

**IN OPPOSITION OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE'S PROPOSED
CLOSURE OF THE
TUCSON PROCESSING AND DISTRIBUTION CENTER AT
1501 S. CHERRYBELL STRAVENUE, TUCSON, ARIZONA**

A. On December 5, 2011, the U.S. Postal Service announced its intention to proceed with proposed changes to postal service standards, including replacing overnight service for First Class Mail with two to three day delivery, as well as the consolidation of postal facilities.

B. Under this proposal, the U.S. Postal Service is considering the closure of 252 mail processing facilities out of 487 mail processing facilities nationwide, resulting in a reduction of 35,000 out of 151,000 employee positions.

C. Under this proposal, the U.S. Postal Service is proposing to move mail processing operations from the Tucson Processing and Distribution Center to the Phoenix Processing and Distribution Center.

D. On December 13, 2011, the U.S. Postal Service announced it would delay the closure of mail processing facilities until May 1, 2012 to provide Congress time to consider comprehensive postal reform legislation.

E. The Tucson Metropolitan Area is the 33rd largest metropolitan area in the nation with a population of nearly one million people.

F. Closure of the Tucson Processing and Distribution Center would mean the direct loss of 310 postal jobs at the Tucson facility, the loss of an additional 130 indirect and induced jobs, the loss of \$30 million in economic activity in Pima County, and the loss of \$4.8 million in tax revenues for federal, state and local governments.

G. In response to the anthrax attacks of October 2001, the U.S. Postal Service installed BioDetection Systems (BDS) in their large-scale mail processing facilities. Employees of these facilities, in conjunction with local responders, have been educated about anthrax, response actions and prophylactic medication. Because of the time delay inherent in getting final verification that anthrax has been used, prophylactic antibiotic treatment of possibly exposed personnel must be started as soon as possible. Closure of the Tucson Processing and Distribution Center would delay the ability of the U.S. Postal Service to identify anthrax attacks and distribute the prophylactic antibiotic treatment to Pima County residents in a timely manner.

H. The Pima County Recorder's office is one of the largest customers of postal services in Pima County and is projected to mail over one million pieces of mail in 2012. Mail includes vote-by-mail ballots, voter identification cards, voter registration forms and address update letters. The majority of voters in Pima County now vote by mail.

I. Arizona election law requires that ballots for all voters on the early voting list must be mailed on the first day of early voting, 26 days prior to the election. Pima County contracts with a vendor in Phoenix to assemble and mail ballots for early voting. In 2010, the Phoenix postal processing center stated that they could not process all Pima and Maricopa County ballots on the same day, requiring use of the Tucson processing center. If Phoenix is the only processing facility in the State, it is highly unlikely it will be able to meet the vote by mail needs of all 15 counties.

J. The closure would disproportionately impact the time Native American voters on the Tohono O'odham Nation have to return ballots by mail.

K. Closure of all but the Phoenix facility would also fail to provide a backup facility for vote by mail processing in case of unforeseen circumstances. Lack of a backup facility is a violation of state election law.

L. Closure of the Tucson Processing and Distribution Center could impact the ability of the Pima County Attorney's Office to notify victims of court hearings at which they are lawfully entitled to be present, by delaying the delivery of victim notification letters which are required by court rule and statute to be delivered within five days.

M. Closure of the Tucson Processing and Distribution Center could be detrimental to the many self-represented litigants in both Family Law and Civil Litigation cases in Pima County Superior Court. Because of the nature of the cases, hearings are often set within a very short time period and in some instances notice of the hearings can only be provided by mail. Failure of parties to receive timely notices could cause postponement or continuance of hearings, often in cases where physical, emotional or financial consequences can result because of the delay.

N. Pima County's Transportation Department has been successful with neighborhood construction notices being delivered within two days when a utility or contractor advises of a road closure or impact to a neighborhood. Closure of the Tucson Processing and Distribution Center will result in construction delays and increased costs if Pima County is to maintain this level of advance notice to roadway users.

O. Closure of the Tucson Processing and Distribution Center would delay timely mail delivery to and from service members at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base and Fort Huachuca.

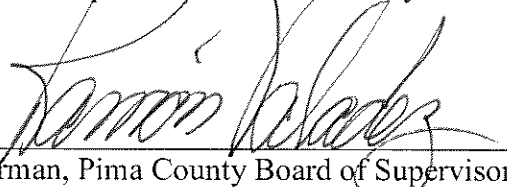
P. Closure of the Tucson Processing and Distribution Center could eliminate a local bulk mailing discount currently provided to businesses and organizations that deliver mail to the processing facility directly.

Q. Closure of the Tucson Processing and Distribution Center would delay prescription drug delivery by mail.

NOW THEREFORE, UPON MOTION DULY MADE, SECONDED AND CARRIED, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE PIMA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1. Opposes the closure of the U.S. Postal Service's Tucson Processing and Distribution Center.
2. Supports House Resolution 2956, the Fair and Equitable Postal Service Act, which expands the criteria for considering closure, and prohibits the closure, of a postal facility if it would result in a disproportionate, unreasonable, or undue burden on a class of individuals who are elderly, economically disadvantaged, limited in mobility, or without reliable and affordable internet access.
3. Directs the County Administrator to transmit this resolution to the U.S Postal Service Arizona District Manager, the Postal Regulatory Commission that is currently holding hearings on these issues, and our Congressional delegation.
4. Directs the County Administrator to notify the U.S. Department of Justice of potential impacts to the voting rights of Native Americans.

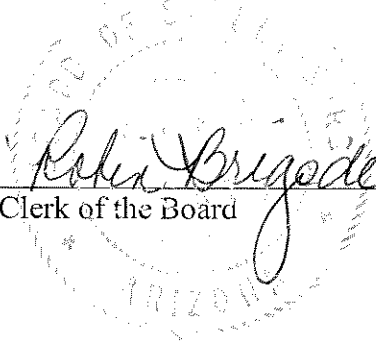
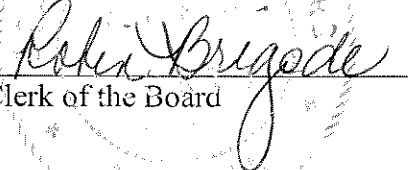
PASSED, ADOPTED AND APPROVED this 10th day of January, 2012 by the Board of Supervisors of Pima County.



Chairman, Pima County Board of Supervisors

JAN 10 2012

ATTEST:

Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Deputy County Attorney