



# The Coalition of Greater Scottsdale

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19 March 2015

To: Mayor Lane and Members of the City Council:

Re: Desert Awareness Center/DDC

The Coalition of Greater Scottsdale (COGS) supports the recommendations of the McDowell Sonoran Preserve Commission regarding future Sonoran Desert Educational/Awareness facilities in the Preserve. Those recommendations are:

1. In order to develop any successful center it is critical we learn from the past and not exclude, but rather, engage all stake holders. MSPC should play an integral role in its mandated role as the “citizen’s oversight committee”.
2. No revenues from Preserve sales taxes should be used for planning, construction, maintenance or operation of the facility. Any facility should stand on its own financially with regards to operations and maintenance.
3. Adhere strictly to the current Preserve Ordinance regarding uses, philosophy and operation, and remain consistent with the “Gateway to the Preserve” concept as described in the Access Area Report approved by the MSPC in March, 1999 and amended in December, 2010 and approved by City Council in October 2011.
4. Most importantly, any installation that celebrates the desert also should respect it and the reasons for the creation of the Preserve.

We believe that by following these recommendations, you will assure the creation of a financially and environmentally sustainable community asset that will be a source of pride for all citizens of Scottsdale.

Sonnie Kirtley, Chair

For the COGS Board of Director

Cc: Kroy Ekblaw, Preservation Director

Cc: Jim Heitel,, Chairman McDowell Sonoran Preserve Commission