

October 23, 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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October 2008 Pinal Comprehensive Plan Available for Review; Workshops Scheduled

Arizona continues to grow, and much of this growth over the next 30 years will occur in Pinal County. The County has been working over the last 18 months to create the Pinal County Comprehensive Plan that preserves sensitive land areas and the lifestyle that Pinal residents enjoy. Arizona counties are required by state law to adopt comprehensive plans and the Pinal County Comprehensive Plan, when adopted by the Board of Supervisors, will replace the 2001 Comprehensive Plan.

Almost 2,000 people participated in the 46 public events held to date and over 100 community leaders served on 8 different working groups providing their voice to craft the future vision and policies outlined in the Plan. All of the municipalities and Native American communities within Pinal participated in the process. The Plan is intended to reflect and honor the local jurisdictions' planning authority while ensuring a coordinated, regional effort. The County provided three key directives when embarking on this update process in 2007: *Preserve Open Spaces, Improve Mobility and Attract Living Wage Jobs*. The vision-based plan addresses these concepts and is now available for review on the project's website.

In July 2008, the first 60 Day Review Draft was released. And, over the course of the summer, we received great feedback—nearly 1,600 individual comments on the 60 Day Review Draft Plan were received. These comments were compiled into matrices and used during the development of the next Draft.

Late this summer, the Board of Supervisors made the decision to push back the schedule for Plan adoption until after the November 2008 election, allowing for the release of a new Draft for public review. Earlier this week, the **October 2008 Pinal County Comprehensive Plan** was released online (www.PinalCountyPlan.com). Continuing the County's commitment to public involvement in this process, four workshops have been scheduled to present the October 2008 Pinal County Comprehensive Plan:

Wednesday, November 12, 2008 – Coolidge

6 to 8 p.m.
Central Arizona College, Signal Peak Campus
Student Services Center - M101
8470 N. Overfield Rd.; Coolidge

Monday, November 17, 2008 – Maricopa

6 to 8 p.m.
University of Arizona Agriculture Center
Multipurpose Room
37860 W Smith-Enke Road; Maricopa

Wednesday, November 19, 2008 – Gold Canyon

6 to 8 p.m.
MountainBrook Village
5782 MountainBrook Drive; Gold Canyon

Thursday, November 20, 2008 – SaddleBrooke

6 to 8 p.m.
DesertView Performing Arts Center **
39900 S Clubhouse Drive; SaddleBrooke
(*:attendees must register online and pick up a ticket at the Center box office prior to the event)

Registration for these events is now available online at www.PinalCountyPlan.com.

This new Draft outlines how and where Pinal County should grow and develop over time. The Plan addresses where open space will be preserved, identifies locations for employment-related uses and residential areas, and designates where commercial or services should be located. The Plan strives to create robust and healthy communities, both physically and fiscally within Pinal County, by encouraging orderly development. The principles of smart growth and sustainability provide the framework for the Comprehensive Plan.

The October 2008 Pinal County Comprehensive Plan is available on the project Web site: www.PinalCountyPlan.com. In keeping with the sustainable ethic, Pinal County is striving to reduce paper. Printed review copies of the Plan are also available at several locations; contact Ashlee Hanna at 520.866.6642 or ashlee.hanna@co.pinal.az.us for more information. The formal public hearing process is anticipated to begin in early 2009. To receive information about these upcoming events, sign up to be included in the database on the project website www.PinalCountyPlan.com.

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