



## CONSERVATION BOND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

PIMA COUNTY  
CONSERVATION  
BOND ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE

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**To: Pima County Bond Advisory Committee**

**From: Members  
Pima County Conservation Bond Advisory Committee**

**Date: November 6, 2003**

**Re: Recommendations on Other Jurisdiction's Open Space Bond Proposals**

On October 29, 2003, County Administrator Chuck Huckelberry requested that the Conservation Bond Advisory Committee review open space bond proposals from the Towns of Marana, Oro Valley, and Sahuarita, and the City of Tucson, and forward comments and recommendations to the County Bond Advisory Committee before November 7, 2003. After reviewing the proposals that fell within our purview, **Committee members stand by the original \$250 million Conservation Bond Program presented to the County Bond Advisory Committee on October 17, 2003, for the following reasons:**

- Committee members continue to uphold the integrity of the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan and its intensive 5-year planning process involving thousands of participants.
- The Committee's original recommendations adhere to the Board of Supervisors primary intent for this 2004 bond election, which was to fund the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan and the Sonoran Desert Peoples Protection Plan (i.e. conservation and neighborhood reinvestment committees). The proposed projects will contribute to the quality of life of all County residents for generations to come, while helping to facilitate economic development throughout the County.
- Committee members continue to recommend a \$250 million Conservation Bond Program with \$20 million for Cultural Resources, and with no less than 75% used to acquire or conserve Habitat Protection Priorities and no more than 25% be used to acquire Community Open Space Priorities.
- Using strict criteria, the Committee went through a rigorous process to narrow down approximately 40 strong proposals, most of which had much community support, to a develop the Community Open Space Priorities list of only 16 projects. Of these 16 projects, 7 overlap with lands proposed by the other jurisdictions and the Committee members appreciate the other jurisdictions support for these projects. These projects include: 3 Arizona Preserve Initiatives, Carpenter Ranch, and the Catalina Conservation Easements in the Tortolita Sub Area; the Habitat at 36<sup>th</sup> and Kino; and the 36<sup>th</sup> Street – Frick and Tucson West parcels. The remaining 9 Community Open Space Priority projects lie in unincorporated Pima County. Committee members stand behind

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the original Community Open Space Priority recommendations. They represent a balanced allocation throughout Pima County and appeal widely to active constituencies. They predominately include park expansions, signature view-shed properties and wildlife corridor protection. Committee members do not recommend the acquisition of the 4 remaining open space proposals from the other jurisdictions: Valle Alegre, Kelly Ranch, Santa Cruz Open Space and Environmental Protection project in Sahuarita, and Agua Caliente. Committee members do, however, recognize that the City of Tucson's Agua Caliente proposal may contain 2 parcels identified as secondary priority private Habitat Protection Priorities. In this case, it is possible that lands in this area will be targeted for protection. It may, however, not be the specific parcels identified in the proposal.

- If the County Bond Advisory Committee would decide to add any additional Community Open Space Priorities, Committee members recommend that additional money be allocated above the proposed \$250 million to acquire these properties.
- As was stated in the Committee's presentation, the recommended Conservation Bond Program will directly benefit residents of Pima County, regardless of jurisdiction, due to the adjacency of proposed protected lands to urban and suburban residents, and the easy accessibility to these exceptional lands.
- Committee members support the revised \$20 million package of Cultural Resource proposals, which were updated to include many of the other jurisdictions' proposals.

Committee members appreciate the other jurisdictions' time and effort in developing these proposals. Committee members also encourage the jurisdictions to continue to partner with Pima County to bring habitat conservation and cultural resource dollars to this community and to implement regional conservation goals that will benefit all Pima County residents, regardless of jurisdictional boundaries.

Thank you for the opportunity to review these proposals. Committee members trust that these recommendations will be given the utmost consideration by the Pima County Bond Advisory Committee, and Committee members will remain available to the County Bond Advisory Committee and the Board of Supervisors, as needed.

Respectfully Submitted,  
6 members of the Pima County Conservation Bond Advisory Committee:

Tom Sheridan  
Chuck Pettis  
Paula Chronister  
Steve Alexander  
Christina McVie  
Gayle Hartmann

Attachment

## 2004 Conservation Bond Program - Corrected November 6, 2003\*

Cultural Resources	\$ 20,000,000
Habitat Protection Priorities	
Southeastern Corridor Project Area	\$ 58,000,000
Santa Cruz Basin Project Area	\$ 35,000,000
Altar Valley Project Area	\$ 33,000,000
Avra Valley Project Area	\$ 6,000,000
Tortolita Mountains Project Area	\$ 18,000,000
Tucson Basin Project Area	\$ 9,000,000
San Pedro Project Area	\$ 13,000,000
Habitat Protection Priorities Sub-Total	\$ 172,000,000
Community Open Space Priorities	
Southeastern Corridor Project Area	\$ 6,000,000
Santa Cruz Basin Project Area	\$ 3,000,000
Avra Valley Project Area	\$ 24,000,000
Tortolita Mountains Project Area	\$ 24,000,000
Tucson Basin Project Area	\$ 1,000,000
Community Open Space Priorities Sub-Total	\$ 58,000,000
Conservation Bond Program Total	\$ 250,000,000

\* The allocations for the Habitat Protection Priorities and the Community Open Space Priorities were incorrect in the County Administrators Memo to the Board of Supervisors - October 31, 2001. The allocation for Cultural Resources has been updated to reflect the revised Cultural Resources proposal presented to Conservation Bond Advisory Committee members on November 4, 2004.