

The Board met in a Regular Meeting at the Santa Cruz County Complex, 2150 N. Congress Drive, Room #120, Nogales, AZ. Present: Rudy Molera, Chairman; John Fanning, Vice-Chairman; Luis Carlos Davis, Member; Jesus Valdez, County Manager; Mauricio Chavez, Deputy County Manager; Deputy County Manager, Christopher Young; and Alma Schultz, Clerk of the Board.

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Molera called the meeting to order, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited, led by Justice of the Peace, Adriana Olaiz.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Supervisor Davis made a motion to adopt the Agenda and deviate from the Agenda sequence as needed; seconded by Vice-Chairman Fanning; motion carried unanimously. (Ayes: Davis, Fanning, Molera)

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

David Richins spoke about his partnership with the County on the proactive Wildfire Protection Plan and mentioned upcoming open houses that are part of the initiative.

Greg Lucero, speaking on behalf of the Provisional Community College, addressed Action Item No. 3. He explained that the Strategic Workforce Plan aims to identify the employment needs of the community and propose training programs funded by South32, with the hope that the plan will be approved.

Wendy Islas, a resident of Rio Rico, expressed concerns regarding the contribution agreement with South32 related to the economic specialist position. She suggested revising the 2022 Memorandum of Understanding with South32 and pausing the contribution agreement until the Community Benefits and Protections Agreement is reviewed. She also recommended moving forward with the position using County budget funds instead.

Richard Nash, a fourth-generation owner of Circle Z Ranch in Patagonia, spoke about the impact of new industry in Patagonia as a major contributor to the County. He requested to be included in the negotiations for the Community Benefits and Protections Agreement, expressing concern that funding is being provided without adequate protections. He also called for more community input in the process.

Mike Humphries, a resident of Rio Rico, voiced concerns about high taxation.

Gerard Navarro, also a resident of Rio Rico, stated that his taxes increase every year. He noted that the law says "may," not "shall," and expressed concerns about school funding.

Emily Maddeling, a resident of Rio Rico, raised concerns about who is advising the Board on agreements with South32.

J. Thompson commented on Action Items 3 and 4, as well as Consent Agenda Item 2. They requested a bidding process to clarify what qualifications are being sought and suggested that young people from the County be considered. He also called for greater transparency.

CURRENT EVENTS

1. BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

SUPERVISOR DAVIS: congratulated Supervisor John Fanning on his induction into the Santa Cruz Valley Unified School District No. 35 Wall of Fame. He noted that it was his third week visiting the provisional community college, emphasizing his ongoing commitment to education. He thanked Deputy County Manager Mauricio Chavez for accompanying him during community visits and expressed appreciation to the Nogales Police Department for a recent ride-along around the City of Nogales. He also attended a 4H Club presentation and commended Norma Ruiz and the participating students for their outstanding work.

VICE-CHAIRMAN FANNING: reported that he attended a County Supervisors Association meeting, where he participated in a check-in session for new supervisors and shared that it helped normalize the challenges of the role. He continues to participate in Border Wall meetings with Fisher Industries, Customs and Border Protection, and Deputy County Manager Christopher Young. He visited the Old Duquesne Road community and remains active in the Rural Water Working Group. He reaffirmed his commitment to transparency in the Community Benefits and Protections Agreement, particularly in collaboration with the Town of Patagonia on mining protections. He encouraged the public to watch a suicide awareness film, highlighting the impact of social media on mental health. He also participated in a NACo (National Association of Counties) Human Health and Services meeting, with a focus on education. He announced a study session in November regarding Vatare Lots and encouraged the public to subscribe to the county newsletter. He thanked Public Works, specifically Thomas, for his dedication to working in extreme heat. He also traveled to Hermosillo in support of cleft palate surgery efforts for children. Lastly, he thanked the Elections staff for their work and acknowledged the students who participated as poll workers.

CHAIRMAN MOLERA: reported that he took part in the County Supervisors Association meetings on Wednesday and Thursday along with the other two supervisors. He thanked the Elections Department, the Recorder's Office, and volunteers for their excellent work in ensuring a smooth election. He also attended the Santa Cruz Valley Unified School District No. 35 Hall of Fame event and congratulated Supervisor Fanning on his induction. He thanked David for meeting with the Board regarding the fire protection plan and expressed appreciation to Public Works for their hard work during the recent heavy rainfall. He recommended the public watch the "Can't Look Away" movie for awareness and encouraged families to have open conversations with their young ones.

