



MEMORANDUM

Date: March 2, 2004

To: C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator

From: Nicole Fyffe *NLF*
Special Staff Assistant

Re: **Conservation Bond Advisory Committee Recommendations on Bond Implementation Plan Language**

On January 23, 2004 you requested assistance from the Conservation Bond Advisory Committee in drafting the open space and habitat protection section of the bond implementation plan. You specifically requested input on 2 items: how to allocate funds between the Community Open Space parcels and the Habitat Protection Priorities, and how to allocate funds between sub areas. At the Committee's February 2nd meeting, you also requested direction on the City-owned Bellota/A-7 Ranch, and on language concerning State Trust Land Reform. In addition, Supervisor Bronson's office sent a letter to the Committee stating her support for consideration of an additional project - now called the Tucson Mountain Park South Corridor.

The Conservation Bond Advisory Committee met four times from February 2nd to March 1st to deliberate on these items. The Committees recommendations are attached in the form of bond improvement plan language. The recommended bond language includes the following:

- The Committee recommends the addition of the Tucson Mountain Park South Corridor project under Community Open Space parcels. Real Property is currently developing a cost estimate for this project.
- The Committee recommends the Tucson Mountain Park Painted Hills project to include the original acreage totaling 300 acres. This is estimated to cost \$4.5 million, which is \$2.5 million more than prior recommendations.
- The Committee recommends specific language under the Urban Open Spaces Requested by Jurisdictions with regard to the City-owned Bellota/A-7 Ranch. "The amounts allocated to the urban open space projects requested by the City of Tucson may exceed the actual purchase prices. If this occurs, consideration shall be given to the purchase of conservation easements on the Bellota/A-7 Ranch with any surplus funds."

- The Committee recommends that “\$10 million in bond funds will be allocated for the purpose of acquiring urban open space to prevent encroachment on Davis Monthan Air Force Base. No more than 25 percent (or \$41 million) of the remaining \$164.3 million in bond funds will be allocated for the purpose of funding projects identified as Community Open Space Parcels, which includes \$15 million earmarked for Urban Open Spaces Requested by Jurisdictions. No less than 75 percent (or \$123.3 million) of the remaining \$164.3 million in bond funds will be allocated for the purpose of funding projects identified as Habitat Protection Priorities.”
- The Committee recommends the percent allocations per sub area for the Habitat Protection Priorities remain the same as in their original recommendation.
- The Committee recommends language specifically stating that “For the projects identified in this ordinance as either Community Open Space Parcels or Habitat Protection Priorities, the number of projects identified is in excess of the number that can be purchased with the stated allocations of bond funds.”
- The Committee recommends language regarding State Trust Land reform: “ If this or any future State Land Reform package is approved and includes a provision whereby some lands identified in this ordinance are reclassified for conservation without requiring compensation, bond funds for said projects will be reallocated to State Trust Lands that do require compensation for preservation.”
- The Committee recommends the addition of 2 members to the proposed Conservation Advisory Commission, with at least one member representing the ranch community.
- The Committee recommends that “To the extent possible, purchases of private properties identified as Community Open Space Priorities, will occur in earlier years of the bond implementation program, in order to acquire the properties before they are developed.”

Attachment

- c: Jim Barry, Executive Assistant to the County Administrator
Members of the Conservation Bond Advisory Committee