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# The View From Baja Arizona

## By Hugh Holub

by [Hugh Holub](#) on May.09, 2010, under [Uncategorized](#)

### [Public support for SB 1070 drops](#)

In a Rocky Mountain Poll recently conducted, Arizona public support in Arizona for SB 1070 may not be as strong as first indications suggested.

According to the poll conducted by the Behavior Research Center (BRC) in Phoenix, support for SB 1070 stands at 52 percent in favor to 39 percent opposed and 9 percent unsure.

Among registered voters, 56 percent favor while 34 percent oppose the immigration law recently passed by the Republican majority in the legislature and signed into law by Governor Jan Brewer.

According to the BRC the data also indicates that support for SB 1070 may be shrinking modestly in the wake of negative reactions from business and economic development leaders expressing concerns about its potential impact on Arizona's tourism and convention industries.

Support may also be shrinking due to concerns about efforts to attract new industry and jobs to Arizona

– concerns similar to those expressed after former Governor Evan Mecham rescinded the MLK holiday which was later approved by voters, according to the BRC.

Initial polls suggested support for SB 1070 ran as high as 70% in Arizona.

Also influencing the shift may be intense negative political commentary at the national and international level, characterizing Arizona as a “racist” state.

Public protests by Latinos and others may also be influencing people to have second thoughts about the wisdom of the new law.

These recent Rocky Mountain Poll results compare to an automated interviewing “robotic-call” poll released in mid-April among 500 “likely voters” which reported that 70 percent favored the measure and only 23 percent were in opposition. The difference in results may trace to differences in polling methods, according to BRC officials.

Jim Haynes, President of the BRC explained that “It should be remembered that the goal of polling is to faithfully report the opinions from a representative cross-section of the target universe. This requires strict random samples of the population and call backs to people who may not be at home when first dialed. Call back methods assure that all individuals in the original sample have an opportunity to express their views.”

“Differences may also trace to the fact that all calls were made on a single mid-week day which can eliminate voters who are at work, in school, driving, shopping, in after school activities, traveling or otherwise not available when the robot makes its single dial to their phone,” Haynes added.

“As a result, surveys on single mid week days tend to under-sample the views of working age voters, while samples of “likely voters” historically tend to over sample the views of older and more affluent voters and homemakers,” Haynes said.

Not surprisingly, “reaction to the new immigration law appears to have galvanized Republicans in support of the measure,(76%) but may also be unifying Democrats (59%) into opposition. On the other hand, registered Independent are more similar in their views to Republicans than to Democrats in that they support it by a two to one ratio,” said Earl de Berge, founder of BRC and its Research Director.

DeBerge added “the law has exposed strong ethnic divisions in the state with 65 percent of Caucasians supporting it while opposition among Latinos is at 69 percent and among other ethnic minorities is 63 percent.”

“The most support for the new immigration law comes from older people (55+ years). Within this age set, 63 percent favor and 31 percent oppose.” added deBerge.

The question asked during the poll was :

“Next, a new Arizona law may soon go into effect regarding one’s U.S. citizenship status and right to be in the U.S.. The new law would require police officers in Arizona to question anyone about their immigration status if an officer suspects the person may be in the country illegally, including anyone who looks or sounds foreign. Those found to be here illegally could be jailed up to six months and fined \$2,500. Do you favor or oppose the governor signing such a law if it is sent to her by the legislature?”

[55 Comments more...](#)

by [Hugh Holub](#) on May.07, 2010, under [Uncategorized](#)

## [Santa Cruz Sand Trout Threatened](#)

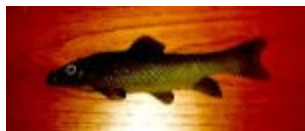
The wet winter has caused the Tanque Verde and Rillito rivers to flow for a while. This is a rare event. But the flows may endanger the legendary Santa Cruz Sand Trout if they reach the Santa Cruz River.

Some background on the Sand Trout from the [Frumious Bandersnatch](#):

As the last Ice Age ended and the climate of Southern Arizona warmed and dried out (Global Climate Change started 10,000 years ago here) , the flows of the Santa Cruz River near Tucson became erratic and then vanished completely by the mid-1950s due to groundwater pumping by farms, mines and urban water utilities. The drying was accelerated by the construction of a series of cheap hotels on its banks.

