

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ESAC)

Thursday, August 13, 4:00 PM

Hybrid Meeting

Legal Action Report and Meeting Minutes

Approved on [*]

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Kris Yarter at 4:01 PM.

Those present and absent were:

Present:

Kris Yarter, Chairperson
Margot Garcia
Douglas Jennings
Val Little
Alfredo "Fred" Araiza
Polly Parks
Chuck Ray
Frank Pyrdeck

Representative, City Manager's Office
Representative, City Manager's Office
Representative, City Manager's Office
Representative, City Manager's Office
Representative, Ward 2
Representative, Ward 5
Representative, Ward 6
Representative, Ward 4 (joined at 4:07 PM)

Absent:

Trevor Anthony Ledbetter
Halley Hughes

Representative, City Manager's Office
Representative, City Manager's Office

Staff Members Present:

Pat L. Tapia
Isaac Marcor
Ursula Ginster
Kris LaFleur
Brittany Aldrich
Nadia Ispiani

Interim Director, Environmental Services
Finance Manager, Business Development Services
Environmental Scientist, Environmental Services
Project Manager, Environmental Services
Staff Assistant, Environmental Services
Management Assistant, Environmental Services

Both members and staff attended the meeting virtually via Zoom.

2. Approval of Minutes for May 14, 2026, and July 9, 2026

The minutes were unanimously approved with grammatical corrections.

3. Chairperson's Report

No report.

4. Future In-person ESAC meeting

The committee discussed options for in-person ESAC meetings, including the Thomas O Price Center, Tucson Business Center, libraries, and Ward offices. Members expressed support for holding more meetings in person to encourage greater discussion and interaction between committee members and staff. Thomas O Prince Center was identified as a convenient option with meeting and remote participation capabilities.

Ms. Garcia made a motion to hold the September ESAC meeting at Thomas O Price Center, Ms. Little seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

The location and scheduling of future meetings will be discussed at the later meetings, including consideration of meeting times that accommodate members who work during the day.

5. Director's Report

LRSC Gas Collection System Update, this item was updated by Ms. Ginster. She provided the background on the landfill gas and collection system, and explained that methane emission was identified during 2024 inspection that led to a Consent Order with Pima County. An Improvement Plan was completed and submitted to them on July 13, 2026.

The proposed improvements are estimated at \$7 million and do not include the separate blower and flare project. This plan will be completed in four overlapping phases over approximately 2-3 years. The phases include engineering and design to determine the required materials and construction activities, procurement to obtain bids and award contracts, construction to complete the improvements, and documentation, including field notes, logs, quality assurance reports, and other project records. The City will continue bi-monthly meetings with Pima County to provide project updates, receive feedback, and keep the County informed of progress or any potential delays.

Pat L. Tapia, Interim Director, reported on the following items:

Clean City Fee, Mr. Tapia provided an overview of the new \$3 fee, which is expected to generate approximately \$5.6 million to expand graffiti abatement, illegal dumping, homeless camp cleanups, and other citywide cleanup efforts. Funding will support 27 additional positions and new equipment, with implementation targeted for October.

U of A Cleanup, A four-week cleanup effort is underway in the area from Speedway to Broadway and Campbell to I-10 in preparation for the return of U of A students.

ByFusion is moving equipment into its facility but still has permitting and operational requirements to complete. The committee would like a comprehensive update from ByFusion and Planning and Development Services to discuss any permitting issues. Hefty will discontinue participation after this

year, ByFusion will assume responsibility moving forward. The program will continue, with increased public education on acceptable materials, including no Styrofoam and proper use of blue recycling bins.

Director Recruitment, a national search is underway for the Environmental Services Director, with an outside firm assisting with recruitment, and the position has not yet been posted.

The committee members asked several questions during the presentation and no formal action was taken.

6. Financial Monthly Report

Isaac Marcor, Finance Manager, reported on the following items:

The FY26 financial report was delayed due to the fiscal year-end close-out and the Finance team's workload preparing financial information for the annual audit. Mr. Marcor identified an issue with the reporting system that prevented the report from fully updating with the latest financial data. Several numbers presented in the FY2026 Financial Overview for August 2026 do not reflect the correct amounts. The corrected numbers are approximately \$72.6 million in expenditure and \$76.2 million in revenue for Fund 502, which tracks most Environmental Services activities. Mr. Marcor will investigate the reporting issue and provide an updated report within the next week, with final unaudited FY26 financial numbers to be presented at a future meeting.

7. Subcommittee Reports, Appointments, Meeting Dates, and Assignments

- Waste Diversion, Collections, and Education

Ms. Yarter shared the items and discussions from the last WDCE meeting, which included updates on waste diversion, public outreach, landfill and compliance, and collections.

8. Future Agenda Items for Next Meeting dated September 10, 2026

Future agenda items are as follows:

- LRSC Gas Collection System
- ByFusion update

9. Call to the Audience – No audience.

10. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 5:26 PM.