



**Cochise County**  
**Community Development**  
**Planning, Zoning and Building Safety Division**

*Public Programs...Personal Service*  
 www.cochise.az.gov

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Cochise County Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Peter Gardner, Planner II  
**FOR:** Daniel Coxworth, AICP, Development Services Director  
**THROUGH:** Edward Gilligan, County Administrator  
**SUBJECT:** Docket Z-19-03 (Aunon – Stotts)  
**DATE:** April 25, 2019 for the May 7, 2019 Meeting

**APPLICATION FOR A REZONING**

The Applicants are requesting a rezoning from R-36 (Residential; one dwelling per 36,000 square feet) to RU-4 (Rural; one dwelling per four acres). The three subject parcels total 22.08 acres in size.

The subject parcels, APN 401-17-206A, -206B, & -207A, are located on the south side of E. Turkey Trot Road north of Sunizona. The Applicants are Alexander Aunon and Greg Stotts.

**I. PLANNING & ZONING RECOMMENDATION**

On Wednesday, April 10, 2019, the Planning and Zoning Commission voted 7-0 to forward this Docket to the Board of Supervisors with a recommendation of approval.

**II. DESCRIPTION OF SUBJECT PARCEL AND SURROUNDING LAND USES**

Parcel Size: 22.08 acres  
 Current Zoning: R-36 (Residential; one dwelling per 36,000 square feet)  
 Proposed Zoning: RU-4 (Rural; one dwelling per 4 acres)  
 Growth Area: D – Rural Area  
 Plan Designation: Rural  
 Area Plan: None  
 Existing Uses: None  
 Proposed Uses: Single Family Residential

**Zoning/Use of Surrounding Properties**

| Relation to Subject Parcel | Zoning District              | Use of Property                 |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| North                      | Non-Maintained Road<br>/RU-4 | E. Turkey Trot Road/Agriculture |
| South                      | R-36                         | Scattered Rural Residential     |
| East                       | R-36                         | Scattered Rural Residential     |
| West                       | R-36                         | Vacant                          |

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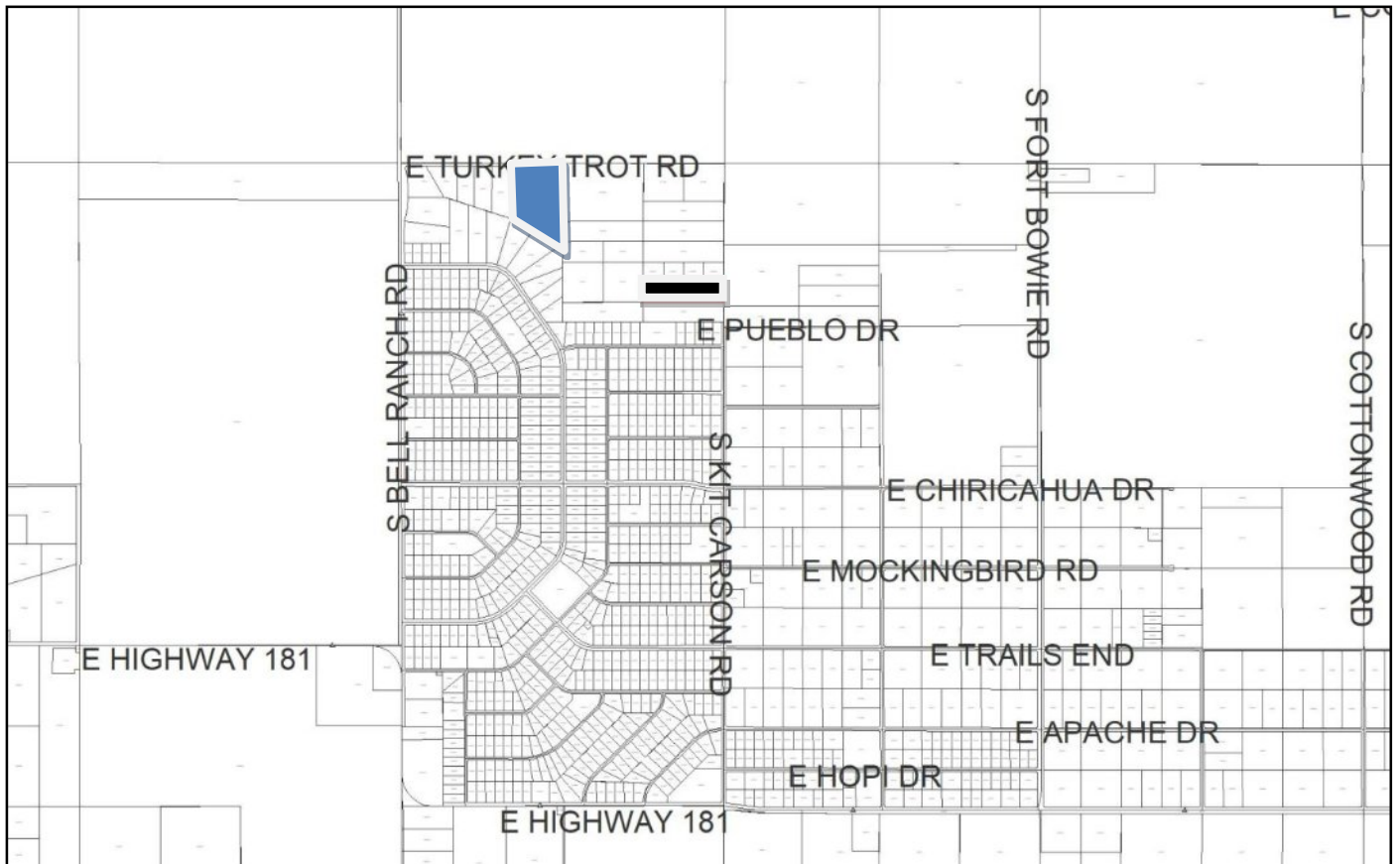
**III. PARCEL HISTORY**

