

SUMMARY NOTES

Economic Development Task Force – Meeting #2

Date: Wednesday September 26, 2007
10:00 a.m. to noon

Location: Ocotillo Room
Pinal County Government Complex; 31 N. Pinal; Bldg. F

Attendees: Suraj Bhakta, Rose Law Group
Bill Brown, CAC
Evelyn Casuga, APS
Doreen Cott, Town of Queen Creek
Curt Dunham, PSA, Inc.
Rhonda Montgomery, Casa Grande Regional Medical Center
Roger Hill, Abbott Laboratories
Sally Odette, APS
Jim Rhodes, CAC SBDC
Craig Ringer, CAAG
Brad Ross, Resolution Copper
Judie Scalise, ESI Corporation
Tom Smith, Pinal Partnership

After welcome and introductions, participants received a project update.

Discussion of Economic Development Suitability Map

An Economic Development Suitability Map has been developed that identified current activity centers and their sphere of influence/market area, planned new centers, and potential for new centers.

Participants then brainstormed and discussed the types of activity centers that could have potential in Pinal County. The list includes:

1. Mining/resource based
2. Medical
3. Tourism/recreation
4. Industrial/Warehouse/Distribution
5. Aviation
6. Science/Technology



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7. Alternative energy parks
8. Home based/e-commerce/virtual businesses
9. Education
10. Financial center/commodity exchange headquarters (copper)

Participants then discussed the needs for each of these types of Activity Centers and some constraints they will have to address to become viable.

	Need	Current Constraints
Mining	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transportation Resource Vendor and technical support Infrastructure Power 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have flexibility within the land use plan to allow for changes in the market Big picture thinking
Medical/Mixed Use/Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transportation Public Transit Education Conference/convention centers Broadband infrastructure Executive housing Redundant power Recreation 	
Tourism/recreation and hospitality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attraction or destination Amenities Roads/air service Lodging Labor force Vendors/service 	
Light manufacturing, warehousing and distribution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Labor Multi-modal transportation Basic infrastructure FTZ 	
Aviation/Aerospace	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transportation Rail connectivity, intermodal Cargo Regional jetports Regional airport Vendor services/maintenance 	



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Science/Technology	Landscape Workforce that is highly skilled and educated Ambiance/ 24-7 factor Telecom Exec and workforce housing	
Sustainable Businesses Renewable Resources – Alternative Energy Parks	Tax advantages and other incentives Public private partnerships	Ordinances to allow activity Political will legal
Virtual Based businesses	Desirable places to live Intellectual capital SBDC to reach out and help them grow Air service Telecom	Tracking them
Education activity center	Population base Telecomm Workforce Housing Government commitment Multi-modal transportation network Partnerships with K-12 Focus area or core curriculum Need interface with business and developers	
Finance Center	Need transaction flow Telecomm Corp/regional headquarters	

General Constraints

Participants then identified some general constraints that Pinal County must address in order to develop viable Activity Centers. These constraints should be addressed through policy development.



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- Policies need to support state and federal policies
- There are no policies that are encouraging, such as incentives
- Building the infrastructure
- Local capacity building of talent
- Multi-jurisdictional enforcement of ordinances
- Counties don't have home rule and are very limited in AZ. They need tools
- Role of the county is to create the vision for economic development and be strategic and implement
- Intergovernmental agreements to link up cities with county

Discussion of Economic Development Policy Framework

Participants were provided a list of Draft Policy Ideas created by the consulting team. The policies were separated into six categories:

- Land Uses/Activity Centers
- Labor Force
- Infrastructure
- Political/Governmental Support and County Role
- Financing

Participants supported the policies as presented and encouraged them to move forward in the process.

Meeting adjourned at 12 noon