The native fish of that stretch of the river became extinct. The last native fish was caught south of the San Xavier Mission in the 1950's and in a bottle at the Smithsonian in Washington, it is rumored. With one exception... the Santa Cruz Sand Trout, which evolved a capability to live in an environment completely devoid of water.

The Santa Cruz Sand Trout ranges in size from approximately 5 centimeters to over 100 centimeters, and is characterized by a rubbery skin. It is difficult to tell whether a Santa Cruz Sand Trout is dead or alive due to its extremely low metabolism rate.



A trophy Sand Trout

The Santa Cruz Sand Trout has been commercially harvested and sold in Tucson toy stores for many years, delighting several generations of local children. There are many reports of Santa Cruz Sand Trout escaping Tucson homes and establishing residence in backyard sand boxes and local washes.

The Santa Cruz Sand Trout is one of [Baja Arizona's](#) most highly prized sport fish, requiring the use of a 4x4 to troll the riverbed. Beer cans are reportedly the most effective artificial lure to catch Sand Trout.

The Santa Cruz Sand Trout can only survive short periods of wetness, such as occur during the infrequent storm flows in the river.

A petition to have the Santa Cruz Sand Trout declared an endangered species is being prepared by the Baja Arizona Ministry of Commercial Fisheries in order to avoid the possibility of anyone trying to restore the flow of the Santa Cruz River by putting treated effluent in it.



Prime habitat of the  
Santa Cruz Sand Trout

The Santa Cruz Sand Trout has also been nominated for an award for water conservation efficiency as it is the only known Arizona species of fish which requires zero gallons per capita of water to survive.

[5 Comments more...](#)

by [Hugh Holub](#) on May.07, 2010, under [Uncategorized](#)

## [Open Space Purchase Impact Fee should be charged to new developments](#)

It was once estimated that we lose about one square mile of virgin land in Pima County a month to urban development. In 1954 when I arrived here Tucson covered an area roughly from A Mountain to about Swan and from the lower Catalina Foothills to Valencia. Tucson had less than 100,000 residents.

Fifty six years later there are a million people in the region, with subdivisions starting south of Green Valley and going north up into Pinal County, and from near Three Points to east out to past the Vail Interchange. There are at least 1,000 square miles of rooftops, roads and parking lots in the area now.

There are lots and lots of places in and around Tucson I would rather have seen saved.

Land use planners did change the rules to require setting aside open spaces in newer developments. The result is we see lots of clustered densities on hills, with washes left open and inaccessible from the homes. But outside of leaving some percentage of a site in natural state, we created a lot of islanded habitat that is little more than corridors for coyotes and javelina.

Pima County finally did something really spectacular when they launched their Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan, and started buying up significant parcels of land around the urban area to essentially curb the sprawl. Pima's land purchases have essentially been creating an open space land ring around the urban area. Pima County voters are to be commended in approving bond issues and property tax increases to fund these large land acquisitions.

Pima County is now the largest owner of ranch lands in the region.

But there is one piece missing from the process to save significant areas of open space. We need a system where a new development is required to either provide a nifty parcel of environmentally significant land to public ownership **outside** their specific project, or be assessed an "impact fee" for open space land replacement and preservation. Put simply, for every acre you blade, you must pay to buy another acre to save.

Some of the Habitat Conservation Plans around the country have a pay to replace feature. Contribute to

the fund to buy the critical habitat over there, and you get the green light to build your subdivision or shopping center over here.

Pima County has a well earned reputation for exactions (same as extortion if you are on the other side of the table) but they have never been systematic or predictable. Charging a fee per acre for permission to develop land could generate funds to buy environmentally important or historically important sites would be a second revenue source for land conservation along with bond money. And these "land replacement fees" could pay off bonds sold to buy open space.

Of course homebuilders and developers will scream bloody murder if such a program were seriously considered.

The open space acquisition impact fee should not just be limited to Pima County. All area land use jurisdictions approving new development should charge the same fee to be put into a regional open space acquisition fund, managed by representatives of all participating local jurisdictions.

