



PIMA COUNTY, ARIZONA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS POLICY

Subject:

PIMA COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY (PCEP)

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PURPOSE: To establish Pima County policy regarding environmental exposure to which the County is subjected. This policy shall emphasize Pima County's commitment to environmental protection and to the mitigation of any negative effects of Pima County's operations on the environment. This will be done to the extent possible within budgetary constraints.

BACKGROUND: Pima County recognizes the ramifications and impact of environmental damage on its operations. This impact reflects on the quality of life in Pima County and on the increasing costs of environmental risk to Pima County. The basic premise of this policy shall be to:

When ever possible, preclude, minimize or remediate the effects of environmental damage on Pima County properties and operations.

Give priority to a safe, clean environment.

Emphasize compliance with all federal and state regulations.

Develop administrative procedures to assist all County departments in achieving the County's environmental goals and objectives.

POLICY: It shall be the policy of the Board of Supervisors of Pima County to ensure that:

1. All departments and units of Pima County Government shall comply with applicable environmental laws, statutes, regulations, rules and guide lines promulgated by Federal, State and Local law in a consistent, uniform and timely basis.
2. Pima County shall endeavor to eliminate or minimize its risk of loss from environmental damages by:

Ensuring that prior assessments be conducted of properties being acquired to preclude acquisition of environmentally damaged properties or to minimize the adverse financial effects of such acquisition and comply with due diligence requirements.

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Conducting environmental audits of owned properties as appropriate to determine the extent of environmental damages if any and to remediate properties where environmental damages are found.

Provide environmental training to Pima County employees as necessary.

Pursue recovery of remediation costs from other parties responsible for environmental damages whenever possible.

Actively pursue federal and state assistance in remediation projects and whenever it is in the best interests of the County to have such projects assumed by the federal or state authorities under applicable statutes.

- 3.a. Pima County departments involved in the acquisition of properties shall establish pre acquisition environmental assessment programs to ensure protection under "due diligence" standards.
- 3.b. Departments subject to environmental exposure shall conduct environmental audits to determine the nature of these exposures. Where environmental damage is discovered, remediation activities shall be prioritized based on severity of exposure and budgetary considerations.
4. Risk Management and the Pima County Attorney Civil Division Environmental Unit shall assist departments having exposures to environmental issues and problems or who are subject to environmental regulations. Such departments shall provide for the position of environmental officer, either separately or in conjunction with their safety officer position.
- 5.a. All Pima County departments and units are charged with the duty to become and remain knowledgeable regarding Pima County's Environmental Policy and, when needed seek assistance with environmental questions or problems. Accordingly, the Pima County Manager shall establish, by appointment, a Special Environmental Committee to review environmental cases, assist in environmental decision making and serve as environmental consultants to Pima County, the Board of Supervisors and departments. Upon request, the Special Environmental Committee shall render such services to any unit of Pima County Government requiring assistance. Pima County Risk Management

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Department and the Environmental Unit of Pima County Attorney's Office shall assist the SEC and Pima County's departments in understanding and implementing the Environmental Policy and in complying with all relevant and applicable environmental laws, state or federal.

- 5.b. Each department shall annually review its facilities, operations and activities with respect to environmental risk, and provide a written inventory of said risk as well as a written operating plan designed to manage and minimize said environmental risk in accordance with this policy. Further, the environmental risk inventory and operating plan shall be submitted to and approved by the Risk Management Department.

SUNSET PROVISION: This policy statement shall be reviewed by June 30, 1994.