

Environmental Planning Advisory Committee (EPAC) Meeting

At or after 9:30 a.m., Thursday, September 3, 2026
1 E. Broadway Blvd., Fourth Floor
Tucson, AZ 85701

Public Access to Meeting Audio/Presentation: <https://www.youtube.com/live/J2YY-KUZ6fU>

Pursuant to A.R.S. 38-431.02, notice is hereby given to the public and to the Committee members that the Environmental Planning Advisory Committee (EPAC) of Pima Association of Governments (PAG) will meet at the above stated time and date.

In compliance with open meeting laws, PAG-RTA meeting agendas requiring public notice are posted at the official address referenced above and are available for public review during official PAG/RTA business hours, excluding weekends and legal holidays.

SPECIAL NOTICE: *Members of the EPAC may attend the meeting remotely or in person. The meeting room will be open to the public. However, members of the public are invited to attend the meeting via the link above. EPAC members will be provided with a separate link to participate. Members of the public may submit written comments relating to this meeting to info@pagregion.com within 24 hours of the meeting's posted start time. These comments will be filed with the committee's records.*

EPAC is a technical advisory committee established by PAG to make regional environmental planning recommendations to the Management Committee and PAG Executive Director. EPAC provides technical review and develops recommendations on studies, reports, plans, programs and submittals in support of continuous, comprehensive and cooperative planning and programming within the PAG planning area and in full compliance with PAG policies and procedures.

PAG is committed to maintaining high standards of conduct and prohibits harassment and retaliation against all employees pursuant to Pima Association of Governments' Policy Against Discrimination, Harassment and Retaliation. It is the responsibility of all committee members to comply with and to report violations or suspected violations of the Rules of Conduct, PAG/RTA policies, or state laws.

PAG's Rules of Conduct require committee members to observe high standards of conduct and personal ethics in the conduct of their duties and responsibilities. Committee members are prohibited from interfering with the administrative functions of the organization and must comply with the open meeting law and all other applicable laws, regulations and policies.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order and Introductions

2. In-kind Form

The participants will be asked to confirm their estimated in-kind time so the meeting can count as a local match to PAG's federally funded programs.

This is an information item.

3. Approval of EPAC May 7, 2026, Meeting Summary

Action: Approval of the Meeting Summary.

4. Colorado River allocations and impacts to the Central Arizona Project (CAP)

A representative from CAP will present an update on the status of Colorado River allocations, shortages and impacts on CAP.

This is an information item.

5. Pima County Santa Cruz River Wildlife Ramp

Representatives from Pima County will present an update on the wildlife ramp constructed as part of the Santa Cruz River Management Plan and Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan.

This is an information item.

6. Santa Cruz River Refuge

Representatives from the Sonoran Institute will present on the latest efforts towards establishing a National Wildlife Refuge along a stretch of the Santa Cruz River.

This is an information item.

7. Announcements and Request for Future Agenda Items

Committee members will be given the opportunity to share announcements from their organizations that are relevant to the business of the committee. PAG staff may share updates relevant to the business of the committee.

Members of the committee may request agenda topics to be considered for discussion at a future meeting.

****Pursuant to Arizona open meeting laws, the committee cannot discuss or take action today on any matters raised under this agenda item. Under this agenda item, committee members are also prohibited from returning to other agenda items which have been previously discussed and concluded earlier in this meeting.*

8. Adjournment

The EPAC meeting packet containing materials related to the meeting is available at www.PAGregion.com for public review. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), those requiring special assistance, such as large typeface print, sign language or other reasonable accommodations, may request those through the administrative offices at: (520) 792-1093 at least two business days before the meeting.

PAG operates its programs without regard to race, color and national origin in compliance with [Title VI](#) of the Civil Rights Act. We invite you to complete our voluntary self-identification survey ([English/Spanish](#)).

If you need translation assistance, please contact Zonia Kelley at (520) 792-1093. Si necesita ayuda con traducción, llame por favor al (520) 792-1093 y comuníquese con Zonia Kelley.

