

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; Christopher Young, Deputy County Manager; Robert May, Civil Bureau Chief; 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 Roni Capin-Ashford.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Jesus Valdez, County Manager, asked the Chair to strike Consent Agenda Item 11 and change Item 10 to change the term from 12 months to 36 months. Robert May, Bureau Chief – Civil Division, added to the change of Item 10, or as otherwise stated in the contract.

Supervisor Davis made a motion to adopt the agenda, striking Consent Agenda Item 11 and amending Item 10 to change the term from 12 months to 36 months, and to allow the Chair to deviate from the agenda sequence as necessary. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chairman Fanning and carried unanimously. (Ayes: Davis, Fanning, Molera)

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

Sheriff Hathaway spoke about the Vatre lots and expressed concern regarding the potential sale of the lots. He inquired about the designated point of contact and requested monthly updates on the issue, noting that many individuals are interested in the matter.

Susan Faubion, a resident of Rio Rico, spoke about her ongoing issue of not having a sewage line connected to her home.

Kathy Campana, also a resident of Rio Rico, requested a chip seal for a cul-de-sac in her area.

Reid Barney discussed the opportunity to develop a wildfire prevention program and mentioned a grant that could assist with river cleanup efforts.

Robin Lucky addressed air quality concerns and referenced a \$14.8 million grant awarded to the University of Arizona to combat mining-related hazards in the Southwest.

Anna Darian, speaking on behalf of the Patagonia Resource Alliance, discussed the Community Protection and Benefit Agreement (CPBA) and the need for transparency.

CURRENT EVENTS

1. BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

SUPERVISOR DAVIS: Supervisor Davis reported that, since the County has become a film-ready community, there have been discussions with producers to better understand their needs for bringing projects to the area. He requested Shannon Hall to provide an update on current film-related initiatives. He also met with Eva Mazaneigo to explore potential opportunities in the region, including collaboration with the Biorational Council of Governments, economic development efforts, and the film industry. He noted a visit from Marcela Chavez of Building Together. He shared that he has initiated Cafecitos starting at Zarape, then at the community college, and now with local non-profit organizations. He also distributed a flyer with information about SNAP. Supervisor Davis extended condolences to Dina Sanchez and mentioned the veterans' photo display at the library.

VICE-CHAIRMAN FANNING: Vice-Chairman Fanning reported on his visit to La Castellana Café, attendance at the Red Ribbon Luncheon, and participation in the Nogales Bike Classic. He congratulated Zander for the success of the Spirit 100 event. He also participated in activities at the

Boys and Girls Club, attended the CSA Summit, and conducted a monthly check-in with the eastern part of the county at the Sonoita building. Additionally, he took part in a four-hour workshop with the CPBA.

CHAIRMAN MOLERA: Chairman Molera extended condolences to the families of Octavio Rojas and Edwin Alexander. He noted that Edwin Alexander had participated in the Nogales Classic and was tragically killed in a bicycle accident in Tucson about a week prior. He thanked all those involved in organizing the Nogales Classic, noting that the event continues to grow each year. Chairman Molera also expressed appreciation to those who spoke during Call to the Public, emphasizing the importance of community input.

He highlighted the Red Ribbon Week event, which featured the Camarena family, and provided a brief update on the CSA Summit held in Yuma. He thanked the Courts for organizing the Wing It to Win It wing-eating contest, as well as the Halloween costume and office decorating contests. He concluded by thanking staff for their support of the Green Lights initiative.

2. MANAGER

JESUS VALDEZ, COUNTY MANAGER, reported that during the summit, he met with representatives from the food banks and inquired about how the County could collaborate. He noted that the response indicated the gap in services is significant, but emphasized the importance of remaining vigilant. Some facilities may be utilized as pick-up locations. He also mentioned that the USDA is using contingency funds for November, and benefits will be reduced by 50%.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS AND ACTIVITIES

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

Mauricio Chavez, Deputy County Manager, reported \$21,195,859.51 in the General Fund, of which \$16,501,369.76 is invested; \$5,740,533.99 in the Road Fund, of which \$5,103,933.27 is invested; \$3,072,264.76 in the Flood Control District Fund, of which \$307,600.25 is invested; \$6,488,974.84 in the Jail District Fund, of which \$4,384,079.19 is invested; \$58,723,320.28 total for all funds, of which \$28,410,212.64 is invested; \$7,497,155.27 estimated end of month balance, compared to \$12,837,733.68 cash at November 2024, a difference of \$(5,340,578.41).