Think of the home or business' contribution to the land conservation program as the same thing as paying for a portion of the Common Area in your typical master planned community. If all that beautiful land surround metropolitan Tucson isn't the ultimate Common Area for everyone, I don't know what is. And each homeowner and business would own a share via the County.

The ideal Tucson lifestyle is being within walking distance of a school, a recreational park with ballfields and grass, a golf course, a liquor store and a wilderness area.

What do you think of this idea?

[6 Comments more...](#)

by [Hugh Holub](#) on May.06, 2010, under [Uncategorized](#)

## [Warthogs frolick over Santa Cruz Valley skies](#)

Tucsonans are used to seeing military planes flying into Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, or flying out. Generations of Tucsonans could talk about B-47s, U-2s and F-4's that flew over the city, especially if you lived under the flight path.

Lately there's been a lot of debate about whether or not a new generation of fighters will be based in the city, and how much noise they will generate. For those who attended the U of A in the 1960's we all remember all teaching stopping when the F-4s flew over the campus.

One of the mainstay aircraft operating out of DM is the A-10 "warthog", and ugly little ground support tank attacking critter that looks like it should be powered by propellers.

Folks who drive out west of Tucson are also familiar with occasionally noticing a Warthog following them at low altitude on the road to Ajo out on the Tohono O'Odham Indian Reservation.. We suspected they were pretending we were enemy tanks, and the pilots were making mock attack runs on our cars and trucks as they flew over to the Barry Goldwater bombing range west of Ajo.

Occasionally those of us who live in the southern end of the Santa Cruz River Valley (the "South

Valley”) see a couple of the Warthogs coming back east of Amado then heading north to the base.

Thus it was with some surprise and interest 4 Warthogs were seen around 9 AM frolicking at low altitude over I-19 south of Green Valley on Thursday.

Frolicking is the right word. These were not just straight line approach patterns. The fighters were circling, weaving around, and one even did a roll over as it passed over me on the freeway. It was almost like they were practicing aerobatics.

And when I talk of “low altitude” what I mean was the usual height of the Border Patrol choppers that routinely prowl the valley—a 1000 feet or so. Unless my memory serves me correct there is a minimum altitude these military jets are not supposed to fly below in the valley. If you look up photos of A-10s on Google you will see several in the sky (which cannot be used to illustrate this comment). Had I had my camera with me, I could have gotten just about one of those images...so that’s the approximate distance involved.

We’re a suspicious bunch in the South Valley. There really are black helicopters operating over our heads called Raven. One of the black helicopters circled over an outdoor dinner party we were having, low enough we could see the guys in the side door spying on us.

So seeing a bunch of military jets chasing each other around the skies like goldfish in a pond that close to the ground has to make you wonder what is the Air Force training pilots to do with the Warthogs now? Were these even DM planes, or some joy-flying visitors from another base.? I didn’t bother to call Base Information because the last time I did that I ended up with a photo caption “4 unidentified colonels inspect wreckage of F-4” and got encouraged to try a new career by the Tucson Citizen’s managing editor.

[1 Comment](#) : [A-10s](#), [Davis-Monthan AFB](#), [warthogs more...](#)

by [Hugh Holub](#) on May.06, 2010, under [Uncategorized](#)

## **[Raise Tucson Water’s connection fees and rates outside its city limits –Commentary](#)**

The City of Tucson is refusing new water connections outside its city limits.

The City of Tucson is also considering raising its water connection fees.

It is about time Tucson started paying attention to the relationship of its water utility and growth in the region.

Since the 1960’s Tucson sought to monopolize water service in eastern Pima County as a water management effort. To that end, Tucson extended its water utility service throughout the Catalina Foothills and into the Northwest. The result was over 100,000 people living in those areas getting water from Tucson, but who refuse to be annexed into the city.

More people live in unincorporated areas of Pima County than live in such areas in Maricopa County, which has 4 times the population of Pima. Tucson’s water policies had a lot to do with that result.

This has a massive negative impact on state revenue sharing for Tucson in that only incorporated cities and towns get the lion's share of state revenue that is shared. Thus the residents of the unincorporated areas of Pima County cost the region millions of dollars annually because they don't want to be in a city or town.

