

TANQUE VERDE VALLEY ASSOCIATION
Summary of the Public Meeting, Kirk-Bear Canyon Library
November 12, 2024

TVVA invited city and county officials to make presentations for our constituency to educate and inform them of activities occurring in the Tanque Verde Valley and Eastside of Tucson. We had over 40 people in attendance. A summary of the presentations is provided below.

JIM TREGO, President TVVA

- Jim delivered an overview of TVVA's mission and goals and briefly touched on rezoning in our area.

MARK HOLDEN, Principal Planner, Pima County

- Mark is a leader in the development of Pima Prospers, a long-range strategic plan for Pima County that is updated every 10 years. The website will be available soon with opportunities for public comment.
- The plan is comprehensive in nature with 4 primary categories for consideration:
 - Built/Social environments
 - Natural, Physical and Cultural environments
 - Economic environment
 - Growth areas and Cost of Development
- Pima County is forecasting an additional 68,000 residents in the next 10 years
 - 32.3% will reside in the City of Tucson
 - 31.1% will reside in unincorporated Pima County
 - 30.2% will reside in Marana and Oro Valley
 - The remainder will reside in areas south and southeast (Vail, Sahuarita)
 - Pima County is working to ensure an adequate infrastructure is in place to accommodate new residents
- Other Data and information
 - Housing supply: 80% of our homes are single-family residences, resulting in a shortage of multi-family and affordable housing
 - Water resources: All indications are that we have an adequate water supply for 30-40 years from the Colorado River (CAP)
 - Energy: Our energy use is currently 30% renewable resources, with an expected increase to 70% by 2038
 - Climate: It is expected that there will be an increase in temperature extremes, and increased drought conditions with decreases in precipitation, resulting in more flooding and wildfire occurrences

IAN WAN, Lead Planner, City of Tucson

CESAR ACOSTA, Principal Planner, City of Tucson

- Ian and Cesar discussed the development and design of Plan Tucson, a comprehensive 10-year strategic plan. This Plan:
 - Guides the City's decisions about investments, programs, and policies
 - Reinforces critical grant applications to fund city projects
 - Provides guidelines for land use decisions like re-zonings, and future growth scenarios
- Updates to the planning process include:
 - We are currently in Phase 3 where the preliminary draft of the General Plan Update is available for comments, and refinement based on community feedback
 - Phase 4 (Fall 2025) will provide an opportunity to educate voters and the general public about the Plan Tucson election ballot proposition
 - The General Plan will be on the City of Tucson ballot in 2025 to allow voters to approve or deny the General Plan Update

- Residents of Pima County have the opportunity to provide feedback to Plan Tucson using the City of Tucson’s “Meeting in a Box”, which will provide TVVA with all materials needed to host a community meeting on the Plan. If you are interested in participating, please let TVVA know and we will organize the meeting with the City of Tucson.

CARMINE DEBONIS, Deputy County Administrator, Pima County

Carmine provided background on the Tucson Water’s differential water rates and the County’s lawsuit

- In June 2021, Mayor and Council adopted an ordinance to increase the fees for City water to Pima County residents (10%-40%)
- October 2021, Mayor and Council re-adopted the ordinance with minor changes
- December 2021, Pima County filed a lawsuit against the City of Tucson regarding the differential rates. During 2022, depositions and discovery were conducted.
- March 2023, Mayor and Council adopted an ordinance that exempted governmental agencies (like Pima County) from the rate hike but did not address the rate hike for County residents. The City of Tucson reimbursed Pima County for the funds collected 2021 - November 2023.
- September 2023, Superior Court ruled that the adopted ordinance was not legal and that the fees were not just or reasonable. It was also cited that there was no “cost of service” study. The County was asked to submit a formal judgement and request for attorney’s fees. The City of Tucson objected to the judgement and fee reimbursement. To date, the City has not reimbursed the differential rates to County residents.
- December 2023, Pima County appealed regarding the City’s objection to the reimbursements. The City argued that the County does not have legal standing to represent the rate payers since it is a government agency, and counter appealed.
- October 2024, the Appellate Court ruled the ordinance is invalid, and directed the City to pay for Pima County attorney’s fees but did not include a provision for reimbursement to the rate payers.
- November 2024, the Pima County Board of Supervisors was briefed by County Legal Counsel and will likely channel its legal position to the Arizona Supreme Court.
- Pima County residents who have suffered from the differential rates can file a Consumer Complaint with the Arizona Attorney General’s office seeking reimbursement from the City of Tucson.
 - NOTE: The City of Tucson has collected ~\$10M from this rate hike
 - It is also possible to file a Class Action lawsuit against the City of Tucson

IAN SANSOM, Project Manager, City of Tucson

- Ian is a leader in the department of Transportation and Mobility that is focused on the plan Tucson Norte-Sur.
- The objective of Tucson Norte-Sur is to identify opportunities for equitable reinvestment and access along a future 15-mile long North-South High Capacity Transit (HCT) corridor connecting the Tucson Mall on the northside to downtown Tucson and to the Tucson Airport on the southside. Tucson Norte-Sur was developed using grants from the US Department of Transportation in 2020.
- The project team is seeking residential input to understand what the community's vision is for the future of this corridor and ensure that new development reflects the culture, community, and sense of place found in the neighborhoods along the corridor.
- All are welcome to attend the planned Open Houses on the ir calendar.