MEMORANDUM

Date: May 28, 2013

To: Chairman and Members
   Pima County Bond Advisory Committee

From: C.H. Huckelberry
      County Administrator

Re: Attached Letter from the City of Tucson Parks and Recreation Commission

By way of this memorandum I am transmitting a letter from the City of Tucson Parks and Recreation Commission to Mayor and Council dated Friday, May 24, 2013. It appears the letter’s intent is to show that the bond package being developed by the Pima County Bond Advisory Committee (BAC) would not provide equitable benefits to City residents. I do not believe this to be the case. Also attached is a map showing the location of projects currently on the BAC’s tentatively approved list, which clearly shows the majority of projects would be located within or directly adjacent to the City of Tucson.

Furthermore, the BAC has not yet had the opportunity to consider the project updates I provided in February and the recent new and updated proposals totaling an additional $650 million. Two of the key criteria adopted by the BAC in 2009 to assist in prioritizing projects were regional benefit and regional or jurisdictional balance. I continue to support the BAC’s use of these criteria in order to ensure equitable benefit across the entire County.

While it is important to remember that the BAC’s effort is a work in progress, one thing is certain – the County has a very good track record of providing equitable benefits in past bond packages. This record was confirmed by the recent Arizona Auditor General report on past County bond programs wherein they stated:

“In general, projects financed through the three bond programs tended to benefit individual jurisdictions in approximate proportion to the secondary property taxes paid by each jurisdiction’s residents to pay off the bonds.”

The greatest deviation from this pattern occurred in unincorporated areas of Pima County and the City of Tucson. For example, the citizens in the unincorporated areas paid 43 percent of the taxes and received 36 percent of the value of completed projects. In contrast, the citizens of the City of Tucson paid 43 percent of the taxes and received 50 percent of the value of completed projects.”

Finally, I point out what I assume is an error in the second paragraph of the Commission’s letter:
“...the total tentative Parks and Recreation proposal for the City of Tucson is $193,752,000 of a total of $533,742,000 (36%).” I believe the intent was to state:
Chairman and Members, Pima County Bond Advisory Committee
Re: Attached Letter from the City of Tucson Parks and Recreation Commission
May 28, 2013
Page 2

"...the total tentative Parks and Recreation proposal for the City of Tucson all cities, towns, tribes and organizations is $193,752,000 of a total of $533,742,000 (36%)."

CHH/dr

c: The Honorable Chairman and Members, Pima County Board of Supervisors
City of Tucson Parks and Recreation Commission
Richard Miranda, City Manager, City of Tucson
Fred Gray, Parks and Recreation Director, City of Tucson
May 24, 2013

City of Tucson Mayor and Council
City Hall
255 West Alameda
Tucson, AZ 85701

SUBJECT: Future Pima County Bond Election / Updated Tentatively Approved Bond Projects List

Dear Honorable Mayor Rothschild and Council Members:

The Parks and Recreation Department has provided updates to the Parks and Recreation Commission on the future proposed Pima County Bond Election Planning process at its March 27 and April 24 meetings.

The Commission understands that the Pima County Bond Advisory Committee has been diligently working on a bond proposal since 2007. The Parks and Recreation component of the bond package, tentatively approved by the Bond Advisory Committee, calls for $210,792,000 for Parks projects. The County Administrator has recently provided updated allocations where projects have been completed or funding for a particular project is no longer needed, and as a result of the adjustments, the total tentative Parks and Recreation proposal for the City of Tucson is $193,752,000 of a total of $533,742,000 (36%). Of the $193,752,000, the projects requested by the City Parks and Recreation Department equal $60,870,000 or 31% of the tentatively approved projects.

The Commission recommends that the Mayor and Council remain engaged in the future Bond package planning process to ensure that the City of Tucson receives a proportionate and fair share of the total bond package based on population and on the needs identified by the City.

Thank you for allowing the Tucson Parks and Recreation Commission to provide input and recommendations on this important upcoming bond proposal.

Sincerely,

Ms. Caroline Grey-Ganz
Chairperson
Tucson Parks and Recreation Commission

cc: Members of the Tucson Parks and Recreation Commission
Larry Hecker, Chair, Pima County Bond Advisory Committee
Richard Miranda, City Manager
Kelly Gottschalk, Assistant City Manager/CFO
Fred Gray, Director of Parks and Recreation