Very little area of Maricopa County is outside the city limits of their cities or towns. The primary reason for this is no city or town in Maricopa County would extend its water and sewer system service to new developments outside their incorporated limits without the development signing an annexation petition. Thus virtually all new development in Maricopa County has been in incorporated areas. And Maricopa County has a fraction of the budget liabilities for roads and police protection that Pima County has with Pima having to provide urban services to people outside city limits.

Tucson, on the other hand, extended its water service without the annexation condition, and also turned over its sewer system to Pima County. Pima is the only county in Arizona providing sewer service. Thus, the tools to insure urban residents were inside the incorporated limits were abandoned.

Not surprisingly, we have seen a proliferation of new towns around Tucson, just as new cities and towns proliferated in Maricopa County. Two of the new Pima County towns (Marana and Oro Valley) have stepped up to the plate and are attempting to control water utility service in their jurisdictions. The Town of Sahuarita already has its own sewer system, the only municipality in Pima County that does this.

While Tucson has generally fought the incorporation of new towns, and Pima County seeks to block towns having their own sewer systems, a fundamental change is needed in the region regarding water and sewer service.

The first thing that needs to be done is for Tucson to resolve its fight with the towns over water service, and get out of providing water inside places like Marana. Let Marana go find the renewable water needed for its growth and charge appropriately for new connections. Tucson could then redirect its valuable water resources now being committed to developments in Marana to growth inside Tucson's city limits.

The second thing is to let Marana have its own sewer system. If Oro Valley wants into the sewer utility business, let them have at it. Tucson really ought to take back its sewer system as well. The cities and towns could hire Pima County to manage their sewer systems, but Pima County absolutely should not be allowed to control growth inside the incorporated limits of cities and towns via sewer system policies.

The basic effect of letting the towns get into the sewer game is they'll have to establish new sewer connection fees for their growth paid for by the development in their towns. The rest of Pima County would then not have to subsidize growth in Marana and Oro Valley.

The third thing needed is to maximize the urban areas in Pima County that are inside city or town limits. Tucson ought to negotiate "sphere of influence" agreements with surrounding towns delineating which jurisdiction has precedence for annexation. These "spheres of influence" should exactly match water and sewer service areas of the cities and towns.

Pima County would be the ultimate beneficiary of getting urban area roads and police protection shifted to urban governments.

Within its own jurisdiction, there are significant steps Tucson can take to redirect its relationship between water service and growth.



The first step is to charge a much higher water connection fee for new developments outside its city limits.

It is now the case that there are areas outside of Tucson's city limits that are surrounded by Tucson Water service. It is not realistic to deny water service to such areas, since there is no other option. The die has been cast by Tucson already having served outside its city limits. Some of the areas Tucson is now refusing service to were included in Tucson's designation by the Arizona Department of Water Resources of having an assured water supply. Some of these areas were also in areas claimed to be served by Tucson when it got its Central Arizona Project allocation of water. And in at least one area Tucson is backing off water service, that decision is tainted by efforts to confiscate the property for an open space park. Simply refusing service invites significant litigation and liability to Tucson it doesn't need right now.

But that doesn't mean city water customers ought to subsidize growth outside Tucson's city limits.

The water connection fee outside Tucson's city limits ought to be at least four times that for a connection inside the city limits.

Why? Consider that every resident served by Tucson Water outside Tucson's city limits does not generate state revenue share to Tucson. That's something like \$200 per person per year. That lost revenue opportunity needs to be added onto the outside city limit water connection fee. The properties outside Tucson's city limits also do not generate any property tax revenue to Tucson. That also needs to be factored into the outside city limit connection fees.

Another reason is the market value of an acre foot of renewable water (precedent set by Prescott Valley) is in the range of \$20,000 an acre foot. An acre foot of water can serve 3 new homes. Thus each new home takes \$6,666 worth of water right to create it. And then there's the actual cost of the wells and pipes to serve a new home, which state-wide runs around \$3,000 a home. It is probably more expensive in Tucson.

Thus, an \$10,000 per new home connection fee for new homes outside Tucson's city limits can be justified, and defended from any attacks by the homebuilders lobby.

