



Pima Association of Governments

A Resolution to Support Arizona Department of Environmental Quality's Proposed Classification of Davidson Canyon as an Outstanding Arizona Water

Whereas, Davidson Canyon is a rare, spring-fed, low elevation desert stream located southeast of Tucson, Arizona within the Santa Cruz Watershed, and;

Whereas, Davidson Canyon has exceptional ecological significance for our area and supports a variety of rare flora and fauna including several species of concern including the Gila topminnow, Gila chub, Mexican gartersnake, lowland leopard frog, lesser long-nosed bat as well as many migratory birds, and;

Whereas, Davidson Canyon serves as a critical landscape linkage across Interstate 10 and between a number of other important waterways and mountain ranges north and south of Interstate 10, and;

Whereas, Davidson Canyon is a main tributary of Cienega Creek, which is already designated as a Unique Water of the State of Arizona, and;

Whereas, the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality has proposed rules to create a classification of 'Outstanding Water,' and;

Whereas, the Director of the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality may adopt site-specific water quality standards to protect or maintain existing water quality in an 'Outstanding Arizona Water,' and;

Whereas, an 'Outstanding Arizona Water' affords the water body special protection because it prohibits any lowering of water quality in the stream pursuant to Tier 3 anti-degradation rules, and;

Whereas, Davidson Canyon has excellent water quality and existing data show that it would meet or exceed surface water quality standards required to be classified as an 'Outstanding Arizona Water,' and;

Whereas, designation of Davidson Canyon as an 'Outstanding Water' would compliment conservation efforts by local governments such as Pima County and

the City of Tucson who are working on multi-species habitat conservation plans that include the area of Davidson Canyon, and;

Whereas, the Director of the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality has proposed the classification of Davidson Canyon as an 'Outstanding Arizona Water,' and;

Whereas, PAG has received letters supporting the nomination of Davidson Canyon as an 'Outstanding Arizona Water' from Pima County, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Sonoran Institute, Save the Scenic Santa Ritas Association, the Rincon Institute, the Cienega Watershed Partnership, and Colossal Cave Mountain Park.

In Consideration Thereof, the PAG Regional Council:

Supports the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality's proposed classification of Davidson Canyon as an 'Outstanding Arizona Water,' pursuant to Arizona Administrative Code R18-11-112.