Notice is hereby given, pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.02, that the Board of Supervisors of Santa Cruz County, State of Arizona will hold a **SPECIAL MEETING** at 4:15 p.m., on **Thursday, April 18, 2024**, at the Santa Cruz County Complex, 2150 N. Congress Drive, Room 120, Nogales, Arizona.

Notice is further given that one or more members of the Board of Supervisors may attend this meeting telephonically or by video conference.
If you are attending in person, the doors to the meeting room will be open at 4:00 p.m.
Members of the public may call to listen to and view the special meeting by following these steps:

- **Dial** (669)900-6833
- **Enter the Meeting ID**: 914 664 2271
- **Zoom Meeting Link**: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9146642271

All incoming calls for the meeting will be muted.

Dated this 15th day of April 2024.

Alma Schultz, Clerk
Board of Supervisors

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**AGENDA**

4:15 PM
Special Meeting
Santa Cruz County Complex
2150 N. Congress Drive, Room 120
Nogales, AZ 85621
(520) 375-7812 ● FAX (520) 761-7843 ● TDD (520) 375-7934

A. **CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTION ITEMS</th>
<th>ACTION TAKEN</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Discussion/possible action to ratify, consistent with A.R.S. 38-431.05(B)(4), the authorization of the County Manager and Deputy County Manager's changing the signatories on the County's banking accounts (Req: County Manager) A written explanation of the action requiring ratification is available from the Clerk's office.</td>
<td>_____________</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Discussion/possible action to appoint a temporary Treasurer, in light of Board Supervisors accepting the resignation of Ms. Elizabeth Gutfahr on April 15, 2024 (Req: County Manager)</td>
<td>_____________</td>
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<td>3. Discussion/possible action to approve a commitment of $570,000 for the Santa Cruz River Corridor Prosperity Initiative EDA Recompete Pilot Phase 2 Grant Application (Req: County Manager)</td>
<td>_____________</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Discussion/possible action to approve Letter of Concern to Kerwin Dewberry, Forest Supervisor for the US Forest Service regarding the Hermosa Project National Environmental Policy Act process proposed in the Federal FAST (Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act)-41 program (Req: Vice-Chairman Bracker)</td>
<td>_____________</td>
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5. Discussion/possible action to approve the process to be used in the recruitment and appointment of the County Treasurer ( Req: County Manager)

C. ADJOURNMENT

Posted: 04/17/2024 at 3:15 p.m. by AS
Alma Schultz, Clerk of the Board

The Board of Supervisors may vote to hold an executive session for the purpose of obtaining legal advice from the Board’s Attorney on any matter listed on the agenda pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(3).

Persons with a disability may request reasonable accommodation by contacting the Clerk of the Board at (520) 375-7812. For TDD, please contact the Arizona Relay Service at 1-800-842-4681 or dial 7-1-1 and ask the operator to connect you to (520) 375-7812.
April 18, 2024

Assistant Secretary Alejandra Castillo  
Economic Development Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW, Suite 71014  
Washington, DC 20230

RE: Commitment for 2024 Santa Cruz River Corridor Prosperity Initiative EDA Recompete  
Pilot Phase 2 Grant Application

Dear Assistant Secretary Castillo:

As the lead applicant, Santa Cruz County, Arizona is pleased to support the Santa Cruz River Corridor Prosperity Initiative application for a Phase 2 implementation grant.

Santa Cruz County is leading a coalition (Pima County, City of Tucson, Santa Cruz County) along with a range of regional partners to connect workers to local employers, grow rural employment opportunities through business innovation, and remove barriers through wraparound services and partnerships. The initiative prioritizes digital inclusion and seeks to build regional climate-resilient infrastructure to support good job pathways in the long term.

