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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **PUBLIC OPEN HOUSES SCHEDULED FOR AVRA VALLEY HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN**

The City of Tucson will host two public open houses for the proposed Avra Valley Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). Once evaluated and approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, this planning tool for Tucson Water's retired farm lands in Avra Valley will help ensure that steps to preserve and protect vulnerable plants and animals are included in future land use decisions.

The open house events are scheduled for.

- Tuesday, July 10, 2012, 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- Picture Rocks Community Center, 5615 N. Sanders Road  
AND
- Wednesday, July 11, 2012, 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- Robles Ranch Community Center, 16150 West Ajo Highway

*Background:* Approximately 22,000 acres in Avra Valley were purchased in the 1970s and 1980s to secure their water rights. These lands provide habitat for several vulnerable species, including the federally endangered Lesser Long-nosed Bat. In addition to species protection, the proposed HCP will facilitate compliance with the Endangered Species Act for potential City water supply projects on the Avra Valley properties.

The Avra Valley Habitat Conservation Plan and outreach to nearby residents are coordinated by the City's Office of Conservation and Sustainable Development (OCSD) and Tucson Water. For additional information or questions, go online to [www.tucsonaz.gov/ocsd/hcps](http://www.tucsonaz.gov/ocsd/hcps) or contact Jamie Brown, OCSD, at (520) 837-6934 or at [jamie.brown@tucsonaz.gov](mailto:jamie.brown@tucsonaz.gov).

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