



MEMORANDUM

Date: January 31, 2017

To: The Honorable Chair and Members
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "CHH", is written over the printed name "C.H. Huckelberry".

Re: **January 24, 2017 Letter from Saving Birds Thru Habitat**

I have forwarded the attached January 24, 2017 letter from Saving Birds Thru Habitat to the Clerk of the Board to post to the March 7, 2017 Board of Supervisors Agenda.

The Board of Supervisors will be presented with the Award of Exceptional Merit. This designation will be a first for a county in the country to receive this award.

CHH/anc

Attachment

c: Julie Castañeda, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

Saving Birds Thru Habitat



P.O. Box 288 • Omena, Michigan 49674-0288 • 231-271-3738

January 24, 2017

Mr. C. H. Huckelberry, County Administrator
Pima County Administrator's Office
Pima County Governmental Center
130 W. Congress St., 10th Floor
Tucson, AZ 85701

Dear Mr. Huckelberry,

Although we are a relatively small organization in rural Michigan, we have worked with entities on projects of all sizes and scope, including an international sand mining company and a wetland restoration benefitting birds in west Texas. We have presented programs to standing room only crowds across the country from California to Connecticut. We work with institutions, companies, NGO's, and people of all ages to educate them on the challenges facing our native bird populations and ways we can all step in to help them.

According to the 2016 State of the Birds Report, more than a third of our native avian species are at risk of extinction. While these beautiful winged creatures face many challenges, the greatest is loss of habitat. And habitat, by definition, is native plants. In conducting research on a presentation about what Portland, Oregon and Tucson (or, more accurately, Pima County) have done in supporting native plants, we learned about the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan. (I am a birder and have spent many winters in Tucson and am personally aware of some of your work.) We have studied details on your website and are frankly amazed at what your community has done. It is nothing short of remarkable.

Pima County, its leaders, partners and residents have embraced the beauty and complexity of the Sonoran landscape, and have done much to protect its beautiful, unique plants and animals including the birds we work for. We would like to honor your community's great effort you have embarked on by presenting you with our Award of Exceptional Merit. It would designate Pima County as the first county in the country to receive this award. We have certified industrial, commercial and private properties across the country, but we have never certified an entire county before.

With that in mind, and since I am going to be in Tucson on the date of your Board of Commissioners regular meeting on March 7, I am respectfully requesting to have a place on the agenda for the meeting to allow me to personally present this award to the Commissioners.

Please let me know if this is acceptable to you and the Board.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Kay Charter
Executive Director

bobolink2000@gmail.com

Our goal is to improve habitat for migrating birds one yard at a time.