

## **Hillside Road, Drainage and Trail Service Area status**

The Hillside District Plan recommends “the establishment of a new Hillside Management Entity to manage and finance roads, drainage, built-green infrastructure watershed protection and aquifer recharge; and trails at a watershed and/or community-wide scale.” This is tentatively called the Hillside Road, Drainage and Trail Service Area (HRDTSA) This is the highest priority recommendation in the plan.

In the past month, HALO, the Rabbit Creek Community Council and the Huffman O’Malley CC approved resolutions asking Assembly to appoint Hillside residents to an organizing group for the purpose of more clearly defining and creating the HRDTSA as recommended by the Hillside District Plan. Also, Assemblymember Jennifer Johnston has been actively working with the MOA legal department to get an understanding of the specific requirements to set up a new service area.

The HRDTSA would identify proposed future road connections, prioritize maintenance and upgrades on primary and secondary roads, placing emphasis on projects that address existing safety and efficiency concerns, including making optimum use of existing infrastructure and supporting efficient growth patterns. The road management entity will have the responsibility to track and coordinate with plans by ADOT&PF and the MOA Traffic Department, including prioritizing future funding requests. It would also develop maintenance, repair and schedule priorities for roads and trails. It would also be the entity in charge of the proposed drainage plans.

The plan makes clear that this would be locally controlled by Hillside residents and that the new service area will not happen without a vote of the people in the area. The HRDTSA would not replace the existing system of LRSA, RRSAs and independent road service areas that do a great job with basic maintenance of our roads. The idea of the HRDTSA is to solve problems that the current system can’t.