

Appendix A: Comprehensive Plan Compliance Checklist

Purpose:

Provide guidance to ensure conformity of development proposals with the Pinal County Comprehensive Plan.

Intent:

1. Explain how to determine if development proposals are compatible with the Comprehensive Plan.
2. Explain why unique conditions exist to deviate from the Plan.

The Pinal County Comprehensive Plan graphics, Land Use, Circulation (two graphics), and Economic Development, are not intended to be zoning maps that outlines specific locations and parcel-by-parcel determination for land uses and facilities. The Comprehensive Plan's intent is to provide policy direction and a framework for how the Pinal County "development form" or layout should occur over time. It is not the intent to predetermine specifically where land uses must occur. Guidelines within the Land Use element provide direction on development and how it relates to transportation corridors, surrounding land uses, public facilities, and natural environment.

Determination:

Comprehensive Plan Compliance is determined by the development's conformity with the Comprehensive Plan's land use designations (Land Use graphic and Land Use element text) and activity centers (Land Use and Economic Development graphics and Economic Development element text) as well as the goals, objectives, policies and guidelines outlined in the Pinal County Comprehensive Plan. Planning guidelines for each of the land use designations and Activity Centers are also included in the Land Use element. It is important to note that all components and concepts may not apply to every potential proposal.

Organization:

The Compliance Checklist focuses on two major components:

1. Consistency with Pinal County's Vision Components
2. Consistency with the Plan's Key Concepts illustrated on Land Use, Circulation, and Economic Development graphics.

How Is the Checklist Used?

Various concepts are discussed and a "YES" checkbox is provided to indicate if the proposal complies with the key concepts of the Plan.

- If a project complies, it receives a ✓ in the appropriate box.
- If it does not comply, the checkbox will remain blank, and additional information would need to be provided to explain the unique circumstance, if applicable.

- If a project has no relation to a particular check list item, a “non applicable” response is acceptable with a brief explanation.

Who Should Use the Checklist?

Developers, staff, and decision-makers should use the Comprehensive Plan Compliance Checklist.

- ✓ Developers should use this checklist as a guide to the Plan’s policies in the early stages of a development proposal and when submitting an application for review.
- ✓ Staff should use it to review development proposals and to make recommendations to decision-makers. The checklist can assist in developing the staff report.
- ✓ Decision-makers can use the checklist to better understand how well a proposal does or does not comply with the Pinal County Comprehensive Plan.

PART ONE

Consistency with Pinal County’s Vision Components

The Pinal County Comprehensive Plan is a vision-based plan that provides the framework that all decisions related to growth and development are measured against. The following is intended to describe how the proposal meets the various vision components.

Pinal County Vision The County recognizes the importance of the region’s strategic location between the Phoenix and Tucson Metropolitan Areas and its relationship to the overall well-being of the state of Arizona. What happens in Pinal County does not stay in Pinal County; the decisions made here will impact the entire state on many levels: business development, mobility, land management, air quality, water, and overall quality of life. People choose Pinal County for the diverse opportunities it offers; this diversity is what makes Pinal County unique but also represents a challenge as Pinal County continues to grow and change.

Pinal County is a place where history, culture and heritage are the foundation for its future. Pinal County will be seen as a leader in environmental stewardship and conservation practices by ensuring that the natural environment is preserved, yet still available to be discovered. Pinal County provides quality educational and training opportunities placing residents in cutting edge, environmentally-compatible jobs within the County. While communities within Pinal County retain and celebrate their unique qualities, governments and agencies share a collaborative spirit to ensure successes across Pinal County and remain responsive and accountable to their constituents.

Sense of Community—Pinal County is a collection of unique communities, each of which has something special to offer residents and visitors. Balancing emerging urban centers and Pinal County’s rural character is important to residents; ensuring that the threads of Pinal County’s history, heritage, and culture are woven into its future is what makes Pinal County unique from other regions. Ensuring places exist for people to gather and for communities to showcase the diversity of places, people, lifestyles, cultures, and opportunities will help to define Pinal County’s identity.

The proposal:

Is consistent with the **Sense of Community** vision component

Please explain:

Mobility and Connectivity—Ensuring Pinal County has adequate transportation corridors and a variety of multimodal transportation options addressing all populations is essential for moving goods and people throughout the County and State with minimal affect on Pinal County’s native wildlife. Offering multiple mobility and communication options, to effectively connect communities and activity centers throughout the County, will reduce congestion and improve air quality while enhancing the area’s quality of life.