Environmental Planning Advisory Committee (EPAC) Meeting Summary

Summary of 9:30 a.m., Thursday, May 7, 2026, Meeting

Full Video Recording (YouTube): <https://www.youtube.com/live/NQbR8QfNMa8>

ATTENDEES

Voting Members

Adrianna Castro, The Chamber of Southern Arizona
Aidelis Moyet, Town of Sahuarita Alternate
Alejandra Fraijo Arce, Kimley-Horn
Becca Cammack, Tucson Airport Authority
Christina McVie, Tucson Bird Alliance
Howard Myers, SAHBA Alternate
Jared Suydam, Pima County
Josue Licea, City of South Tucson
Kimberly Baeza, Pima County
Luke Cole, Sonoran Institute
Lydia Barker, City of Tucson
Michael Garcia, Town of Oro Valley
Paula Bluemer, Town of Marana
Chad Lapora, City of Tucson
Alexander Ball, Oro Valley Citizen Rep
David McAllister Romo, Pima County Citizen Rep

Non-Voting Members

David Mack, ADOT
Katie Predick, Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum
Jessica Rodriguez, City of Tucson

Presenters

Kris Gade, Pima County
Jenny Neeley, Pima County

Staff Lead

Dustin Fitzpatrick, Environmental Planning Administrator

1. Call to Order and Introductions

The meeting was conducted in a virtual format and called to order at 9:31 a.m.

2. In-kind Form

PAG Environmental Planning Administrator, Dustin Fitzpatrick, informed participants of the in-kind form, and members were asked to confirm their estimated in-kind time for the meeting.

3. Approval of EPAC February 5, 2026, Meeting Summary

Action: A motion to approve the Feb. 5, 2026, meeting summary was made by Christina McVie, Tucson Bird Alliance, and was seconded by Paula Bluemer, Town of Marana. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Pima County Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan

Video Timestamp: [8:01](#)

After a brief introduction, Kris Gade, Pima County Conservation Lands and Resources, and Jenny Neeley, Pima County Conservation Lands and Resources, provided the members with a brief review of the 25th anniversary of the Pima County Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan, including its history, goals, implementation, and accomplishments.

Members were informed of the history and development of the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan, detailing its key milestones, adoption, and historical accomplishments, alongside a review of maps detailing the boundaries in which the plan covers. Additionally, members were informed of the programs the plan provides, such as residential and commercial permitting.

Kimberly Baeza, Pima County, inquired about future developments revolving around the conservation plan, such as renewal preparations, improvements, and tribal nation collaboration. Members were informed that Pima County is actively developing evaluation criteria and data markers to assess the plan's effectiveness as well as establishing consistent collaboration with the tribal nations.

PAG Transportation Planning Director, Jeanette DeRenne, inquired about what precautions jurisdictions should consider soon regarding project development in alignment with the conservation plan. Members were informed that it would be beneficial to adopt and incorporate the conservation plan in their initial project development to ensure alignment.

The presentation can be found [HERE](#).

This was an information only item.

5. EPAC Committee Update

Video Timestamp: [1:13:04](#)

PAG Environmental Planning Administrator, Dustin Fitzpatrick, provided the members with a brief update on the status of the EPAC committee structure and bylaws. Members

were informed of the Regional Council's request to update and streamline all PAG and RTA committee roles, purposes, schedules and quorum requirements, as well as a review of the current PAG-RTA committee organizational chart. Additionally, members were informed of the next steps and potential timeline for changes.

The presentation can be found [HERE](#).

This was an information only item.

6. Future Agenda Items

Members requested the following items:

- EPAC committee bylaw amendments
- Town of Oro Valley Vistoso Trails Nature Preserve and Desert Ecosystem Restoration Project presentation
- Pima County Floodprone Land Acquisition Program (FLAP) and riparian corridor presentation

******Pursuant to open meeting laws, the committee cannot discuss or act on any matter raised that is not listed on this agenda.***

7. Adjournment

Action: A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Christina McVie, Tucson Bird Alliance, and was seconded by Kimberly Baeza, Pima County. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 10:58 a.m.