

## Pima Association of Governments

### A Resolution to Recognize and Respond to the Serious Threat Posed by the Invasive Plant Buffelgrass to the Desert Ecology of the Greater Tucson Region

**Whereas**, buffelgrass (*Pennisetum ciliare*) is a fire-prone grass introduced from the African savannah and has established itself as a persistent and expanding invasive plant in central and southern Arizona; and

**Whereas**, once established, buffelgrass displaces native vegetation and can form dense, single-species stands. Where buffelgrass is dense enough, it can carry fire into Sonoran Desert vegetation, which has no natural adaptation to fire. Buffelgrass has the potential to displace or disrupt many of the common plant and animal species native to the Sonoran Desert; and

**Whereas**, in 2005, Arizona Regulation R3-4-244 approved listing buffelgrass as a Regulated and Restricted Noxious Weed, in 2005, the Pima County Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution No. 2005-165 to manage invasive species, with buffelgrass as the first target, and in 2006 the Governor's Invasive Species Advisory Council identified it as one of Arizona's most problematic invasive species; and

**Whereas**, buffelgrass is establishing itself along roadsides, in large areas of public parklands and along drainages, it represents a profound threat to the natural ecology of the Sonoran Desert; and

**Whereas**, buffelgrass has the potential to cause severe disruption to the natural environment of the Sonoran Desert and alter viewsapes by replacing native plant species with extensive stands of fire-prone buffelgrass; and

**Whereas**, on February 9, 2007, over 120 government managers and scientists met at the Buffelgrass Summit and endorsed a resolution encouraging "...citizens, agencies and all levels of government cooperate across jurisdictional boundaries to counter this threat;" and

**Whereas**, controlling buffelgrass will require a regional effort that PAG is uniquely qualified to support.

**In Consideration Thereof the PAG Regional Council:**

Recognizes the serious nature of the threat posed by buffelgrass that was conveyed at the recently held Buffelgrass Summit, and

Recognizes that a long-term and coordinated program of buffelgrass control will be required to confront this invasive weed species, and

Encourages each member jurisdiction to evaluate the extent that buffelgrass is present within their communities and to pursue buffelgrass removal or treatment, and

Urges Governor Napolitano to prioritize and fund buffelgrass control efforts by state agencies to effectively remove buffelgrass from state rights-of-way by 2009, and

Directs PAG staff to lend support and seek financial assistance to sustain the regional effort to control buffelgrass.