The proposal:

Is consistent with the **Mobility and Connectivity** vision component

Please explain:

Economic Sustainability—Expanding opportunities for residents to live, work, learn, and play in close proximity promotes long-term economic viability. Pinal County desires activity centers that serve the current and future residents’ needs offering services, businesses and employment opportunities, including high-tech and environmentally-friendly employers who champion Pinal County’s conservation philosophy. The creation of the full range of quality jobs that allow residents to start their career, raise a family, and move up instead of out of Pinal County for career advancement is essential. (This may not apply to all projects)

The proposal:

Is consistent with the **Economic Sustainability** vision component

Please explain:

Open Spaces and Places—Residents value the large connected open spaces and unique places of Pinal County, not only as part of their quality of life, but as an important resource to sustain the region’s immense wildlife habitat and their corridors. From the majestic mountains rising from the desert floor in the west to the high desert and rugged mountain terrain to the east, enjoyment of and respect for the natural surroundings is a big part of why people choose Pinal County to live and visit.

The proposal:

Is consistent with the **Open Spaces and Places** vision component

Please explain:

Environmental Stewardship—People value the views of the mountains and open vistas during the day and the stars at night. These values have translated to a strong conservation ethic that stresses the importance of maintaining the quality of Pinal County’s natural resources for future generations. Pinal County is the leader in environmental stewardship, and rewards and encourages sustainable practices such as innovative land use planning, sustainable agriculture, water conservation, green building development, and the use of renewable and alternative energy sources.

The proposal:

Is consistent with the **Environmental Stewardship** vision component

Please explain:

Healthy, Happy Residents—Access to quality healthcare and healthy lifestyle choices is a priority. Pinal County is a healthy, safe place where residents can walk or ride to activity centers and where interaction in Pinal County’s clean, natural environment is encouraged. Ensuring residents are healthy, safe and happy in their community is a priority for Pinal County.

The proposal:

Is consistent with the **Healthy, Happy Residents** vision component

Please explain:

Quality Educational Opportunities—Quality, community-based Pre k-12 programs that provide youth with a competitive edge along with a wide variety of post-secondary educational opportunities and technical or specialized workforce training are necessities. Pinal County residents seek out life-long opportunities that help to expand their minds and diversify their experiences. (This may not apply to all projects)

The proposal:

Is consistent with the **Quality Educational Opportunities** vision component

Please explain:

PART TWO

Consistency with the Plan's Key Concepts illustrated on Land Use, Economic, and Circulation graphics

Consistency with the Land Use Designation shown on the graphics

The project land uses:

- Are shown as indicated on the Land Use and Economic Development graphic
- Are not shown as indicated on the Land Use and Economic Development graphic

Consistency with the Mixed Use Activity Center Concept

The project land uses:

- Meet the Mixed Use Activity Center requirements
- Are not shown within a Mixed Use Activity Center

If shown within a Mixed Use Activity Center, explain how it meets the planning guidelines outlined in the Land Use element.

The land use proposal includes a Mixed Use project, not shown in a Mixed Use Activity Center; explain how it meets the planning guidelines and intent of the Plan.

Consistency with the Planning Guidelines described in the Land Use element

The project land uses:

- Are consistent with the applicable Planning Guidelines described in the Land Use element

Quality Employment Opportunities County-wide

The Comprehensive Plan stresses the importance of increasing the number of opportunities to locate quality jobs County-wide in order to increase the jobs-to-population ratio.

The proposal:

- Is consistent with the Economic Development element
- Includes additional information about how the development addresses the Economic Development Vision embodied in the Comprehensive Plan.

Please explain:

Viable Agriculture, Equestrian and Rural Lifestyle

Historically, agriculture has played an important role in Pinal County’s economy and lifestyle. Encouraging the continuation of viable agriculture and protecting it is an important component of the Plan. Additionally, supporting an equestrian and rural lifestyle has a place in Pinal County as it continues to urbanize.

The proposal:

- Clusters development to protect open space and agriculture
- Includes additional information about how the development addresses Viable Agriculture, Equestrian, and Rural Lifestyle.

Please explain:

System of Connected Trails and Preservation of Open Space

Pinal County is committed to the preservation of large swaths of open space and the development of a connected system of trails. This applies to all projects/proposals/actions.

The proposal:

- Is consistent with *Pinal County Trails and Open Space Master Plan* and Comprehensive Plan Open Space and Places Chapter
- Includes additional information about how the development addresses the open space Vision and goals

Please explain:

Natural and Cultural Resource Conservation

The Comprehensive Plan strives to protect natural/cultural resources, wildlife corridors and environmentally-sensitive areas such as mountains and foothills, major washes, and vistas. These areas are predominantly undeveloped and contain sensitive resources or natural hazard areas.

The proposal:

- Address environmentally sensitive areas it may impact.
- Includes additional information about how the development addresses the natural and cultural resource conservation.

Please explain:

Water Resources, Public Facilities/Services, and Infrastructure Support

All developments must bring adequate water resources and the necessary infrastructure to support the intensity of development in order to minimize the impact on the County’s ability to provide public services. All development and growth, public and private, must acknowledge its impacts and pay its own way.

The proposal:

- Ensures that adequate public facilities are in place or planned for within a reasonable time of the start of the new development

Please explain:
