



Mission Garden

Friends of Tucson's Birthplace

Dear Friend of Tucson's Birthplace,
9, 2018

Sunday, December

We urgently seek your help today, to ensure that the Rio Nuevo Board commits to redeveloping the "A" Mountain landfill as a regional open space educational park and accepts the free fill from the dredging of the Santa Cruz by the Pima County Flood Control. FOTB is especially concerned as the "A" Mountain landfill surrounds Mission Garden and is directly contiguous to Tucson Origins Heritage Park.

WHAT:

Please assert your support for the redevelopment of the "A" Mountain landfill as a Regional Open Space Educational Park to Rio Nuevo , owner of the surface land, in an email.

WHEN:

Email ASAP-by December 10th, Monday:

NOTE-The RN Board meets Tuesday, December 11th so only emails will reach RN in time

Fletcher McCusker, Director,
Rio Nuevo Multipurpose Facilities District
[400 W. Congress Street, Ste #152](#)
[Tucson, Arizona 85701](#)
brandihb@rionuevo-tucson.org

Please also cc:

Mayor and City Council Members c/o Tucson City Clerk: cityclerk@tucsonaz.gov

Pima County Board of Supervisors: cob_mail@pima.gov - Please note there is an underscore after cob and before mail

FOTB/Mission Garden and Santa Cruz Alliance: missiongarden.tucson@gmail.com

Thank you for your consideration and your prompt action!

We sincerely apologize for the short notification of this request.

WHY:

The 27-acre "A" Mountain Landfill, previously a City of Tucson landfill in the 1950's and early 1960's, is currently owned by Rio Nuevo. Rio Nuevo has previously entertained plans to convert the landfill in various ways that would be a huge distraction from honoring this land, which originally belonged to the Tohono O'odham peoples and their ancestors. Previous plans would also have decimated existing native

plant growth and wildlife of this historic area. Friends of Tucson's Birthplace / Mission Garden joins the Santa Cruz Alliance and many other cultural and environmental organizations in asking Rio Nuevo to protect this sacred land as open space by converting the "A" Mountain landfill into a park which we are calling The Sonoran Desert Heritage Park. This conversion could be achieved at minimal cost to all. Pima County Flood Control plans to begin the necessary protective dredging of the Santa Cruz River between 29th Street and Cushing Street, at the beginning of January in order to complete the dredging project prior to spring bird migration and nesting season.

Pima County Flood Control has proposed to place the dredged sediments on the Landfill at no cost to Rio Nuevo. The department's landscape architect and ecologist have created an excellent and comprehensive overall design for the site to preserve the many existing large native trees and creates berms and swales to encourage passive water harvesting. These enhancements will provide additional wildlife habitat and protection and create opportunities for birdwatching and human recreation. The project and landscaping design has been presented at several neighborhood meetings and received enthusiastic approval.

Your support of our surrounding neighborhoods is essential to making this important and far-reaching project a reality.

Ideas for your letter to Rio Nuevo

Reasons for your support:

- Recognize Tucson's Native American beginnings and heritage.
- Honor Tucson's Birthplace, history and cultural diversity.
- Preserve/ secure existing wildlife corridor between Santa Cruz River and Tucson Mountains.
- Desired by surrounding neighborhoods on Tucson's west side.
- Good for tourism, eco-tourism and local business * the AMLF is walking distance from San Agustin Mercado, street car and TCC.
- Inexpensive alternative to landfill removal (estimated at \$35 million).
- Generate income and tax revenue from ecotourism and cultural heritage tourism
- Unique amenity for downtown Tucson – beautiful, natural open space within walking distance for Tucson residents and visitors alike.

Statements which explain your request:

- "A" Mountain landfill, Tucson Origins Heritage site and the entire Tucson community will be the beneficiaries of ecological restoration alongside cultural and historical preservation.
- Promote plant growth, aesthetics, and the heritage park with the free dredged soil removed from the Santa Cruz River placed on the "A" Mountain Landfill.

- Preserve open space with natural native vegetation on the site of the former "A" Mountain Landfill (AMLF).
- Sonoran Desert Heritage Park will be a regional open-space educational park for local non-invasive recreation and ecotourism on the AMLF.

*2017 Arizona Bureau of Tourism statistics: "43.9 million people visited Arizona collectively spent \$22.7 billion in the state. The money spent by visitors supports jobs and generates tax revenue. The \$3.37 billion in 2017 tax revenue equals an annual tax savings of \$1,293 for every Arizona household and supported 187,100 industry jobs."

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