Tucson Mountains ASSOCIATION SINCE 1934

Passing the Torch



Dear TMA community,

I'm writing to let you know that I will be stepping down as President of the Tucson Mountains Association and leaving the Board of Directors, effective September 30, in order to spend more time with my family. Serving as your President these past three years has been a tremendous honor, and I am deeply grateful for your trust and support.

I'm happy to share that Vivian Harte, who served as TMA's Vice President in 2024 and 2025, has agreed to step in as President beginning October 1. Vivian brings

I'm proud of what TMA has accomplished during my time as President. Together we helped persuade the City of Tucson to reject the Project Blue data center, secured enhanced protections for the Tucson Mountains in the Pima Prospers Comprehensive Plan update, and sent 16 letters and public comments to elected officials and agencies on the issues that matter to this community. We relaunched the newsletter and rebuilt the website so you can stay informed. We also modernized our bylaws, introduced automatic membership renewal, and organized our records so that future Boards can build on this work for years to come. None of this was mine alone; it was the work of a dedicated volunteer Board and the many members and partners who pitched in along the way.

Thank you to my fellow Board members, past and present, for your hard work, wisdom, collaborative spirit, and friendship. It has been a privilege to work alongside people who care so deeply about our precious Sonoran Desert. And thank you to all of you, our members and subscribers, for writing letters, showing up to meetings, pulling buffelgrass, and standing up for the Tucson Mountains again and again.

I'll remain a proud TMA member, and I hope you'll support Vivian and the Board the way you have supported me. I look forward to seeing you at the annual potluck on October 30.

Sincerely,
Ed Hendel
President, Tucson Mountains Association



Dear TMA community,

On October 1, I'll begin serving as President of the Tucson Mountains Association. It's a responsibility I'm very pleased to take on, especially because I've seen firsthand how much this organization can accomplish.

One of the things I appreciate most about TMA is that we don't simply care about the Tucson Mountains—we act on that concern. We pay attention to what is happening, ask questions, communicate with the people and agencies making decisions, and advocate for our community. That makes TMA both valuable and effective.

I'm grateful to our outgoing president for his leadership and all the work he has done on behalf of the organization. I hope to build on that work while bringing my own ideas, energy, and perspective to the presidency.

I believe TMA has an exciting future. There will undoubtedly be challenges ahead, but there will also be opportunities for us to strengthen our organization, increase our impact, and continue protecting the community and landscape we value so much.

My best,
Vivian Harte
Incoming President

Friday, October 30, 5:00 pm

Church of the Painted Hills

3295 West Speedway

Mark your calendar! We're pleased to invite you to our Annual Potluck Meeting, where we'll come together to celebrate our achievements this year and enjoy the company of fellow nature enthusiasts.

Members will be voting on Board members, and the outcome of these elections will be announced at the Annual Potluck Meeting.

Please bring a dish to share!

TWO SPEAKERS COMING UP!

Julia Fonseca: September 28 at 6:30 pm

Barbara Jones: November 17 at 6:30 pm

In-person only

Church of the Painted Hills

3295 West Speedway

Julia Fonseca's presentation is **"History of the Tucson Mountains Wildlife Area."** Most people regard the Tucson Mountains as a place for recreation, but Aldo Leopold conceived it as a wildlife refuge, and it is still a state Wildlife Area. Learn how local people and civic groups got federal, state, and local governments working together to create and maintain the Tucson Mountains for wildlife over the past 100+ years. This talk covers current wildlife conservation efforts and some of the threats as well.

partnerships. She will share information about the status of the current projects and thoughts for the future of the park.



Julia Fonseca



Barbara Jones

ACTION ALERT!

Help WMG Strengthen Tucson's Large Quantity Water User Ordinance!

(Article in the Coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection's newsletter "Living Desert Alliance")

Tuesday, September 8, 7 pm - 8:30 pm

revisions to the Large Quantity Water User Ordinance — a policy drafted quickly last summer in response to the Project Blue data center proposal.

Mayor and Council are reviewing updates now, making your input both timely and impactful. WMG has developed a set of improvements designed to ensure that any future large water user does not deplete our groundwater or threaten the flow of our rivers.

Ward 6 Councilmember Schubert will open the session with remarks. WMG staff will then explain the history of the ordinance, why stronger protections are essential as Tucson faces ongoing drought and Colorado River shortages, and provide time for discussion and questions. They'll also outline clear ways you can take action ahead of the September 22 Mayor and Council public hearing to help Tucson continue moving toward a **hydro-local** future.

Click here for details and to register— your voice is important and should be heard during this critical planning session.



Data Centers in the Sonoran Desert

Protection's newsletter "Living Desert Alliance")

The **Coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection** has assembled essential updates on the rapid expansion of data center proposals across our region — and why these decisions matter for the future of our desert.
Two major developments highlight how quickly things are changing:

- **Pima County** has approved a 120-day moratorium on new data centers while officials evaluate long-term impacts.
- **Pinal County** has **denied** the rezoning request for the proposed La Osa Data Center, a project that would have pushed industrial development into a sensitive wildlife corridor. (**Click here** to review the letter of concern sent to the Pinal County Board of Supervisors by the Living Desert Alliance prior to their vote.)

These decisions underscore a growing reality: **local codes alone can't protect the shared regional resources that make the Sonoran Desert livable.** Recent votes in **Marana, Pima County, and Pinal County** show how fragmented policies leave gaps that developers can exploit.

The Coalition is working to close those gaps by focusing on three core priorities:

- **Protecting our region's water, a resource every community depends**
- **Advancing cleaner energy solutions**
- **Ensuring industrial projects are sited responsibly to avoid damaging critical habitat and wildlife linkages**

This work is evolving quickly — and the Coalition is collaborating closely with partners to keep communities informed and engaged.

Click here to explore the latest update from the **Coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection**.

Click here to explore the efforts of the **No Desert Data Center Coalition**.

JOIN OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF

Do you love the Tucson Mountains and care about protecting the beauty, character, and quality of life that make our community so special?

We're looking for enthusiastic people who want to make a difference! As a TMA Board member, you can help protect our desert environment, strengthen our neighborhoods, and give our community a strong voice on issues that affect us all.

Come be part of a great team and help shape the future of the Tucson Mountains! To apply, email us at **tucsonmountainsassociation@gmail.com**.

SHARE THE BEAUTY OF THE TUCSON MOUNTAINS!

Have you captured a great photo of a desert plant, wildflower, bird, animal, or other wildlife in the Tucson Mountains? We'd love to see it! Send us your favorite photos of the plants and wildlife that make the Tucson Mountains such an amazing place to live.

Email your photos to **tucsonmountainsassociation@gmail.com** and you might see yours featured in one of our Facebook posts!

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