2. MANAGER

JESUS VALDEZ, COUNTY MANAGER, no report.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS AND ACTIVITIES

1. FINANCE: CASH & INVESTMENTS, EXPENDITURES & REVENUE REPORTS

Mauricio Chavez, Deputy County Manager, reported \$16,978,548.26 in the General Fund, of which \$16,443,877.82 is invested; \$5,909,940.58 in the Road Fund, of which \$5,086,150.81 is invested; \$2,356,741.17 in the Flood Control District Fund, of which \$306,528.55 is invested; \$6,028,174.76 in the Jail District Fund, of which \$4,368,804.75 is invested; \$53,311,741.47 total for all funds, of which \$28,311,229.56 is invested; \$5,364,838.19 estimated end of month balance, compared to \$11,773,396.32 cash at month year, a difference of \$(6,408,558.13).

He also provided a summary regarding Congress's failure to pass the annual appropriation bills that fund federal agencies for the upcoming fiscal year. As a result, a federal government shutdown is in

effect, leading to the closure of non-essential government operations. This may impact federal employees and interrupt federal grants to the county, potentially affecting county offices. He recommended a hiring freeze on grant-funded programs and stated that he will continue to provide updates.

2. DEPARTMENT(S) UPDATE

Zaida Bustamante, WIOA Local Workforce Director, provided information about the upcoming job conference.

Jr. Leonard Fontes, Public Works Director, gave an update on three ADOT projects, including the Ruby Road bridge project over Potrero Creek.

Alejandro Paz, County Treasurer, reported that discussions are ongoing regarding parcels with delinquent taxes. All affected properties are currently under review. He also noted that tax bills have been sent out to taxpayers.

Pablo Ramos, County Assessor, provided an overview of the property valuation process.

Maya Donnelly, School Superintendent, spoke about Arts Month and shared that the district was not awarded an additional year of the GEAR UP program, which is now concluding its seventh and final year. However, two employees will be retained to continue data collection and financial reporting as required. She emphasized that the district will continue applying for the program despite its highly competitive nature. On a positive note, she highlighted Arts Month activities in partnership with Morley Arts, with special attention to the upcoming event on November 1st at the 1904 Historic Courthouse.

3. AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

A EDUARDO HERRERA, BOSTON UNIVERSITY GRADUATE AND NOGALES HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI (REQ: CHAIRMAN MOLERA)

Chairman Molera presented a certificate and token to Eduardo Herrera, a Boston University graduate and Nogales High School Alumni.

Mr. Herrera provided a summary of his biography and future plans with gratitude to the Board for their recognition.

STUDY SESSION

1. MEDICAID CUTS TO OUR COMMUNITY BY AMY TAYLOR, MARIPOSA COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER (REQ: COUNTY MANAGER)

Dr. Eladio Pereira and Amy Taylor of Mariposa Community Health Center (MCHC) presented on recent changes to Medicaid, Medicare, and Marketplace Insurance Plans. They discussed the potential impact of federal policy changes, including a reclassification of the Health Center 330 Program that could limit services to individuals without qualified legal status. They also outlined upcoming AHCCCS changes affecting services for children with disabilities. Locally, MCHC is expanding access to its Sliding Fee Discount Program and assisting patients with maintaining coverage, reaffirming their commitment to serve all individuals regardless of ability to pay.

2. AN INTRODUCTION TO VALLEY ASSISTANCE SERVICES PROGRAMS IN SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BY CHRISTINE ERICKSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND TONY BRUNO, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR (REQ: VICE-CHAIRMAN FANNING)

Valley Assistance Services (VAS) presented an overview of their wraparound services provided in Santa Cruz County since 2014. Services include case management, transportation, Registered Nurse advocacy, food distribution, SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) enrollment, financial

literacy, and workforce development. VAS highlighted their health education outreach, telemedicine van, and transportation initiatives aimed at supporting older adults in rural areas. They also shared upcoming 2026 fundraising events and emphasized the vital role of their volunteers in delivering services across the county.

FLOOD CONTROL

1. DIRECTOR'S/PROJECT REPORT

Allan Sanchez, Floodplain Administrator, provided the September 2025 Flood Control District report. Rainfall in Nogales was above average, helping ease drought conditions. The District processed 225 flood hazard information requests, 12 floodplain use permit applications, and received 4 drainage complaints. Updates were provided on major projects including the Ephraim Canyon Flood Reduction Project, Patagonia Regional Flood Control Project, Potrero Creek LOMR, and Nogales Downtown Redevelopment Feasibility Study. Several projects are progressing through design, permitting, or review phases. No updates were available for Caralampi Canyon, the Floodplain Ordinance Review, or the City of Nogales. The Town of Patagonia Flood and Flow Committee report was included.

