



MEMORANDUM

Date: November 22, 2013

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

From: C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator 

Re: **Pima County Secession**

In the past, there has been some discussion about altering the south County boundary to exclude Green Valley or portions of southern Pima County and apply those to Santa Cruz County. These discussions went nowhere.

Attached is an information sheet developed by Mr. Emmett McLoughlin, President of the Santa Cruz County Committee for Quality Jobs, Inc. This document describes the benefits perceived by Mr. McLaughlin of changing the County boundaries. His document is titled "Move the Line –Not the Mine," and contains a general description of the boundary modification. We have mapped this modification, and it is shown on the attached GIS map as the red line or a new County line based on our interpretation of their intentions. The proponents describe three processes to change the County boundary and quickly settle on legislative action as suggested by former Representative Randy Graf. Mr. Graf is working in concert with Mr. McLaughlin as stated in the material.

The modification would move, based on our analysis, approximately 54,000 people into Santa Cruz County and reduce the County's total assessed value by approximately \$1.4 billion. In addition, the District 2 Supervisor now resides in Sahuarita; by this action, his residence would move from Pima County to the newly realigned Santa Cruz County.

The purpose of this memorandum is to alert the Board of Supervisors of this potential legislative action. I have advised our Chief Deputy County Administrator Martin Willett, of this proposed action who will, in turn, inform our contract lobbyist that this matter may arise in the Arizona Legislature.

CHH/anc

Attachments

c: Martin Willett, Chief Deputy County Administrator

Move the Line - Not the Mine

To: Martin
another effort
to change the

One way to increase the financial and political viability of Santa Cruz County would be to amend the northern county line so as to include Green Valley, Sahuarita, the mines behind them, and drawing a new northerly bound using the Sahuarita Unified School District and Empire School District boundaries, and including all of the Rosemont mine property into Santa Cruz County.

County boundary

This action would "roughly" double the population base and triple the assessed valuation of the county, thus relieving taxpayers who are being asked to support ever growing county budgets. The accretion would also have the effect of bringing Republican voters into the county, so that the GOP would have a chance to elect at least one supervisor and maybe other county officers. The political reality is that this possibility does not exist today.

CPM

11/18/12

Advantages to Green Valley and Sahuarita

Lower Taxes - Better Political Control of their Future - Confirmation of their presence at the head of the Santa Cruz Valley

Advantages to Santa Cruz County

into good idea

Lower Taxes - Enjoy benefits of a more competitive political environment - Increased tax base to support needed services, e.g. Community College, fire districts, ...

McC. Callaghan

1.20 Mine

Advantages to Mines

Lower Taxes - relief from what the Pima County courts have called the "capricious and arbitrary" actions of Pima County government

Arizona Revised Statutes provides that county lines can be changed in any of three ways. The first is by Legislative action. The second is by Statewide Initiative. The third is by County Initiative. The law is found in Title 11 of the Arizona Revised Statutes - Counties. Specifically in Article 3. A strict interpretation of the County Initiative today would require gathering at least 100,000 validated signatures in Pima County to initiate a Pima County election of approval. As well as getting 20% of the registered voters of Santa Cruz County voting for governor in the last election to sign on to their side of the initiative. I feel that we could collect the necessary signatures in Santa Cruz County easily. But feel we might find ourselves with a big fight on our hands with the powers that be in Pima County who would not want to see the assessed valuation for the mines taken from them.

An easier way to approach the question is that one suggested by Randy Graf, a former Member of the Arizona House of Representatives. A few years ago, Graf had drafted a bill that called for a two step process in support of this plan. He said that it was passed out of one committee in the Senate, but thereafter got lost in the closing down of the session. There is no love lost between the Arizona Legislature and Pima County/City of Tucson. Randy and I feel that the Legislature will be sympathetic to our efforts.

Contact

In the first step a "seceding" district including Green Valley, Sahuarita, and the affected mining areas

County Board of Supervisors could choose to accept this new area or ask its voters by referendum to accept or reject the realignment.

Should this approach to making our county more vital be interesting to you, I recommend that we form "Committees of Correspondence" throughout Santa Cruz County and the seceding portion of Pima County. These Committees would study the various aspects of the suggested change. E.g. what effect on county services would the new assessment bases have. After study they would then adopt a unified position as to the bounds of the proposed accretion and then agree on a plan. Then we would officially form a committee (I.C.) and announce our interests to the world. The Green Valley News, according to Graf, and my talks with Manuel Coppola of the Nogales International indicate that the newspapers are "open" to this possibility. In proceeding we would identify one or more legislators to introduce the legislation in January. And get the measure approved in the legislature. And set for elections.

Everyone feels that something has to be done. The important thing is to plan our action. And then act on our plan.

Emmett McLoughlin

President

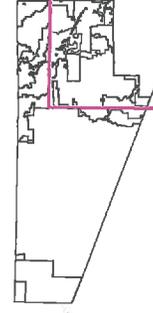
Santa Cruz County Committee for Quality Jobs, Inc.

