

**SPECIAL STUDY SESSION
October 24, 2002**

The Board of Supervisors of Maricopa County, Arizona, convened at 9:00 a.m., October 24, 2002, in the Supervisors' Conference Room, Tenth Floor, 301 W. Jefferson, Phoenix, Arizona, with the following members present: Don Stapley, Chairman; Fulton Brock, Vice Chairman; Andy Kunasek (entered late), Max W. Wilson and Mary Rose Wilcox (entered late). Also present: Fran McCarroll, Clerk of the Board; Shirley Million, Executive Assistant; David Smith, County Administrative Officer; and Paul Golab, Deputy County Attorney. Votes of the Members on action items will be recorded as follows: (aye-no-absent-abstain).

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT PROJECT APPLICATIONS

Item: Community Development Block Grant Public Improvement Project applications to entitlement cities and the Maricopa County Community Development Agency for funds to support construction of the Human Services Campus in downtown Phoenix. Individual applications will be submitted to Chandler, Gilbert, Glendale, Mesa, Phoenix, Scottsdale, Tempe, and Maricopa County for a combined amount not-to-exceed \$1.6M. (C20030050) (ADM2519)

~ Supervisors Wilcox and Kunasek entered the meeting ~

Martin Shultz, Arizona Public Service, was present representing the private sector of the business community and the Phoenix Community Alliance. He spoke briefly to congratulate Maricopa County, the Board of Supervisors, David Smith, and all others who have contributed to the planning and implementation of this Community Development Block Grant Public Improvement Project to create the Human Services Campus in downtown Phoenix. He said that it is a very significant project for the Capital Mall Development and for the community service effort for human service and the homeless. He added that they have learned that this project has attained national significant because of the case management and the cooperation between the private sector and City and County governments. He thanked the Board on behalf of the community saying that the completion of this campus for the homeless will be well worth all the effort those involved have put into it.

Supervisor Brock commended David Smith for his activity and the common sense that he has lent to the project.

Motion was made by Supervisor Wilcox, seconded by Supervisor Kunasek, and unanimously carried (5-0) to approve funds to support construction of the Human Services Campus in downtown Phoenix.

MARICOPA COUNTY, ARIZONA POLLUTION CONTROL CORPORATION

Item: Resolution for the proceedings of the Maricopa County, Arizona, Pollution Control Corporation for the issuance and sale of not-to-exceed \$90,000,000 aggregate principal amount of Maricopa County, Arizona, Pollution Control Corporation Pollution Control Revenue Refunding Bonds (Arizona Public Service Company Palo Verde Project), 2002 Series A. (ADM5100)

Motion was made by Supervisor Brock, seconded by Supervisor Kunasek, and unanimously carried (5-0) to adopt the following captioned resolution, on file in the Office of the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors and retained in accordance with Arizona State Libraries, Archives, and Public Records (ASLAPR).

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF MARICOPA COUNTY,
ARIZONA, APPROVING THE ISSUANCE BY THE MARICOPA COUNTY, ARIZONA,
POLLUTION CONTROL CORPORATION OF MARICOPA COUNTY, ARIZONA**

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**POLLUTION CONTROL CORPORATION POLLUTION CONTROL REVENUE
REFUNDING BONDS (ARIZONA PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY PALO VERDE
PROJECT), 2002 SERIES A.**

Supervisor Brock said this is a move from short term funding to long term funding and he believed that it is a "step in the right direction."

DISCUSSION: PARKS AND RECREATION CAPITAL PROJECTS

Item: Review and update of the capital project needs of the Parks and Recreation Department. This update shall include new elements addressing the regional trail system and open space acquisition to protect the open space near Luke Air Force Base. (ADM3200) (ADM3205)

Bill Scalzo, Chief Community Services Officer and Director, Parks and Recreation, and Bill VanAusdal, Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation, presented the update of projected monetary needs for the Parks Department that incorporated a slide presentation and Mr. Scalzo's explanatory commentary.