Vice-Chairman Fanning inquired about the timing of the monsoon season, noting that it seemed to occur more in August and September rather than June and July.

Mr. Sanchez clarified that the official monsoon season runs from June 15 to September 30, which is a standardized timeframe used for tracking purposes. He explained that while rain technically began in June, it was very dry until the weekend following July 4, when more consistent rainfall started. He noted that August rainfall was below average, and most of the precipitation occurred toward the end of the monsoon season in September.

2. MONTHLY REPORT FROM CITY OF NOGALES

No report.

3. MONTHLY REPORT FROM THE TOWN OF PATAGONIA

Summary: Bill O'Brien, Town Engineer, provided a summary of the Flood and Flow Committee meeting. Chris Gardner from Friends of Sonoita Creek reported on ongoing well monitoring efforts in the Sonoita Creek Basin. Bailey Winston presented findings from The Nature Conservancy's Sonoita Creek Geomorphology Study, which examined a 21-mile stretch of the creek. The study found significant downcutting and a lack of cottonwood regeneration due to reduced floodplain moisture. No update was available on the South32 Outfall 2 discharge. The Town of Patagonia reported pumping 110,310 gallons and treating 39,478 gallons of water per day in August. The next Flood and Flow meeting is scheduled for October 16, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public comment.

The Board adjourned the Flood Control District Board and reconvened in Action Items. (Motion: Vice-Chairman Fanning; second: Supervisor Davis; motion carried unanimously) (Ayes: Davis, Fanning, Molera)

ACTION ITEMS

1. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE AND CERTIFY THE CANVASS OF SEPTEMBER 23, 2025, SPECIAL GENERAL ELECTION FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 7 OFFICIAL RESULTS (REQ: ELECTIONS)

Supervisor Davis made a motion to approve, seconded by Vice-Chairman Fanning; the motion carried unanimously. (Ayes: Davis, Fanning, Molera)

Chairman Molera congratulated Adelita Grijalva. Vice-Chairman Fanning thanked Alma Schultz, Clerk of the Board/Elections Director, and her team for her hard work once again.

2. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE AND ADOPT PROCLAMATIONS DECLARING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER AS:

A DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH (REQ: COUNTY ATTORNEY)

Supervisor Davis read the Domestic Violence Awareness Month Proclamation.

Supervisor Davis made a motion to approve, seconded by Vice-Chairman Fanning; the motion carried unanimously. (Ayes: Davis, Fanning, Molera)

B SANTA CRUZ COUNTY ARTS MONTH (REQ: SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT)

Vice-Chairman Fanning read the Arts Month Proclamation.

Vice-Chairman Fanning made a motion to approve, seconded by Supervisor Davis; the motion carried unanimously. (Ayes: Davis, Fanning, Molera)

3. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENT WITH SOUTH32 HERMOSA INC. FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A STRATEGIC WORKFORCE PLAN IN A REIMBURSABLE AMOUNT NOT-TO-EXCEED \$150,000 (REQ: COUNTY MANAGER)

Deputy County Manager Christopher Young explained that a Request for Proposals (RFP) process will be conducted to obtain the necessary services. He noted that the strategic plan is being developed by community members, including local school superintendents and himself, with facilitation provided by South32. The plan aims to align regional economic needs with workforce skills, creating a clear pathway for training and development.

Board members requested clarification on the same topic. Mr. Valdez added that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with South32 has previously been used for other professional services for the County, and this initiative represents another way to continue utilizing that agreement. Further comments to place with members of the public including the local Chamber of Commerce.