2. DEPARTMENT(S) UPDATE

Zaida Bustamante, Workforce Development Director for Arizona@Work, provided an update on her department's progress. She highlighted collaborations with Fortune 500 companies to create community opportunities and recognized the support and contributions of her staff. The Board presented a token of appreciation to all staff members.

David Hathaway, County Sheriff, expressed his appreciation for the public outreach efforts conducted by the Supervisors and staff. He also provided an update on his department, specifically focusing on officer training.

Kerri Munoz, Chief Deputy School Superintendent, spoke of Thrive Fest that is happening on Saturday at Pierson Field and welcomed everyone and thanked Supervisor Davis for joining them last Saturday for Arts month celebration.

3. AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS, & ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

A IN RECOGNITION OF RONI CAPIN RIVERA-ASHFORD, A NATIVE OF NOGALES, ARIZONA, FOR HER OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS AS A BILINGUAL AUTHOR AND EDUCATOR. DURING THIS SPECIAL OCCASION, SHE WILL ALSO SHARE HER PERSONAL STORY AND BOOKS WITH THE COMMUNITY (REQ: CHAIRMAN MOLERA)

Roni Capin Rivera-Ashford read a poem for the Board and the public. The Board recognized the Author for her contributions and gave her a certificate and a coin.

STUDY SESSION

1. CONSULATE GENERAL OF MEXICO AND SANTA CRUZ COUNTY: A WIN-WIN PARTNERSHIP BY CONSUL GENERAL OF MEXICO IN NOGALES, MARCO MORENO BAEZ (REQ: COUNTY MANAGER)

The Consulate General of Mexico in Nogales presented an overview of its collaborative efforts with Santa Cruz County, emphasizing community-led initiatives in health, education, culture, and civic engagement. From 2022 to 2025, the Consulate invested over \$207,000 in local programs and events, benefiting more than 143,000 residents through services such as health outreach, scholarships, cultural events, and economic development activities.

2. SOUTH32 HERMOSA QUARTERLY UPDATE BY PAT RISNER, PRESIDENT OF SOUTH32 HERMOSA (REQ: COUNTY MANAGER)

South32 provided an update on the Hermosa Project, highlighting continued construction progress, with over 40% completed and key infrastructure such as the ventilation and production shafts advancing toward completion by year-end. The company also shared updates on permitting, workforce growth, and community engagement efforts, including the Community Protection & Benefits Agreement and a baseline health assessment in partnership with the University of Arizona. Full zinc production is targeted for 2027, with the project representing a \$2.16 billion investment—Southern Arizona's largest private investment to date.

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

FLOOD CONTROL

1. DIRECTOR'S/PROJECT REPORT

The Santa Cruz County Flood Control District reported above-average rainfall in Nogales and continued drought conditions countywide. Progress continued on major projects including the Ephraim Canyon and Patagonia Regional Flood Control efforts, while permitting, drainage complaints, and ordinance updates were also addressed.

2. MONTHLY REPORT FROM CITY OF NOGALES

No Report.