Mr. Scalzo began by giving basic information about the Maricopa County Park System. He explained that this is an extensive system, the largest county park system in the country, with eight regional parks ranging in size from 3,000 to 28,000 acres that accommodate approximately 1.2 million paying visitors a year. He said the various parks are encompassed in an area approximately 60 miles by 60 miles with the parks covering more than 120,000 acres. He said they want to add another 73,000 acres to the system.

In reference to the County's system of "Managing for Results" (MFR) Mr. Scalzo said the department's goal is to build a positive public image and maximize park usage. He stated that the Maricopa County Parks have often been recognized for their outstanding facilities. To minimize the cost to taxpayers the Parks Department strives to produce over 80% of their operational budget internally. He indicated that there is only one county park system in America that is 100% self-sufficient and it is in Wheeling, West Virginia. He added that regional transportation is benefited by the Regional Trails System that will ring the County and allow residents to ride their bike to the bus stop, load it to the front of the bus and proceed to work. He explained that the Parks' staff is active in regional leadership in critical public policy issues and is always looking for ways to benefit residents and the County.

Mr. Scalzo listed two strategic, short and long-term goals. One is to provide buffer zones through continued acquisition of desirable land that will further open-space recreational opportunities for the public. The second is to identify and fund the additional needed facilities and create potential ways of attracting new areas of funding.

He mentioned a study of recent trends in recreation. Today 76% of adults and children participate in nature studies or walks, compared to 16% in 1960: walking for pleasure is now 83% and was 36%: hiking has gone from 43% to 6%: Camping is now up to 35% and bicycling has now increased to 39% from the 1960 average of 9%. Mr. Scalzo said that Americans have realized the importance of using recreational facilities as they exercise to stay youthful and fit, and predicted that the use of parks will continue to increase.

Mr. Scalzo spoke of possible land acquisitions, nine properties comprising over 73,000 acres. Mr. Scalzo explained that there are critical dates involved in some of the acquisitions, giving the following examples. The Cave Creek Recreation Area, 784 acres of land, will cost approximately \$25M. Mr. Scalzo considers it "critical" for the County to acquire this parcel. He said the County's application was approved by the

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State on May 17, 2000, and critical dates pivotal to the final approval are fast approaching. The County must begin the process of getting an appraisal by June 2003 in order to have it completed within the timeline. If an appraisal isn't done the County can't get a grant award (where the State would grant up to \$20M on approved facilities if there are matching funds available). He stressed, "It's critical that the timeline is met. If we don't meet it and we don't have monies to acquire that land it could fall off of the protected lands listing. Our application expires May 17, 2005." This land would protect encroachment around the park and provide trail system linkages that are critical. Meeting the timelines will protect the opportunity for this acquisition.

McDowell Mountain Regional Park is another acquisition he considers critical. The addition of 317 acres on the northwest corner of the park would provide linkage with the trail lands acquired by Scottsdale. He said, "It's a critical link even though it's a small amount of land, and it follows the same time line in acquiring grant monies to reduce the approximate \$10M investment."

Other properties mentioned were the Agua Fria parcel at Lake Pleasant, which has 14,082 acres of BLM land and for which an acquisition application has already been made. He explained that minimal funds will be needed to purchase this parcel. The Meese land parcel contains 56.86 acres and would help protect the Lake Pleasant shoreline from encroachment, and also provide protection for important environmental and archeological sites. The New River Community Park, 80.62 acres of what is now BLM land: Goat Camp Trail, now AZ State land on the east side of the White Tank Mountain Park of 8.41 acres, which would provide a needed link to connect the trail system loop. He said it would probably cost \$60,000 or less. The Saddle Mountain site contains approximately 5,000 mountainous BLM acres and is located in the southwest portion of the County. He said that development would help open that region up economically.

