

When recorded return to:  
Clerk of the Board  
P.O. Box 827  
Florence AZ 85132

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-PZ-PA-005-20**

A RESOLUTION OF THE PINAL COUNTY, ARIZONA, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS APPROVING A 2019 MAJOR COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT BY AMENDING THE MAJOR COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TEXT OF CHAPTER 3, SENSE OF COMMUNITY, SUBCHAPTER LAND USE - GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES, CHAPTER 6, OPEN SPACES & PLACES, SUBCHAPTER GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES, AND CHAPTER 7, ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP, SUBCHAPTER ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING; IN CONNECTION WITH PINAL COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT CASE NO. PZ-PA-005-20.

WHEREAS, the Pinal County Board of Supervisors ("Board") is authorized pursuant to Arizona Revised Statutes § 11-805 and Pinal County Development Services Code § 2.170.110 to approve Major Comprehensive Plan Amendments; and

WHEREAS, on May 28th, 2020, the Pinal County initiated an application for a Major Comprehensive Plan Text amendment major comprehensive plan text amendment to Chapter 3, Sense of Community, Subchapter Land Use - Goals, Objectives and Policies, Chapter 6, Open Spaces & Places, Subchapter Goals, Objectives and Policies, and Chapter 7, Environmental Stewardship, Subchapter Environmental Planning, of the 2019 Pinal County Comprehensive Plan. The proposed text amendment will modify the referenced Chapters by adding text, goals, objectives, and policies as described in the attached Exhibit A (Case No. PZ-PA-005-20); and

WHEREAS, on September 17, 2020, the Pinal County Planning and Zoning Commission held a public hearing on Case No. PZ-PA-005-20, after providing notice pursuant to statutory requirements, and following the public hearing voted 7 to 1 to recommend denial of case No. PZ-PA-005-20 to the Board; and

WHEREAS, on November 18, 2020, the Board held a public hearing on Case No. PZ-PA-005-20, after providing notice pursuant to statutory requirements, and considered the application for the Major Comprehensive Plan Amendment; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Pinal County Board of Supervisors that the application for the Major Comprehensive Plan Amendment in Case No. PZ-PA-005-20 has hereby approved the text changes described in the attached Exhibit A.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 18th day of November, 2020, by the PINAL COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS.

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Chairman of the Board

ATTEST:

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Clerk/Deputy Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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Deputy County Attorney

**EXHIBIT A  
TO  
RESOLUTION NO. 2020-PZ-PA-005-20**

**[Text Amendment]**

**See following page(s).**

1. On page 91, under the heading Planning Guidelines, the 5<sup>th</sup> checkmark will be amended as follows with the addition of the underlined text:
  - ✓ Recreational amenities, parks, trails and open space should be designed as an integral part of the project.
  - ✓ Open space, parks and recreational areas must be large enough to be usable for the intended purpose.
  - ✓ Open space is encouraged to be part of and connected to a larger, integrated regional system.
  - ✓ The County-wide trails system should be integrated into developments where appropriate.
  - ✓ Integrate the natural terrain, habitats, drainageways, foothills, riparian areas, wildlife corridors, foothills and other natural features into project design where possible.
  - ✓ Protect and/or minimize impact to historic sites or landmarks, including distinguishable natural features.
2. On page 105, policy 3.1.4.6 will be amended as follows with the addition of the underlined text:

3.1.4.6 Encourage new development projects to preserve significant desert habitats, riparian areas, wildlife corridors, natural resources, landscapes and cultural resources where feasible.
3. On page 105, in the right page margin, a yellow box will be added with the following text:

The Arizona Game and Fish Department's on-line Environmental Review Tool (ERT) is a project evaluation tool specifically designed for Pinal County. The ERT can help identify opportunities to protect riparian areas, open spaces, and other natural resources throughout the county. The page can be found here: <http://azhgis2.esri.com/content/map>

4. On page 242, in the left page margin, a yellow box will be added with the following text:

The Arizona Game and Fish Department's on-line Environmental Review Tool (ERT) is a project evaluation tool specifically designed for Pinal County. The ERT can help identify opportunities to protect riparian areas, open spaces, and other natural resources throughout the county. The page can be found here: <http://azhgis2.esri.com/content/map>

5. On page 242, policy 6.1.2.4 will be added with the following text:

6.1.2.4 Utilize the Arizona Game and Fish Department's on-line Environmental Review Tool (ERT).

6. On page 253, in the right margin, the existing yellow box with the definition of Riparian Areas will be updated as follows:

Riparian areas are the natural areas around rivers, washes, and other bodies of water. These areas include channel itself as well as the vegetation that acts as a transition zone between the riparian and upland area.

7. On page 264, in the left margin, a yellow box will be added with the following text::

The Arizona Game and Fish Department's on-line Environmental Review Tool (ERT) is a project evaluation tool specifically designed for Pinal County. The ERT can help identify opportunities to protect riparian areas, open spaces, and other natural resources throughout the county. The page can be found here: <http://azhgis2.esri.com/content/map>

8. On page 264, Policy 7.1.2.4 will be amended as follows:

7.1.2.4 ~~Promote planning and decision-making that minimize disturbance to riparian areas and wetlands.~~ Promote planning and decision-making that minimize disturbance to riparian areas and wetlands and encourage project proponents to utilize the

Arizona Game and Fish Department's Environmental Review Tool (ERT) as a resource to identify opportunities to protect these natural resources.

9. On Page 267, Policy 7.1.7.5 will be added with the following text:

7.1.7.5 Encourage and promote The Pinal County Birding Trail, The Arizona Birding Trail, and other watchable wildlife opportunities in Pinal County.

10. On Page 267, Policy 7.1.7.6 will be added with the following text:

7.1.7.6 Partner with environmental organizations that have a strong educational component to their mission, e.g. speakers' series, event tables, tours, interpretive programs and publications designed for the public.

11. On Page 268, Policy 7.1.7.7 will be added with the following text:

7.1.7.7 Promote planning and decision-making that consider impacts to the entire landscape regional ecosystem, not just specific development sites.

12. Amending Appendix D with the following definitions (replacing current definition of Riparian Areas):

**Desert Habitats:** Desert Habitats such as the Sonoran desert scrub habitats are low-elevation areas that receive less than 10 in (25 cm) of rain each year, mostly in bi-modal pattern (occurring in winter and summer). In these arid habitats, vegetation is generally sparse and represented by cacti and other succulents as well as other vegetative species including mesquite, ironwood, and palo verde, among others.

**Landscape:** Landscape is an area of land composed of an interacting variety of ecosystems with a diversity of physical elements. The configuration of a landscape is defined by the physical character, arrangement, and context of its elements. Combining both their physical origins and the cultural overlay of human presence, often created over millennia, landscapes reflect a living mixture of people and place that is vital to local and national identity.

**Natural Resources:** The naturally occurring assets that provide use benefits through the provision of raw materials and energy used in economic activity (or that may provide such benefits one day) and that are subject primarily to quantitative depletion through human use. They are subdivided into four categories: mineral and energy resources, soil resources, water resources, and biological resources.

**Riparian areas:** Riparian areas are the natural areas around rivers, washes, and other bodies of water. These areas include channel itself as well as the vegetation that acts as a transition zone between the riparian and upland area.

**Wildlife Corridors**: Wildlife corridors are pathways or habitats with no or few barriers to wildlife species. These landscape linkages allow for the safe passage of daily, seasonal, or annual wildlife movements. Wildlife corridors often occur in riparian areas, canyons, ridgelines, and other landscape features that constrain wildlife movements into more restricted paths.