None

**IV. NATURE OF REQUEST**

The Applicants are requesting to amend the zoning of their parcels from R-36 to RU-4. This will preserve the open space and permit the use of the Owner-Builder Opt Out Amendment to the Cochise County Building Code.

The area is largely vacant and agricultural land. There are scattered rural residential uses to the south, with most homes on parcels larger than the required 36,000 square feet. North of E. Turkey Trot Road are scores of agricultural pivots, many owned by Riverview LLP, who plans to construct an additional dairy replacing several of them. A downzone to Rural zoning fits with the actual land uses in the area.



**Location Map**

Subject Parcel in Blue,  
Previous Rezoning in Black



## **V. ANALYSIS OF IMPACTS**

### **Mandatory Compliance**

Section 2208.03 of the Zoning Regulations requires that the amendment of Zoning District boundaries take place in compliance with the Comprehensive or Area Plan Designation assigned to the area in question. In this case, the subject property lies within a Category "D" Rural Area and is considered a "Rural" area per the Comprehensive Plan. RU-4 zoning is permitted in the Category "D," "Rural" areas and is the default zoning for the majority of the County, therefore this request to rezone to RU-4 complies with the Comprehensive Plan as detailed below.

**Compliance with Rezoning Criteria**

Section 2208.03 of the Zoning Regulations provides fifteen criteria used to evaluate rezoning requests. Nine of the criteria are applicable to this request, and all of the nine applicable factors are met.

**1. Provides an Adequate Land Use/Concept Plan: Not Applicable**

The Applicants intend to continue to use the parcels for their personal, residential use. The proposal is intended to facilitate standard, rural home site development, but the parcel would be eligible for the full range of allowed Principal, Accessory, and Special Uses per Article 6 of the Zoning Regulations.

**2. Compliance with Applicable Site Development Standards: Complies**

As noted above, the 22.08-acre site has a single home and is otherwise undeveloped. Downzoning to RU-4 would not negatively impact the ability of the parcels to be developed. The only site development standard that would become more stringent is the maximum density. The Applicant is aware of this, and has no plans to exceed the RU-4 density.