Mr. Scalzo outlined ideas for new areas of parklands the department would like to see developed. He said they want to create two agricultural parks in the southeast and northwest portions of the County. He indicated that both areas have strong agricultural histories that should be protected and elaborated on additional benefits that could be realized from such a facility. The West Valley agricultural park would provide 1200 acres as a buffer to housing encroachment on Luke AFB. The parklands would continue to be farmed and the produce raised could be sold to County residents at Farmer's Markets to provide a regional success facility by providing "homegrown" produce. He said this has been successfully initiated in other parks in the U.S. He advised that part of the crops could also be used to provide food for meals at the County's Homeless Campus and in addition, the park could be used for many different kinds of educational purposes for both youth and adult groups.

Mr. Scalzo expressed his excitement with regards to a park at Vulture Mountain, which would contain over 51,000 acres in the Wickenburg area and could become the largest park in the County's system. The land is now managed by the BLM. He indicated that this was obviously the best direction to go in the northwest valley and said that it has a huge potential economic impact for that area. He said that the scenery is gorgeous and he strongly believes in its tremendous over-all potential. He felt that the BLM has shown a guarded interest in turning over this land.

The total land to be acquired is 73,072 acres and the projected cost, without grants is \$38,545,900. Chairman Stapley questioned if \$25M of that amount was Cave Creek and Mr. Scalzo affirmed this. He added that if the grants were acquired it could cut approximately \$15M off of the total.

Mr. Scalzo then outlined the improvements that were done in the various parks during the last fiscal year with capital outlay funds and the improvements that are being planned for the next fiscal year. He

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mentioned several significant improvements and land acquisitions, and outlined park areas that needed various new camping facilities and equipment and/or repair of old ones. Discussion ensued on San Tan Park in Pinal County and the special problems that are inherent in that park, basically stemming from its location in another county. However, this parkland is extensively used by Maricopa County residents living in the southeast region, and measures to protect the land from vandals have been increased during the past year. Plans for protection from encroaching development are under discussion with Pinal County planners and officials.

Reed Kempton reported on the status of the County's new Trail System and showed slides on the different phases of development that have already been done. He also outlined all of the things that still need to be addressed to complete this non-motorized trail project designed to encircle the perimeter of the County. The Board has allocated a quarter of a million dollars to the Trails System project. He said that this project will require the cooperation of most of the other cities and towns in the County. To illustrate the scope and importance to future generations, he is taking this slide presentation to various community groups to inform and educate residents about the Trail System. He has gone, or will go, to organizations such as MAG and Valley Forward, to cities and towns and to many of the bike and hiking clubs. Supervisor Brock suggested that he take the slide show to the tourism committees for use in their promotions of the Valley.

Supervisor Brock called attention to the fact that Maricopa County's general fund gives only \$1.7M to the Parks' Department to care for parks that cover 120,000 acres. By contrast, the City of Phoenix supports their parks, which contain approximately 20,000 to 50,000 acres, on \$120M general fund monies. However well managed the County's parks are, he questioned the advisability of purchasing 70,000 additional acres during the budget-crunch currently being projected to last several years. He said that a considerable sum of money is needed for the renovation and expansion of the court system and that millions of dollars are currently being lost in the Maricopa Integrated Health System. He asked about establishing private partnerships that would aid in the acquisition of additional lands for the parks.

Mr. Scalzo said that establishing partnerships and identifying new sources of funding have been extensively looked at and he admitted that they would welcome any and all additional sponsors that would be interested. He indicated that steps have already been taken to hire an advocate to search for new sponsors and who would also help to create a Parks' Foundation. He stated, "This is how you survive, not by increasing fees and charges every year. You have to have a foundation and private support to help with capital and to expand service delivery when taxes, concessions and public fees don't do enough." Mr. Scalzo said he would also like to do more with naming rights and the County web page to get sponsorships. He reiterated a former stand that the Parks System would prefer to be "independent of general fund dollars. They already have some things, i.e., golf courses and concessions, run by private sources and they plan to increase these. He said it has paid-off beautifully for the County.

Transportation problems were discussed, focusing primarily on the new growth areas in the west, southwest and northwest citing the need to develop a system similar to park-and-ride to service residents traveling a distance to reach their job site. Mr. Scalzo said that all departments have been considering the question of transportation and commented that the trail system could become instrumental in allowing fast transportation to bus stops in some areas. Population growth and accessibility to work areas from residential neighborhoods is a problem that will continue to grow as more and more people move to the County. He indicated that this will consume a large portion of the problem-solving in the planning for the proposed regional transportation system. Towns and cities must cooperate in funding bus transportation to make such a system work and bus facilities must be increased to handle the growth.