3. MONTHLY REPORT FROM THE TOWN OF PATAGONIA

The Town of Patagonia reported an average of 102,183 gallons per day pumped from wells and 45,728 gallons treated daily in September, with 2.19 inches of rainfall recorded. The next Flood and Flow Committee meeting is scheduled for November 13, 2025, via Zoom.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

The Board adjourned as the Flood Control District Board and convened into the Regular Meeting. (Motion: Vice-Chairman Fanning; second: Supervisor Davis; motion carried unanimously) (Ayes: Davis, Fanning, Molera)

ACTION ITEMS

1. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE AND RE-AFFIRM ALL LEGAL ACTIONS ON BEHALF OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY TO RECOVER ANY AND ALL MONIES FROM ALL LIABLE PERSONS AND ENTITIES AS A RESULT OF THE GUTFAHR EMBEZZLEMENT (REQ: COUNTY ATTORNEY)

Robert May, Bureau Chief – Civil Division, provided a brief explanation of the item and stated that a ratification will be brought at the next Regular Board meeting to remedy any imperfection.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor Davis made a motion to approve with modification to item 10 from a 36-month term instead of a 12-month term and excluding item 11, seconded by Vice-Chairman Fanning; the motion carried unanimously. (Ayes: Davis, Fanning, Molera)

1. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE THE RESCHEDULING OF THE REGULAR MEETING ORIGINALLY SET FOR WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2025, TO TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2025, AT THE SAME TIME AND TO RESCHEDULE THE REGULAR MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2025, FROM 5:30 P.M. TO 9:30 A.M. ON THE SAME DAY (REQ: CLERK)

2. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION FOR AUTHORIZATION TO FILL TWO (2) VACANT MAINTENANCE WORKER POSITIONS (REQ: PUBLIC WORKS)

3. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE AUTHORIZATION TO ADVERTISE FOR THE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC PLAN CONSULTANT (REQ: COUNTY MANAGER)

4. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE AUTHORIZATION TO ADVERTISE FOR THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANT (REQ: COUNTY MANAGER)

5. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE THE REAPPOINTMENT OF THE LOCAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD FOR A THREE-YEAR TERM WITH ONE-THIRD OF MEMBERS REAPPOINTED OR REPLACED ANNUALLY PER SCC WDB BYLAWS ARTICLE III SECTION 5 (REQ: WIOA)

6. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION TO AUTHORIZE THE COUNTY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AIRCRAFT HANGAR STORAGE AGREEMENTS FOR FACILITIES AT NOGALES INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (REQ: SPECIAL PROJECTS)

7. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE AUTHORIZATION FOR SERVICES NO. 9 AGREEMENT WITH C&S ENGINEERS, INC. FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR THE FUEL TANK REPLACEMENT PROJECT AT THE NOGALES INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$133,511 (REQ: SPECIAL PROJECTS)

8. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP OF THE BAUER COMPRESSOR MOBILE BREATHING AIR UNIT FOR THE HAZMAT TRAILER TO THE RIO RICO FIRE DISTRICT FOR CONTINUED USE IN HAZARDOUS

MATERIALS RESPONSE AND TRAINING (REQ: EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT)

9. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE GRANT AGREEMENT NO. DBF2025SB1735-SSI08 WITH THE ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION (ADOA) FOR THE SUPPORT, IMPLEMENTATION, MAINTENANCE OF A SCHOOL SAFETY PROGRAM EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2026 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$350,000 (REQ: SHERIFF)

10. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE GRANT-IN AID AGREEMENT WITH THE TOHONO O'ODHAM NATION TO SUPPORT A FIRST RESPONDER DRONE PROGRAM EFFECTIVE FOR A PERIOD OF TWELVE (12) MONTHS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$153,710 (REQ: SHERIFF)

11. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE GRANT AGREEMENT NO. 2026-053 WITH THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR THE FY2026 VICTIMS' RIGHTS PROGRAM TO SUPPORT THE COSTS OF PROVIDING STATUTORILY MANDATED VICTIMS' RIGHTS EFFECTIVE THROUGH JUNE 30, 2026 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$8,500 (REQ: SHERIFF)

12. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE AMENDMENT NO. 2 TO INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT CONTRACT NO. CTR068545 WITH THE ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES REVISING AND REPLACING THE PRICE SHEET TO REMOVE THE REFERENCE TO BUDGET PERIOD 2023–2024 EFFECTIVE THROUGH MAY 31, 2028 IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$126,500 (REQ: HEALTH SERVICES)

13. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE BOND FOR DUPLICATE WARRANT #2-128496 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$600.00 DATED 10/01/2025 PAYABLE TO MANUEL G. BUELNA (REQ: CLERK)

14. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE APPLICATION FOR FIREWORKS DISPLAY AT TUBAC GOLF RESORT ON DECEMBER 7, 2025 (REQ: CLERK)

15. APPROVAL OF TAX VALUATION ADJUSTMENTS: (REQ: ASSESSOR)

A 132-01-262 CHRISTOPHER CARRASCO AND ANGELICA CARRASCO, RESOLUTION NO. 57258

B 132-01-262 - CHRISTOPHER CARRASCO AND ANGELICA CARRASCO, RESOLUTION NO. 57259

C 114-52-187 - MARITZA FISHER & GABRIEL VALDES, RESOLUTION NO. 57260

D 130-01-102 - DANITZA LIZETTE HIGUERA, RESOLUTION NO. 57261

E 130-01-102 - DANITZA LIZETTE HIGUERA, RESOLUTION NO. 57262

F 130-01-102 - DANITZA LIZETTE HIGUERA, RESOLUTION NO. 57263

G 130-01-102 - DANITZA LIZETTE HIGUERA, RESOLUTION NO. 57264

H 111-01-025 - ARIZONA LAND & WATER TRUST, INC., RESOLUTION NO. 57265

I 106-24-002B - JAMES IREE LEWIS, RESOLUTION NO. 57266

J 109-31-035 - SHANNON VALENCIA AND MARK VALENCIA, RESOLUTION NO. 5

K 109-31-035 - SHANNON VALENCIA AND MARK VALENCIA, RESOLUTION NO. 57270

L 110-22-047 - STANLEY R. DIETZMAN AND ALICE MCARTHUR, RESOLUTION NO. 57268

M 110-22-045 - STANLEY R. DIETZMAN AND ALICE MCARTHUR, RESOLUTION NO. 57267

N P995011321 - US BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, RESOLUTION NO. 57254

O 112-44-306 - BARRIO DE TUBAC OWNERS ASSOCIATION C/O STELLAR PROPERTY MANAGEMENT, RESOLUTION NO. 57273

P 112-44-306 - BARRIO DE TUBAC OWNERS ASSOCIATION C/O STELLAR PROPERTY MANAGEMENT, RESOLUTION NO. 57274

Q 112-11-199 - TUBAC TITLE AGENCY OF ARIZONA LLC TRUST NO. 18103-T, RESOLUTION NO. 57276

R 112-11-199 - TUBAC GOLF RESORT DEVELOPMENT OWNERS ASSOCIATION, C/O STELLAR PROPERTY MANAGEMENT LLC, RESOLUTION NO. 57275

S 112-11-200 - LAWYERS TITLE AGENCY OF ARIZONA LLC TRUST NO. 18103-T, RESOLUTION NO. 57278

T 112-11-200 - TUBAC GOLF RESORT DEVELOPMENT OWNERS ASSOCIATION, C/O STELLAR PROPERTY MANAGEMENT LLC, RESOLUTION NO. 57283

16. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: 10/15/2025

17. APPROVAL OF DEMANDS were approved in the total amount of \$1,410,881.85, of which \$692,073.83 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.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. PURSUANT TO A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(2) & (3), DISCUSSION AND CONSULTATION FOR LEGAL ADVICE AND/OR DIRECTION REGARDING AUDIT USA LITIGATION AND RELATED PUBLIC REQUEST FOR RECORDS (REQ: COUNTY ATTORNEY)

2. PURSUANT TO A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(3) & (7), DISCUSSION AND CONSULTATION FOR LEGAL ADVICE AND/OR DIRECTION REGARDING VATERE LOT SALES (REQ: COUNTY MANAGER)

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

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m. (motion: Supervisor Davis; second: Vice-Chairman Fanning; motion carried unanimously) (Ayes: Davis, Fanning, Molera)