**3. Adjacent Districts Remain Capable of Development: Complies**

The proposal would not affect the development prospects of any neighboring property.

**4. Limitation on Creation of Nonconforming Uses: Complies**

If approved, the rezoning would not create any non-conforming land uses.

**5. Compatibility with Existing Development: Complies**

There is precedent for RU-4 zoning and Rural Residential development in the immediate area; there is currently RU-4 zoning across S. Kit Carson Road to the east, directly to the north across Turkey Trot, and to the southwest approved under a previous docket.

**6. Rezoning to More Intense Districts: Not Applicable**

As indicated, this request is for a downzoning, which in this case would reduce the permitted density by a factor of more than four.

**7. Adequate Services and Infrastructure: Complies**

The parcel and the existing road network all support the necessary infrastructure to develop the parcel under the guidelines for the RU-4 zoning designation.

**8. Traffic Circulation Criteria: Complies**

This rezoning request will not alter the layout or function of the existing roadway network and will not require right-of-way dedication or off-site improvements. Rezoning from R-36 to RU-4 would decrease the permitted density, with a corresponding decrease in potential traffic.

**9. Development Along Major Streets: Not Applicable**

This parcel does not take access off a Major roadway and is not served by roads within the County Maintenance system.

**10. Infill: Not Applicable**

This Factor applies only for rezoning requests to General Business, Light Industry or Heavy Industry.

**11. Unique Topographic Features: Not Applicable**

As this request is for a downzoning, this factor does not apply.

**12. Water Conservation: Complies**

As this proposed downzoning would reduce permitted maximum density, potential water usage could decrease.

**13. Public Input: Complies**

As a downzoning, the Applicant was not required to complete a Citizen Review. Staff mailed notices to neighboring property owners within one mile of the subject property on March 21, 2019. Staff posted the property on and published a legal notice in the *San Pedro Valley Sun News*. One response in support was received.

**14. Hazardous Materials: Not Applicable**

No hazardous materials are proposed.

**15. Compliance with Area Plan: Complies**

The subject property lies within a Category "D"– Rural Area and is considered a "Rural" area per the Comprehensive Plan. This designation is intended to create neighborhoods with lots of two-acres or more. This request would comply by creating a minimum lot size of four-acres per dwelling.

**VI. PUBLIC COMMENT**

In response to County mailings, the Planning Department has received two responses in support, which is included in the packet.

**VII. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION**

The request is for a downzoning, from R-36 (Residential; one dwelling per 36,000 square feet), to RU-4 (Rural; one dwelling per four acres) on a 22.08-acre site located on E. Turkey Trot Road. At this time, the area is characterized by open expanses, with all current development occurring on a Rural scale. The Comprehensive Plan designates the site as Rural. This designation constitutes a recommendation on the part of the Plan for a rezoning to a lower-density zoning district, providing a major Factor in Favor of Approval. A rezoning to the RU-4 district would therefore reflect the policies of the Plan, and would better reflect the existing character of the surrounding neighborhood.

**Factors in Favor of Approval**

1. Allowing the request would be in keeping with the character of the existing development in the area;
2. The Comprehensive Plan policies prescribe a low density of residential development in this area to protect the current character of the neighborhood, and the request would facilitate such a density; and
3. One letters of support has been received.

**Factors Against Approval**

None

**VIII. RECOMMENDATION**

Based on the factors in favor of approval, Staff recommends forwarding the request for a rezoning, from R-36 (Residential; one dwelling per 36,000 square feet) to RU-4 (Rural; one dwelling per four acres) on a 10.02-acre parcel located on E. Turkey Trot Road to the Board of Supervisors with a recommendation of **Conditional Approval**, subject to the following Conditions:

1. The Applicant shall provide the County with a signed Acceptance of Conditions and a Waiver of Claims form arising from ARS Section 12-1134 signed by the property owner of the subject property within thirty (30) days of Board of Supervisors approval of the rezoning; and
2. It is the Applicant's responsibility to obtain any additional permits, or meet any additional conditions, that may be applicable to the proposed use pursuant to other federal, state, or local laws or regulations.