Tucson office: 520-546-9393 Sonoita home: 520-455-9282

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY EXPANSION

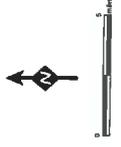
- Towns and Cities
- Affected School Districts
- Indian Nations
- Administrative Boundaries
- Mine Properties
- County Preserves (fee & lease)
- Other Preserves

Pima County Index Map



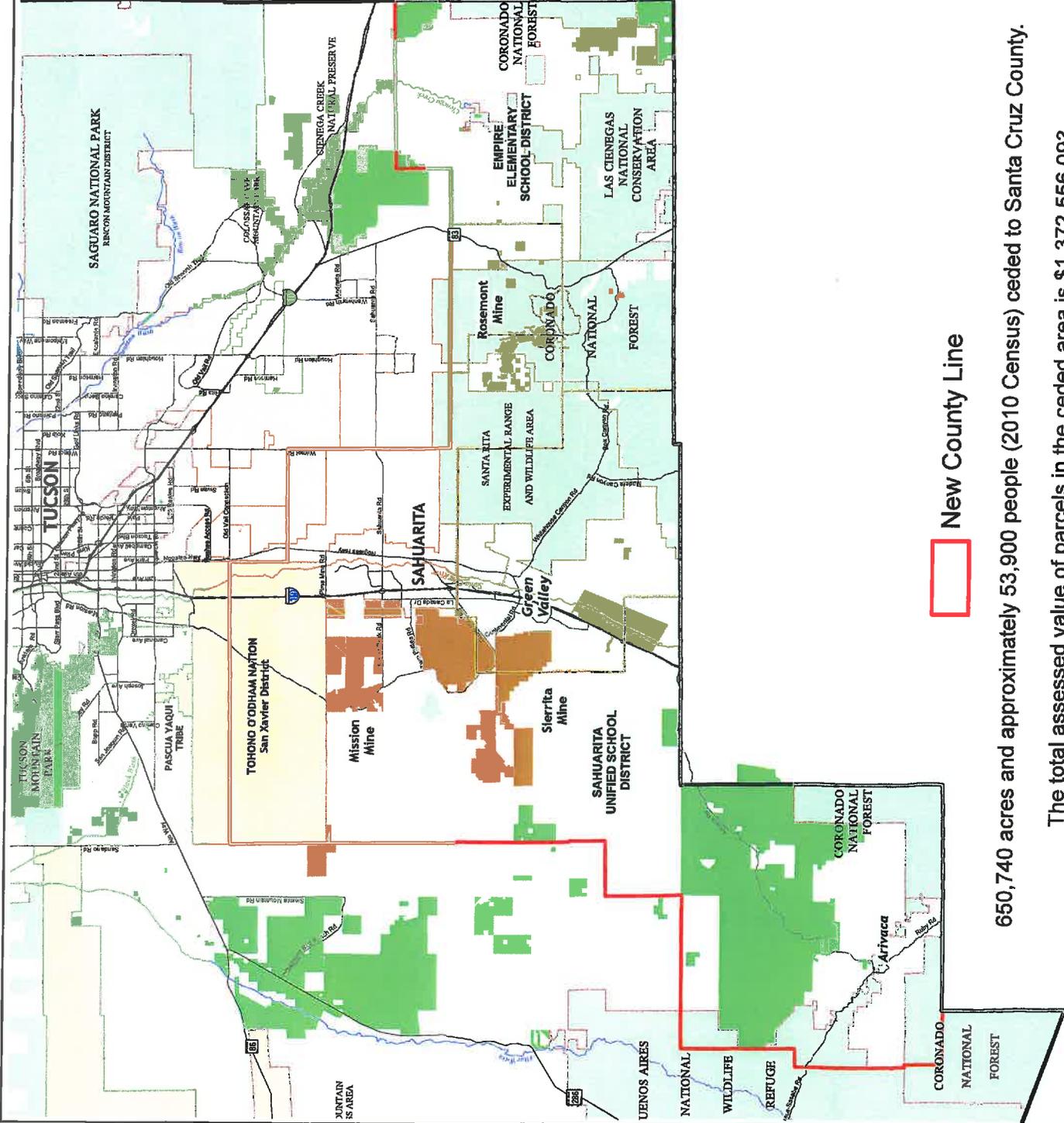
Insert Map Scale 1:1,500,000 for Area of Print

The information contained on this map is the result of digital information processed on a variety of electronic sources. The accuracy of the information provided on this map is not guaranteed. Pima County Information Systems, Inc. does not warrant the accuracy of any information contained on this map. The user assumes all responsibility for the use of this information.



11/20/2013

PIMA COUNTY
GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS
Pima County Information Systems Dept.
Tucson, Arizona 85724-1001
520/794-6881 - FAX 520/794-4129



New County Line

650,740 acres and approximately 53,900 people (2010 Census) ceded to Santa Cruz County.

The total assessed value of parcels in the ceded area is \$1,372,556,093.