Santa Cruz County is positioned and authorized to support and carry out the three strategies identified in the Pilot Plan application (Regional Industry Reinvestment, Regional Climate Resiliency, Digital Equity, and Inclusion). As outlined in our application, we propose to co-develop pathways with our government and community-based partners for good jobs that lower the prime age employment gap (PAEG) throughout the region.

pledge to support the implementation of this initiative by leveraging our general fund resources over the next two years in the following ways: +
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Component project</th>
<th>Capital Match Sources</th>
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</table>
| Community Infrastructure - Rural Infrastructure Readiness | **General Fund** - Santa Cruz County commits $500,000 of its general fund revenue to two projects:  
1. $250,000 for the *Downtown Nogales Sustainable Revitalization and Infrastructure Enhancement Project*. The purpose of this project is to transform downtown Nogales into a vibrant, climate-resilient, and economically thriving community by revitalizing key corridors, implementing green stormwater infrastructure, and improving critical infrastructure associated with the Nogales Wash  
2. $250,000 for *Tubac’s Wastewater Infrastructure and Sewer System Study and Needs Assessment*. The Wastewater Infrastructure and Sewer System Study represents a critical first step in strengthening Tubac’s resilience to climate-related water management challenges. By assessing the current state of our wastewater infrastructure and identifying areas for improvement and innovation, we can better prepare for future water stress and ensure the efficient and sustainable management of our precious water resources. |
| Digital Inclusion | **General Fund** - Santa Cruz County commits $70,000 of its general fund revenue to pay for infrastructure improvements enabling audio/visual and video conferencing capabilities at the Tubac Community Center. The center is an existing community facility owned by Santa Cruz County, which is one of the few public spaces in the west county with access to high-speed fiber optic internet. The goal is to leverage technology to bridge the digital divide and promote economic growth, sustainability, and quality of life in Santa Cruz County. |

Over the next five years, we also commit in kind resources to leverage and expand our programs:
Workforce system development to support prime age eligible persons seeking employment. Recompete funding will enable Santa Cruz County’s workforce/one stop system to have flexible staffing resources not currently allowed under the workforce system to partner with the Santa Cruz County Provisional Community College, Pima County Workforce Development, the Fresh Produce Association, the Greater Nogales-Santa Cruz County Chamber of Commerce, and other institutions. It will enable the county to develop and implement training programs that cross existing industry sectors – such as binational manufacturing and trade, fresh produce, and emerging technologies in EV training and maintenance. As outlined in our application, we would provide our county building for this purpose, utilities, and staffing to support this work after the two years needed to launch this initiative. Those in-kind staffing and facility resources are worth an estimated $530,000 over the 5-year period.

Oversee the development of infrastructure projects to improve community climate resilient infrastructure. Recompete funding would enable us to build EV Infrastructure and a new charging station, as well as enhance the sustainability and resilience of four areas of Santa Cruz County (Tubac Village, Downtown Nogales, Rio Rico, and Sonoita-Elgin) for pre-development infrastructure, particularly in areas such as wastewater management, stormwater mitigation, pedestrian safety, and streetscape enhancements, as approved/in collaboration with each community’s goals/needs. As outlined in our updated Community Economic Development Strategy (EDA-funded plan) priorities to our regional planning agency, this project would also foster desired local community economic development and cultural preservation through targeted revitalization efforts, including façade improvements, streetscape enhancements, and walkability planning. It would promote community engagement and collaboration to ensure that project goals align with the needs and priorities of each respective community’s residents, businesses, and stakeholders. As outlined in our application, we would provide one in kind full-time equivalent staff support/administrative time to oversee climate resilient projects for Nogales, Rio Rico, Sonoita and Tubac projects at 10 hrs./week/each x five years (an estimated value of $300,000) to complement our request for $6.75 million to complement this effort.

Expand the successful nonprofit accelerator we launched with ARPA resources to build community and economic development capacity. In 2020, community leaders identified the need for collaborative investments in culture, art, tourism, and preservation across the area’s diverse communities to create a broader impact and employment building on our many natural assets. To further capacity development of the civil sector, the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors in the summer of 2022 deployed $480,000 in the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to 15 local nonprofits, which participated in an accelerator to extend their impact. Through the ARPA investment, 9 of the 15 organizations were new to federal funding and are now positioned to receive larger federal grants or other future nonlocal funding. We are now pursuing the implementation of a nonprofit
“accelerator” (targeted capacity building) support to the Santa Cruz County nonprofit community, enabling them to build cross-community and cross-organizational collaboratives supporting arts, affordable housing, culinary tourism, and entrepreneurial job creation. This work has been funded through a five-year commitment from EDA through its Economic Recovery Corp Program, a partnership with the International Economic Development Council, in collaboration with the Santa Cruz County Community Foundation.

