



MEMORANDUM

Date: February 18, 2009

To: Distribution

From: C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "CHH", is written over the printed name "C.H. Huckelberry".

Re: Departmental Consolidations

Given the difficult economic conditions facing the County, which will not abate for potentially several years as we have just seen the first slowing or overall reduction in assessed value upon which the property tax levies of 2010/11 will be based, it is important to examine all areas for potential savings. This declining and/or stagnate change in assessed value will mean less revenues for the County from our property tax levies and potentially could impact the County greater than the present loss of state-shared revenues. For this reason it is important that we continue to consider every possible cost saving action, including departmental consolidations.

For example, there are a number of departments that were created out of a single department. There are departments that may no longer be appropriate to deliver contemporary County services, and there are potentially departments that could be combined with other departments or agencies of similar mission, for example, recombining the Department of Environmental Quality with the Public Health Department; combining Community Resources and Community Services; combining the Department of Institutional Health with the Pima Health System; combining Transportation, Flood Control, and Solid Waste into a specific Public Works agency; combining the Public Defender and Legal Defender departments; and combining Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation and the Stadium District with potentially Community Resources.

While I understand that discussing departmental consolidations will be unnerving to some, these discussions are necessary and appropriate as we face continued stagnant and/or declining revenues, yet in some cases increased service demands. I would appreciate your discussion of these options. I have asked Deputy County Administrator Martin Willett to coordinate this departmental organizational review with you.

CHH/jj

Distribution:

Hank Atha, Deputy County Administrator for Community and Economic Development
John Bernal, Deputy County Administrator for Public Works
Dennis Douglas, Deputy County Administrator Medical and Health Services

c: Martin Willett, Chief Deputy County Administrator