Insofar as any new development is close to the existing Tucson city limits, one can bet that given the choice of an \$10,000 per home connection fee outside the city limits, versus a \$3,000 fee inside the city limits, developers would try real hard to be annexed into Tucson.

If they can't be annexed for whatever reason, such as homeowners between their development and the city limits that refuse to be annexed, then so be it. Charge \$10,000 for the new water connection.

The higher connection fee for new water connections should be limited to areas Tucson could realistically annex. For example, the Tucson Mountain foothills, Catalina Foothills and far east side areas would not likely be annexable by Marana or Oro Valley in a "sphere of influence" context.

That brings up the second issue Tucson should confront.

There is absolutely no justification to charge the same water rates to its customers outside its city limits than inside, except the fear of the storm of protests from residents outside Tucson's city limits.

Again, those residents outside the city limits served by Tucson Water are not generating state revenue

share or property tax money to Tucson. Residents inside Tucson are generating that additional cash flow to pay Tucson's governmental service costs.

The only limit in state law on a city charging higher rates outside its incorporated limits is a 25% cap on rates inside another city or town. Thus Tucson Water could raise its rates an additional 25% for its water service in Marana and Oro Valley. As noted earlier, Tucson needs to get out of serving water in other towns because there is obviously no annexation potential for Tucson in those areas.

There is no such limit on higher water rates in the unincorporated areas.

Tucson could charge double the rates in those areas, and it should.

Of course residents in areas such as the Catalina Foothills would scream to high heaven if their water rates were twice what people inside the city limits pay.

So what. They don't vote in Tucson elections....unless they agree to be annexed. And if they were annexed, they could then cut their water bills in half.

And that is exactly the point.

[3 Comments](#) : [annexation](#), [city of Tucson](#), [Marana](#), [Oro Valley](#), [Pima County](#), [Tucson](#), [water](#), [water rates more...](#)

by [Hugh Holub](#) on May.05, 2010, under [Uncategorized](#)

## **[Tucson and Pima County trying to steal land for a park — Opinion](#)**

The City of Tucson is denying water service to the proposed Painted Hills development between Speedway and Anklam in the Tucson Mountain foothills. This tactic is exposing Tucson taxpayers to millions in liability.

Now that Pima County is jumping into the fray supporting Tucson's efforts to block the Painted Hill development only puts Pima's taxpayers on the line as well.

Here's the background: a Tucson developer wants to build a couple of hundred homes on the land between Speedway and Anklam and needs water service from the City Tucson. The project is one of the best planned developments in years. But surrounding residents want no development at all, no matter how environmentally sensitive the developer has tried to be.

Tucson has refused water service on the grounds that it no longer is willing to provide water service outside its city limits. This decision was made by former City Manager Mike Hein.

Consider that for a moment. Tucson provides water service throughout the Catalina Foothills outside its city limits. Tucson Water also serves the Dove Mountain project and all new homes being built there. Dove Mountain is in Marana.

Tucson also provides water service on both sides of the Painted Hills project, which is outside Tucson's city limits.

It gets even more interesting. When Tucson applied for its Central Arizona Project water allocation and contract, it defined its water “service area” to include the Painted Hills area.

When Tucson obtained its “designation of assured water supply” from the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) it included the Painted Hills area.

So what changed?

Tucson Mountain foothills residents opposed the Painted Hills project and want to keep the area as a natural open space preserve.

These residents (who mostly don't live inside Tucson city limits) found support at City Hall, and the City balked at providing water service. That obviously diminishes the value of the property so it can be stolen for the park preserve.

In legal terms what is happening is called an “inverse condemnation”.

When it is ultimately discovered by a jury that the area has always been in Tucson Water's declared “service area” and the justifications for refusing service were fabricated because the goal was to take the property for a park, can you guess what that jury will do?

In order to deal with the “won't serve outside the city limits” issue, the developer is trying to annex the Painted Hills site into the City.

Up pops Pima County opposing the annexation and seeking preservation of the site as a park.

Pima County has run out of open space land acquisition bond money.

