

Palo Parado Road Update

December 3, 2009

At the December 2, 2009 board of supervisors meeting the Board voted to enter into agreements with four developers, who agreed to give the county a no-interest loan totaling \$47,500 to help cover the cost to improve the crossing on Palo Parado Road from the end of Caballero Court to 200 feet west of the Union Pacific Railroad right-of-way. This road improvement is important because it will allow the County to receive the ADOT 130 funds to construct the railroad approved safety signal at the railroad crossing and accept that portion of the road into the county road maintained system.

The four developers, First United Realty, Rio Rico Properties, Morning Star Ranch, and Presidio De Tubac, each agreed to provide the county a \$12,500 loan except Presidio De Tubac, who is making a \$10,000 loan. Each of the four developers will receive fee waivers for some county development fees and at the end of five years the developer can submit to the county and request a cash refund for any unused portion of money loaned.

One other developer GRG Construction has agreed to provide in kind services. GRG will be providing equipment and manpower to the effort totaling about \$24,900 and will not be receiving any other consideration. Baca Float Coalition appreciates that the developers are making this money available to the county to move the Palo Parado Road project forward.

In addition, the county asked that the community to get involved and help raise funds to assist in paying for part of the total cost of the project which has been estimated now at \$109,000. Baca Float Coalition has reached out to organizations and members of the Rio Rico community to contribute to the Palo Parado Road improvement fund.

The Baca Float Coalition, Santa Cruz County Board of Realtors, Residents of Rio Rico and Morning Star Ranch HOA and a number of residents of the community have donated \$9,450 to the effort. One resident has made an in kind donation of materials to the county to off set future cost of other county projects. Baca Float Coalition appreciates the contributions made by the community members and organizations. Other Community Organizations have expressed support and have committed to contributing after the first of the year.

The County Manager and Staff have worked very hard to get this project moving forward for the community. With the current fiscal issues the county is facing this might be the best that the community can hope for right now. Baca Float Coalition will still be accepting contributions to aid in this important effort. The

County reports that an additional \$18,500 is needed to cover the full cost of the proposed project and hope to start up grade work in early January 2010. We can use your help.

Anyone interested in seeing the proposed agreements and the current funding efforts for the Palo Parado Interim Improvements can go to the Santa Cruz County Public Works site and open the Palo Parado tab and download the Palo Parado Road update posted there.

If anyone needs additional information can contact Ron or Kathi Campana at (520) 281-8250 or 313-4291.