~ Supervisor Kunasek left the meeting at this time ~

Mr. Scalzo next reported that they would need approximately \$45M capital budget over the next five years that will fund issues such as master planning, water availability and storage, visitor centers, camping areas, shooting ranges, playgrounds, amphitheaters, parking areas, facilities development including new facilities plus plans for upgrades, renovation and rehabilitation of existing facilities. He gave details of specific plans for each of the next five years. Mr. Scalzo said, "Our parks are the guardians to protect all our natural resources for future generations, and the providers of open space for our residents to enjoy."

Funding methods were discussed. The break-down on the total five-year projected amount is as follows:

\$38,545,900 for land purchases
\$45,189,700 for capital development
For a total of \$83,735,600 over the next 5 years.

Supervisor Wilcox thanked Mr. Scalzo and Mr. VanAusdal for the presentation stating, "I grew up in Superior Arizona. I don't know what I would have done if there hadn't been mountains that you can really enjoy. That's what we're about. We're a desert, but we're a beautiful desert with very, very beautiful spaces." She suggested possible partnerships as well as bonding to assist the Parks Department.

Chairman Stapley said that Parks was nearly the only non-mandated department and that they had been leaders in managing partnerships with state, county, city, and private sectors. He thanked the board for their support in recent decisions, citing Spur Cross and San Tan Parks. About San Tan he said, "This year marks the completion of a dream that other people who preceded all of us on this board had in the '80s when they acquired that park from the BLM (Bureau of Land Management). Yes, it's in another county but it's on the very edge of Maricopa County in a rapidly urbanizing area." This has presented political challenges in running a park on another county's land. Maricopa County citizens will use this park, and have been using it illegally. There has been a lot of dumping at this park, but this year marks the turnaround. These natural assets will be preserved and developed. He also said that the greater problem of resources needs to be addressed creatively. He used the example of a California land solution. Marina Del Rey and surrounding land was obtained by Los Angeles County and developed with bonds. Subsequently, money gained from leases of the surrounding land supports most of the park budget of the largest county in the United States. Here in Maricopa County fuel concessions at Lake Powell as well as other revenue possibilities will be available as the Lake continues to become more popular.

Supervisor Wilson thanked Mr. Scalzo and Mr. VanAusdal for the presentation. Supervisor Wilson also suggested that the environmental groups and foundations share many of the same goals as the Parks Department and could contribute significantly to acquire or protect and maintain park lands.

Mr. Scalzo said that when acquiring Spur Cross, he and Chairman Stapley talked with many of such groups. The Parks Department has always welcomed and worked with these groups to enhance or benefit Park's projects. A 501(c)3 foundation is being established in order to facilitate donations from utilities, developers or foundations. The Greater Phoenix Economic Council (GPEC) uses open space and park amenities in their promotions to major corporations. These companies may also wish to donate to Parks' projects.

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Supervisor Wilson stated that if opportunities to acquire these lands are missed now, they will be missed forever. These parks are wonderful, providing a brush with nature that most residents of the County need to take advantage of.

SUPERVISORS COMMENTS

The Supervisors all thanked Mr. Scalzo for his excellent presentation and fully endorsed his plans for the future. All expressed their gratitude and continued amazement at the extensive work being done throughout the County by Mr. Scalzo and his staff with such a minimal impact on general fund monies. As they often have in the past, the Board commended him for his attitude and actions in conserving tax monies through his determination to become a self-funding department, one of the few County departments to make such a conscious effort. Each Supervisor committed to cooperating with Mr. Scalzo's projections and urged all to generate some new ideas on ways to increase capital for the parks and to expand the idea of future funding through a 501(c)3 foundation.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

Don Stapley, Chairman of the Board

ATTEST:

Fran McCarroll, Clerk of the Board