Ordinarily counties love cities to annex land, because counties can still tax the city homeowners, but the county doesn't have to provide police services, doesn't have to maintain roads inside the city, and avoids a lot of other costs. Obviously the position Pima is taking is part of a scheme to block the development of the site.

So what is Pima doing? It is painting a target on its chest to also be sued for taking the Painted Hills property for a park.

If the public wants land for a park, the public has to pay for it. That's a concept embedded in the US Constitution.

So if the public really wants that area kept natural, then open up your pocketbooks and buy it. The bogus manipulations going on just re-enforce the belief that Tucson and Pima County will go out their way to stomp the private sector if confronted with a noisy anti-development group.

And the sad thing is the region's business community isn't standing up to this kind of nonsense.

[Leave a Comment](#) : [city of Tucson](#), [open space preserves](#), [Painted Hills](#), [parks](#), [Pima County more...](#)

by [Hugh Holub](#) on May.05, 2010, under [Uncategorized](#)

## So what is “Tucson”?

I live 45 minutes from downtown Tucson.

Think about where one can live in the region and be 45 minutes from downtown.

It takes about that long to drive from Rancho Vistoso to downtown.

It also takes about that long to drive from Tanque Verde and Houghton Road to downtown.

Twenty or so minutes of driving from downtown puts you in Marana, Green Valley, Sahuarita or Vail. That’s because there really are freeways in the area in spite of decades of efforts to block them.

Are Marana, Oro Valley, Sahuarita and Green Valley considered part of the Tucson metro area?

Forty-five minutes from downtown on the freeways puts you in southern Pinal County, out to Benson in Cochise County, and down to Tubac in Santa Cruz County where I live.

Are we part of the Tucson metro area? I suspect most people think not.

In the world of large metropolitan areas, 45 minute drive time is nothing.

Interestingly the efforts at “regional” planning ignore Pinal, Cochise and Santa Cruz counties.

Yet developments in these areas “remote” to current Tucson thinking are just as much part of the region’s future as some vacant land on Houghton Road.

Did you know that Interstate 19 south of Tucson already has more traffic than Interstate 10 east of Kino Blvd?

There’s another 500,000 people living at the southern end of I-19 many of whom regularly travel into Tucson to shop, get health care, and attend events in the Old Pueblo (unless SB 1070 scares them off).

Actually the broader metropolitan area is home to 1.5 million people.

Take a look at Phoenix. It’s about 100 miles east to west and 70 miles north to south of urban development. That’s 7,000 square miles with 4 million people there.

Tucson is a more north-south oriented metroplex, with 90 miles between the Nogales, Sonora airport to the Red Rock development in Pinal County. From Three points to Vail the Tucson metroplex is currently 50 miles wide. This area is 4,500 square miles.

If one looks at a sequence of night-time satellite photos of Phoenix and Tucson, one sees a blob of light growing and growing and growing like some kind of bacteria culture.

The Tucson – Nogales blobs of light are still separate...but someday they will merge as the Santa Cruz Valley south of Tucson fills up with development.

The only real difference between Phoenix and Tucson is there’s a lot more vacant land inside the region

to eventually be filled up. The City of Tucson has annexed gobs of state land down towards Sahuarita Road. There easily could end up being a million people inside Tucson's current city limits if the State ever sells off its land inside that city. And another million or so in the rest of the region spilling out into three adjacent counties.

I have lived in the region long enough to remember when the eastern edge of Tucson was at Country Club Road. And then Wilmot. And now Colossal Cave Road. Decades ago Marana and Vail were somewhere "way out there".

From the 1950's to now it has been a constant reality that Tucsonans have never realized how big the urban area was going to be, and never planned effectively to deal with adding 900,000 people to the area in the last 50 years. Now the first ring of suburbs are sort of seen as part of the Tucson metro area. There's a second ring and a third ring waiting to be absorbed.

But there is still a sense of denial in Tucson of how big the urban region really is.

I remember people saying Tucson wasn't going to end up being like Phoenix. Surprise!!! It has ended up just like Phoenix for exactly the same reason Phoenix is what it is....no planning on a regional level for decades.