Vice-Chairman Fanning made a motion to approve, seconded by Supervisor Davis; the motion carried unanimously. (Ayes: Davis, Fanning, Molera)

4. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENT WITH SOUTH32 HERMOSA INC. TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST IN A REIMBURSABLE AMOUNT OF UP TO \$93,600 FOR YEAR ONE, \$70,200 FOR YEAR TWO, AND \$46,800 FOR YEAR THREE (REQ: COUNTY MANAGER)

Deputy County Manager Christopher Young spoke about the item and clarified that the County intends to retain the Economic Development Specialist position on its payroll in the long term, with the goal of gradually reducing and eventually eliminating reliance on South32 for funding the position. Supervisor Davis made a motion to approve, seconded by Vice-Chairman Fanning; the motion carried unanimously. (Ayes: Davis, Fanning, Molera)

Vice-Chairman made a motion to recess the Regular Meeting to convene the Jail District Board, seconded by Supervisor Davis; the motion carried unanimously. (Ayes: Davis, Fanning, Molera)

JAIL DISTRICT

1. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION FOR AUTHORIZATION TO FILL VACANT DETENTION BOOKING CLERK POSITION (REQ: SHERIFF)

Supervisor Davis made a motion to approve, seconded by Vice-Chairman Fanning; the motion carried unanimously. (Ayes: Davis, Fanning, Molera)

The Board adjourned the Jail District and convened into the Board of Equalization. (Motion: Vice-Chairman Fanning; second: Supervisor Davis; motion carried unanimously) (Ayes: Davis, Fanning, Molera)

BOARD OF EQUALIZATION

1. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE THE TAX YEAR 2026 NOTICE OF VALUATION APPEAL DECISIONS AS PRESENTED BY THE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION (REQ: CLERK)

County Assessor, Pablo Ramos stated that there were to appeals that were heard by the State Board of Equalization.

Supervisor Davis made a motion to approve, seconded by Vice-Chairman Fanning; the motion carried unanimously. (Ayes: Davis, Fanning, Molera)

The Board adjourned the Board of Equalization and reconvened the Regular Meeting. (Motion: Vice-Chairman Fanning; second: Supervisor Davis; motion carried unanimously) (Ayes: Davis, Fanning, Molera)

CONSENT AGENDA

Vice-Chairman Fanning made a motion to approve Consent Agenda Items, seconded by Supervisor Davis; the motion carried unanimously. (Ayes: Davis, Fanning, Molera)

1. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION FOR AUTHORIZATION TO FILL VACANT:

A ADMINISTRATIVE SUPERVISOR POSITION (REQ: SHERIFF)

B LEGAL ASSISTANT POSITION (REQ: COUNTY ATTORNEY)

C ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM COORDINATOR (REQ: WIOA)

2. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF BLANCA ACOSTA, DIRECTOR OF CIRCLES OF PEACE, TO THE LOCAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD UNDER THE WORKFORCE CATEGORY (AT LEAST 20%), PURSUANT TO SECTION 107(B)(2)(B) AND BYLAWS ARTICLE VI, SECTION 1(G)(1)(2)(3)(4) (REQ: WIOA)

3. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENT WITH SOUTH32 HERMOSA INC. TO EXTEND AND UPDATE THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT ENTERED INTO ON MARCH 11, 2020 FOR AN ADDITIONAL PERIOD OF TEN (10) YEARS (REQ: COUNTY MANAGER)

4. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE AMENDMENT NO. 3 TO INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT CONTRACT NO. CTR070294 WITH THE ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR CDC OVERDOSE DATA TO ACTION - OD2A TO MODIFY THE PRICE SHEET AND REPLACE IT FOR FY26 FROM 09/01/2025 TO 08/31/2026 IN THE FUNDING AMOUNT NOT-TO-EXCEED \$41,818 (REQ: HEALTH SERVICES)

5. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH PHOENIX POLICE DEPARTMENT (PRIMARY GRANTEE)/ARIZONA ICAC TASK FORCE LEAD AGENCY IN SUPPORT OF THE ICAC TASK FORCE'S EFFORTS TO COMBAT INTERNET CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN FOR A PERIOD OF FIVE (5) YEARS (REQ: SHERIFF)

6. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE BOND FOR DUPLICATE WARRANT:

A #4-046659 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$996.25 DATED 02/16/2024 PAYABLE TO EWING (REQ: CLERK)

B #4-684211 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$125.25 DATED 09/24/2024 PAYABLE TO CACTUS HEATING & COOLING INC (REQ: SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT)

C #4-687561 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,486.83 DATED 07/29/2025 PAYABLE TO OFFICE DEPOT INC (REQ: SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT)

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: 09/17/2025 AND 09/15/2025 SPECIAL MEETING

8. APPROVAL OF DEMANDS were approved in the total amount of \$970,075.91, of which \$450,062.50 is from the General Fund. Details of these expenditures are available for inspection during working hours and are to be considered as part of these minutes.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m. (motion: Supervisor Davis; second: Vice-Chairman Fanning; motion carried unanimously) (Ayes: Davis, Fanning, Molera)