

May 27, 2015

Matt Holm, Planning Supervisor
Maricopa County Planning and Development Department
501 N. 44th Street, Suite 200
Phoenix, AZ 85008

RE: Vision 2030 Maricopa County Comprehensive Plan Recommendation

Dear Matt:

The community of Anthem values the opportunity to weigh in on Maricopa County's Vision 2030 draft comprehensive plan. We understand the importance of having foresight to plan for future endeavors as we endorse the same philosophy. We recognize that the last plan was adopted in 1997 and updated in 2002. And we appreciate that the plan outlines the county's goals and aspirations in terms of community development.

We support the recommendations of the New River Desert Hills Community Association, which include the following:

1. Transportation Element Recommendations
 - Add a policy that enforces protection measures when roadway improvements and other development is planned or implemented along scenic corridors.
 - Transportation Policy #5: include existing developed areas, not just new development areas.
2. Environment Element Recommendations
 - Environment Policy #7: Reduce persistent (continuous) noise, not just loud noises.
3. Economic Growth Element Recommendations
 - Encourage countywide development of high-speed, efficient, affordable and reliable wireless and broadband communication networks to provide all county residents and businesses with fast, uninterrupted email and internet service, access to the growing use of distance learning, productive use of collaboration technologies and existing and emerging services for economic development.
4. Growth Areas Element Recommendations
 - Add a goal and/or policy to identify and protect areas that are not appropriate for urban growth (i.e. should remain rural or open space).
5. Open Space Element Recommendations

- Clarify that open space preservation may take the form of agricultural fields, active and passive recreation areas, conservation easements, nature preserves, etc.
 - Encourage/support interconnectivity of the trail system with trails of the surrounding cities, towns, counties and federal lands.
 - Expand the regional park system (such as with Daisy Mountain) to support the Vision statement (found on Page 93), "The county's Parks and Recreation Strategic System Master Plan estimates that over the next 15 years an additional 30,000 acres of parkland open space could be needed".
6. Water Resources Element Recommendations
- Increase water conservation emphasis in the entire county (not just new development).
7. Energy Element Recommendations
- Energy Policy #4: Include support for alternative transportation (*walking, bicycling, carpooling and mass transit*) in rural areas (not just urban areas).
8. Other Recommendations
- Add a separate Acronym Glossary for quick reference.
 - Shorten the executive summary – one to three pages maximum.
 - Fully embrace transparency in the process; conduct face-to-face, professionally-facilitated meetings to gather feedback and discuss issues.

We fully plan and expect to be involved in the more detailed plan specific to the Anthem area (the New River Area Plan, dated 1999) when it is up for revision. We would be happy to make the Anthem Civic Building available to you to host community meetings on the subject; please contact CEO Jenna Kohl at 623-742-6064 or jkohl@anthemcouncil.com to make arrangements. We truly appreciate our partnership with the County and look forward to working with you on this importance planning process for the County and the Anthem area.

Sincerely,



Tim Fyke, President

On Behalf of the Anthem Community Council

C: Maricopa County Supervisors: Denny Barney, Steve Chucri, Andy Kunasek, Clint Hickman, Steve Gallardo
Alan Muller and Ann Hutchinson, New River Desert Hills Community Association
Jenna Kohl, Anthem Community Council CEO