[Leave a Comment more...](#)

by [Hugh Holub](#) on May.04, 2010, under [Uncategorized](#)

## [So what is Baja Arizona?](#)

Primarily Baja Arizona is a state of mind. It isn't really an official US state, though the crazier the state legislature gets, who knows?

The Free Baja Arizona movement was started back in the 1980's as a joke in response to a bout of craziness from up north. One forgets what specific craziness that was since there's been soooo much nuttiness from north of the Gila River in 30 years.



Free Baja Arizona

Here's the background story:

An enormous mistake was made on December 30, 1853 when the Gadsden Treaty was signed between the United States and Mexico. The northern part of the Mexican state of Sonora, an area located south of the Gila River, was purchased by the United States, and tacked into what became the State of Arizona.

The people of the Gadsden Purchase have increasingly chafed under the domination of an enormous population in an around Phoenix (Maricopa County). In order to end the domination of Phoenix, the people of the Gadsden Purchase are seeking statehood. Proclaiming themselves as Baja Arizona, a “state of mind” is acknowledged to exist.

The primary differences between Baja Arizona and the remainder of Arizona are of attitude and tolerance. The people of Baja Arizona are known throughout the Southwest for their enlightened view of the world. This is obviously not the case in Arizona with the passage of SB 1070 making it illegal to be an illegal in Arizona. We don't want to be identified with that sort of stuff.

In Baja Arizona people fight for civil rights. In Maricopa County they are jailing immigrants.

In Baja Arizona a major issue is environmental quality. In Maricopa the major concerns are how to harass Mexicans, and how to gut the budgets of the state university system so we don't have too many smart people to disagree with the dunderheads in the State Legislature.

If Baja Arizona Became a State:

The State Motto would be “mas cerveza”.

The State Song would be “Jo Jo” by the Beatles.

The State Animal would be Wiley Coyote.

The State Minstrel is Linda Ronstadt.

Cigarettes would be taxed at the rate of \$4.00 per pack to support the new state's free health care system.

There would be no speed limit in Baja Arizona since no one obeys the ones posted now.

Tucson would likely be the capital, creating an economic boom as hordes of lobbyists descended on the town. That might even justify a new hotel in downtown Tucson.

Small government advocates in Baja Arizona suggest the state capitol be in an RV, which would move around from town to town every 6 weeks.

Alta Arizona would no longer have a border with Mexico.

Baja Arizona could limit the rights of Maricopa County residents to visit for only 24 hours, and ban all real estate developers from Maricopa getting a Baja Visitor Visa.

Baja Arizona would probably send two Democrats to the US Senate.

WHAT ARE THE CHANCES?

The current Arizona state legislature would have to call a special election, and the people of Alta Arizona and Baja Arizona would have to vote in favor of splitting the state. Then Congress would have to approve.

The chances of the people in Maricopa County voting to get rid of the concentration of Democrats to the south, and the people of Baja Arizona voting to sever their ties to the right-wingers to the north are excellent.

The chances in Congress are not so good.

First, there are several proto-states waiting to be created—Puerto Rico, District of Columbia, and Northern California. Baja Arizona is maybe 54th. The other three would probably send Democrats to Congress, as would Baja Arizona. There is no way the Republicans in the US House and Senate would create 4 new Democrat delegations in Congress, just like the South blocked the admission of free states before the Civil War. Like the pre-Civil War period, the only way Baja Arizona gets to be a state is if new Republican dominated states are also admitted. Texas could split into 5 states. Disneyworld could become a state... how do you think we got a North Dakota and a South Dakota, a Virginia and a West Virginia, and a North and South Carolina?

Did you know that more people live in Tucson than the entire state of Wyoming?

There is even a Free Baja Arizona Facebook page now.

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by [Hugh Holub](#) on May.04, 2010, under [Uncategorized](#)

## [Introduction to the View From Baja Arizona](#)

Welcome to The View From Baja Arizona, a new blog on TucsonCitizen.com.

A little background on who I am and where I'll be coming from in this blog.

I have a long family history in Tucson going back to 1945 when my grandfather Harry Schlanger moved to town because of my grandmother's asthma. He had been a homebuilder in Detroit, and one of his good buddies Al Cobo bought a winter home here. Cobo went on to become mayor of Detroit.

