



## **Media Release**

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## **FICO Land Plan Clears Key Hurdle *Town Council Up Next***

(SAHUARITA, Ariz.) On Monday, the Town of Sahuarita's Planning and Zoning Commission voted to endorse and send on to the Town Council the Sahuarita Farms Land and River Master Plan. After hearing from FICO's representatives, Town staff, and members of the public, the Commission voted 4 to 3 to approve the plan. The Council is to discuss the plan in a study session at its Feb. 23 meeting.

"We are heartened by the thoughtful consideration of our project by the Commissioners," said Tim Campbell, Sahuarita Farms project manager. "We submitted our application in 2011, and we are delighted that we achieved this milestone. We look forward to bringing this project before the full Town Council shortly."

The Sahuarita Farms Land and River Master Plan is a comprehensive framework that will guide the transition of FICO's farmland to other uses as the region grows over the next 40-50 years. A unique element of the master planning effort is the nearly 12-mile segment of the Santa Cruz River FICO owns. Over time, the plan will create an extensive network of trails, parkland, natural open spaces, and improve flood control to protect existing and future infrastructure. As the sole landowner along this segment of the Santa Cruz River, there is a unique opportunity to set Sahuarita apart as a community that supports a healthy outdoor lifestyle.

FICO submitted the Sahuarita Farms plan to the Town of Sahuarita in 2011. Since then, the plan has been the topic of many public meetings and open houses, governmental hearings and stakeholder meetings. In fact, the Monday meeting was the fourth occasion the plan had been before the Planning and Zoning Commission. In March 2014, Pima County approved the plan covering the portion of the FICO farm in unincorporated Pima County.

Given the long-term nature of master plan implementation, FICO will continue its successful local farming operation to meet the national and global market for its pecans for the foreseeable future.