-generational homes or properties for others, we may need to examine those categories (and eventually our zoning code).

The website includes a comment form so people can cite specific or general changes they wish to see in the draft. The comment boxes are expandable and very open ended. There is also a form for those seeking to change the land use or a specific policy as it relates to a specific piece of property. These types of requests occur in any land use planning process.

This multidisciplinary effort would not have been possible without the tremendous work of County employees in many departments who, along with the consultant team, performed as subject matter experts, staffed public meetings, attended internal process sessions, made maps, and wrote or edited extensively. This work will continue over the summer as implementation action plans are written and policies refined.

The next draft is scheduled to be released around Labor Day and will be significantly more refined based on input received at public meetings and the discussions that follow.

If you have questions or comments, please address them to Mr. Arlan Colton (arlan.colton@pima.gov) or Ms. Carla Blackwell (carla.blackwell@pima.gov), Co-project Managers, Development Services Department.

CHH/mjk
Attachment

c: Martin Willett, Chief Deputy County Administrator
Hank Atha, Deputy County Administrator for Community and Economic Development
John Bernal, Deputy County Administrator for Public Works
Jan Leshar, Deputy County Administrator for Medical and Health Services



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 12, 2014

Contact: Arlan Colton
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Your feedback welcomed online or at open houses on first draft of Pima County's Comprehensive Plan update

We heard you! And we thank you. Now, it's time to chat again.

Based on what you told us at 14 community meetings, Tucson Meet Yourself and other events, and online at www.PimaProsper.com since early last October, we have compiled a first draft of **Pima Prospers**, the 10-year update of the County's Comprehensive Plan.

We invite you to review the first draft and share your feedback at www.PimaProsper.com or to attend any of the 10 open houses in May and June. No formal presentations are planned, but we look forward to discussing the draft with you and gathering your input.

The draft is also available for review at any [Pima County Public Library](#) branch.

The Comprehensive Plan will be used to guide the region's growth, conservation and community design for decades to come. It is to be truly comprehensive in nature addressing most services of the County. Our aim is approval by the Pima County Board of Supervisors in 2015.

This first draft contains a vision and principles, and goals and policies in most of the subject areas (except the financial-based ones) of the plan. Once those are reviewed and modified, we can begin drafting the financial policies and crafting implementation strategies, so it is very important that the goals and policies are correct and complete. As for land use maps, the first draft of the plan shows existing planned land use and possible areas where change might occur, but individual land uses for those parcels will not be identified until the second draft. These areas may change after the review of the first draft, so discussion now is important.

From the draft:

"Pima Prospers is to be our plan looking ahead about 20 years into the future. It has been built on the ideas of hundreds of Pima County residents from Ajo to Vail, Catalina to Arivaca Junction, many business and citizen interests in our communities, representatives from the other jurisdictions in the region, and more than one hundred county staff members from many departments. It recognizes our role as a county in our region and in the multi-county region of the Sun Corridor. It recognizes that a significant change in our demographics is upon us and everyone who wants to will play a part in the development of its future.

"Pima Prospers is based on the belief that we can continue to conserve our cultural heritage and critical wildlife habitat, proactively work to grow our economy and raise our per capita income, and work to improve our existing physical and social infrastructure."

We hope to hear from you. Together, we can make sure Pima prospers.

Pima Prospers Open Houses

Monday, May 19, 2014

Pima County Natural Resources Parks and Recreation, 1st Floor Conference Room
3500 W. River Road
5:30 to 7 p.m.

Tuesday, May 20, 2014

Ryan Airfield, Conference Room
9698 W. Ajo Way
6 to 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 21, 2014

Green Valley Community Performance and Art Center
1250 W. Continental Road
10 a.m. to Noon

Wednesday, May 21, 2014

Pima County Housing Center
801 W. Congress St.
5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Golder Ranch Fire District
3885 E. Golder Ranch Drive
6 to 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 27, 2014

Pima County Health Department
3950 S. Country Club Road, #100
5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Picture Rocks Community Center
5615 N. Sanders Road
6:30 to 8 p.m.

Friday, May 30, 2014

Ajo Ambulance Services
1850 North Ajo Gila Bend Highway in Ajo
10 a.m. to Noon

Monday, June 2, 2014

Andrada Polytechnic High School, The Commons
12960 S. Houghton Road
6 to 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, June 3, 2014

Kirk Bear Canyon Branch Library
8959 E. Tanque Verde Road
6 to 7:30 p.m.

Individuals who attend the open houses can enter their names into a drawing to win tickets to the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, Titan Missile Museum, Pima Air & Space Museum, Old Tucson, Biosphere 2, and Kitt Peak National Observatory.

For more information, or for individuals with disabilities who require special accommodations, please contact Lindsey at (520) 885-9009 or email

Lindsey@kaneenpr.com. Requests should be made as soon as possible to allow time to arrange the accommodations.