Harry and Al bought a couple of square miles "way out in the middle of nowhere" (north of Ina Road and First Ave) and there's a nice little subdivision out there called Cobo Catalina Foothills Estates.

Like a lot of old timers, us grandchildren tell stories about what in Tucson our grandparents used to own in an around Tucson that is now worth lots of money.

My parents came to Tucson from a little town in Texas in 1954 to take care of Grandpa Harry. My dad tried to develop a high rise building for AT&T in downtown. Like so many people who tried to make something of downtown, he was squashed. The existing phone building with the big microwave tower on it sits pretty much on the parking lot my dad owned in the 1960's. There was a much bigger planned 14 story building covering that whole block, but the entire site could not be assembled and one little 10 foot wide lot whose owner wouldn't sell sat vacant until the 1990's.

My grandfather and then my dad also owned a little tourist court on Benson Highway called the Sun Ray Motel that had a regular cast of winter visitors including the prospector who staked out the claims for what are now the big copper mines west of Green Valley. As a kid I used to go rock hunting with the

guy where now there are giant piles of tailings and holes in the ground.

The motel still exists, though the widening over and over again of what became Interstate 10 destroyed the ambiance of the place.

During my life in Tucson I saw the sleepy little “old pueblo” morph into a clone of Phoenix. The spectacular Hispanic “old town” was flattened in the name of “progress” along with virtually everything I knew about the city as a kid. My memories of Tucson are of ghost places now covered with buildings and parking lots. You had to have been here 50 years ago to know what was lost. There are still remnants, and folks struggling to save what’s left. More on that in a later chapter.

I’ve had a long career in water issues in the area, mostly out beyond what most folks then considered “Tucson”. I variously represented a bunch of water companies in the Northwest (Canada Hills and Rancho Vistoso) that Oro Valley subsequently bought, I helped get Marana in the municipal water business, and helped create Rancho Sahuarita and Vail Valley Ranch (Rancho del Lago) south of town. So...yes...I’m part of the problem as well.

I am also editor/publisher of the internationally infamous Frumious Bandersnatch satirical newspaper and parody website. Some of you might remember the Bandersnatch from the 1960’s at the University of Arizona. It lives on, though not much about Tucsonan it any more. With readers in 162 countries, it is part of the “world” wide web universe.

Today I live 45 miles south of Tucson, which most readers would not consider part of Tucson. More on that issue in another chapter of this adventure. But like a lot of us on the fringe, we still see Tucson as the dominant force of our universe. Tucson is where we go to shop, where we get serious medical care, where we seek out entertainment, and what we watch politically for amusement. We also watch Tucson tv stations and read Tucson newspapers.

We’re out beyond your edge. But something we know that most of you don’t realize yet...your edge is expanding outward and will eventually overtake us.

Out here on the edge, where we can the lights of Tucson glowing at night, we ponder the bigger picture. We all live in a unique region some of us call Baja Arizona because we know we’re different than our fellow Arizonans up in Maricopa County.

We’re more diverse and tolerant. In fact, we’re darned proud of our diversity. If Baja Arizona was its own state, SB 1070 would never have happened.

Tucson is the kind of place where if a visitor from Mexico is having a problem we’ll step up and help. And a lot of us speak passable Spanish. I once saw a couple with a Sonoran license plate struggling to get help at a gas station off 3rd Avenue and I-10 in Phoenix. No one from the station would help with the issue which was simply the folks needed air in their tires. I understood what the problem was, and because I’m from down here, of course I helped. Probably the last time the folks from Sonora ventured beyond Tucson. You see this sort of helpful relationship with our friends from Mexico every day and everywhere in Tucson. We’re not afraid.

We see ourselves as being more liberal and progressive and more environmentally sensitive than our brothers and sisters to the north.

The View From Baja Arizona will seek to highlight who we are, how we got here, and where we might



be going.

Like my fellow Baja Arizonans, I'm kind of eclectic ...chimichangas to champaign...libertarian on some issues, progressive on others...I don't fit the traditional Democrat or Republican definitions. I love the Tucson Folk Festival and the Tucson Symphony Orchestra. And I really love adobe.

Come along for the ride.

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