



HISTORIC RILLITO RACETRACK

AN ARIZONA NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

Dear Pima County Junior Soccer League (PCJSL) Clubs,

We were disappointed to learn that the PCJSL has been hard at work planning new soccer fields at the Rillito Race Track and that they did not invite us to participate. Remember, some of us were the people who spent more than \$400,000.00 to stop Pima County from selling the race track in 1982-84. It would have been an addition to the Tucson Mall. We wrote an initiative that included soccer and other multi uses for the historic property. More than 62% of the voters approved that initiative. We again stopped Pima County in 1990 from selling part of the property. We have always supported soccer. One of our group arranged for more than \$9000.00 to be put in one of Tucson United's Jacob's Park tournaments checking account. In short some of us have actively supported soccer for more than 30 years and have spent our own time and money in the process.

Why didn't you invite us to participate in the plans for the property we saved?

We can list three reasons why the PCJSL would have kept us out of their meetings:

1. Our historian Ed Moore was a Pima County Supervisor for 12 years and he wrote the initiative that saved the track. As a person knowledgeable about the race track and the problems of the soccer community he would have been able to point out the fallacies of the arguments that you are considering accepting today.

2. Local interests, such as the Catalina Foothills soccer families are concerned that there are not enough soccer fields for their children. For their own interests they have supported terminating horse racing in Pima County. Children all over Pima County lack sufficient sports facilities. The concept that tearing down this historic race track to add nine more soccer fields to the nine that are already there only gives Pima County soccer players an additional nine fields. Any of the other proposed 18 soccer field complexes would add 18 soccer fields to the total. The other complexes would be on vacant lands and readily useable at lower cost.

3. In our opinion one soccer group would profit if horse racing were terminated. Thus they have a vested interest and certainly would not want us to be involved in the discussions. They and their supporters have been the leaders up front and behind the scenes in the effort to terminate horse racing and in the process destroy a much loved historic site. Their clients are some of the wealthiest members of our community and have great political influence.

The PCJSL has apparently supported the plan to destroy the race track instead of supporting the two already designed 18 field complexes at I-10 and in Marana. There is also rumored that another complex is being considered in South Tucson. Please note that as soon as the I-10 complex was proposed, City and County bureaucrats suddenly had plans, which included a greyhound bus station, for land that had been vacant for more than 80 years. Different generations of County bureaucrats have been trying to destroy the race track for decades. The proposed new 18 field complexes would be convenient to the south side, Phoenix and anyone with interstate

highway access. Contrary to what the bureaucrats are telling the public, soccer complexes can be built much faster on vacant land. Do you think that adding nine fields instead of 18 would be better for our community? Ninety three hundred people attended the race track on February 24, 2008 and more than 62% of the voters approved the initiative.

Would you join with us to build at least 18 more soccer fields, and in the process save an important part of Tucson's history?

Attached is a partial list of our advisory committee members and an "opinion" statement.


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