

Santa Cruz Valley Citizens Council

Informing the Community • Advocating for the Community

February 14, 2021

Mary Dahl, Chair Tubac Fire District Board and Members of the Board

PO Box 2881

Tubac, AZ 85646

Re: Recommendations of the Santa Cruz Valley Citizens Council

Dear Chair Dahl and Members of the Board:

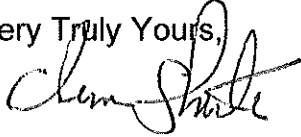
We submit the following recommendations for your consideration in pursuing a replacement Tubac Fire Station. The recommendations reflect our belief that to this point your Board's process has not been as open or accessible to Tubac residents as it should be for such an important project. It is apparent to us that if your Board adopts a process that people understand as fair and open, you will receive overwhelming support for whatever decisions you make. So, we make these recommendations, not to create further controversy, but to avoid unnecessary misunderstandings and mistrust.

1. Your Board should meet in Tubac whenever there is an item on your agenda that involves a replacement fire station in Tubac. When you meet in Rio Rico, you are at least seven miles from Tubac and meeting in a facility with inadequate room for the public. Moreover, at the last meeting, because of COVID concerns, you limited access to the room. Some people who arrived ten minutes before the meeting started left because they could not get into the building. To overcome these limitations, the Tubac Community center would be a good place to meet.
2. Your Board should appoint a committee of Board members and Tubac residents charged with evaluating the physical, financial and locational issues associated with a replacement station. The committee should be funded so it can retain appropriate professional help. All of its meetings should be in Tubac and open to the public. Your Board should not proceed with any aspect of a replacement station until it has received and considered the committee's recommendations.
3. Prior to the acquisition of land, your Board should have professional support for determining the design of a rural fire station on the land and for negotiating the

terms of acquisition. Any acquisition should be supported by a professional appraisal.

Thank you for considering our recommendations. We ask that this letter be read as part of the reading of correspondence at the February 23rd meeting.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "E. Clement Shute Jr.", written in black ink.

E Clement Shute Jr.

President