**Strengthen the Business Ecosystem.** Most Santa Cruz County employers are small businesses; 80 percent have fewer than 20 employees. To that end, the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors in 2022 deployed approximately $1 million in forgivable loans to 76 entrepreneurs, artists, and employers. A defining feature of the small business program is its emphasis on “forgiveness,” where recipients are required to contribute 10% of their loan value back to the community or invest in training and skills development for their own employees. A forthcoming social impact evaluation report in the summer of 2024 will demonstrate the impact of those investments. Many small businesses are creating new jobs and collaborating with the civil sector through investment in public schools and development of public art, wayfinding signage, community preservation, and related projects.

**Address our county’s affordable and workforce housing needs.** In the spring of 2024, Santa Cruz County received a capacity building engagement and a grant from the National Association of Latino Community Asset Builders. In May, we will engage a range of partners, with their support, to implement our housing strategy (also supported by a 2023 National Association of Latino Community Asset Builders technical assistance engagement).

**Develop a regional development authority** that integrates and convenes workforce and economic development, digital equity, and affordable housing services. We pledge to do so through our learning made possible through this initiative.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this proposal. We are excited about the potential these resources will make in creating transformational regional partnerships for our residents and employers in Southern Arizona.

Sincerely,

Manuel Ruiz, 
Chairman

Bruce Bracker, 
Vice-Chairman

Rudy Molera, 
Supervisor
April 18, 2024

Mailed and emailed.

Kerwin S. Dewberry, Forest Supervisor
Coronado National Forest
300 W. Congress St.
Tucson, AZ 85701
kdewberry@fs.fed.us

Dear Mr. Dewberry:

We appreciate the opportunity USFS has given us to voice our concerns with the approach the Forest Service is taking with the NEPA public engagement process for the South32 Hermosa Critical Minerals Project, currently underway in Santa Cruz County. To be clear, we still have concerns with the process USFS has chosen to engage in.

As the USFS is now aware, our County is predominantly Hispanic, with 78% or our residents speaking Spanish as a first language. It is not only beneficial to USFS and the Biden Administration, it is beneficial to the Santa Cruz County to employ an engagement process that ensures the entire community has been effectively educated and fully understands the impacts of the Hermosa Project, as well as, informed of the range of possible alternatives that mitigate adverse impacts.

This is a complex project in an environmentally sensitive area. Our stakeholders require sufficient time to fully understand the implications this mine will have on the ecosystem, and the impacts mining operations may have on public health.

In our view, an effective public engagement project process includes:
1) ample opportunity for community members to learn more about the project.
2) workshops to explore impacts and alternatives; and,
3) such education in a bilingual approach that effectively conveys the information to a multi-ethnic community.

We suggest a public engagement process that includes:
● a 60-day scoping period in two (2) phases, each roughly one month long as follows
● Phase 1) Educational Materials:
Bilingual (Spanish/English) educational materials widely circulated throughout the community designed to educate and inform on topics related to the NEPA process, the potential impacts of the Hermosa mining operation footprint, and typical ways to develop alternatives to mitigate adverse impacts; and

● Phase 2) Public Workshops and Meetings:

A minimum of two public facilitated workshops, one conducted in Spanish with live English translation, and one conducted in English with live Spanish translation. The value of these workshops is to use a collaborative process to explore mine impacts and alternatives related to the NEPA process; and,

A minimum of two public meetings where community members can make verbal or written comments either in Spanish or English, sharing their thoughts and ideas on the Hermosa Mine related to the NEPA process.

As the USFS and Biden Administration is aware, South32’s Phase 1 investment in the Hermosa Project is the single largest investment in Southern Arizona’s history. The mine will impact Santa Cruz County for the next fifty to eighty years. As direct stakeholders, Santa Cruz County residents, business owners and environmental stakeholders must be made adequately informed of the NEPA related impacts of the Hermosa Critical Minerals project.

Sincerely,

Manuel Ruiz,  
Chairman  

Bruce Bracker,  
Vice-Chairman  

Rudy Molera,  
Supervisor

CC:
Emailed

Daisy Kinsey, Sierra Vista Ranger District  
ckinsey@fs.fed.us

Scott Vandegrift, Chief Environmental Review and Permitting Order  
Scott.vandegrift@usda.gov

Eric Beightel, Permitting Council Chairperson  
Eric.beightel@fpisc.gov

Santa Cruz County Complex  
2150 N. Congress Drive • Room 119 • Nogales, Arizona 85621  
(520) 375-7812 • FAX (520) 761-7843 • TDD (520) 375-7934