

## KIRKLAND VISION STATEMENT

September 20, 2022

- I. **Purpose:** Kirkland Residents have been asked to develop a Community Vision Statement to be used as a tool to review proposed land use projects. This Vision Statement will allow the residents to have an active and continuous voice as projects are brought before our Yavapai County Development Services Department and elected officials. It is important to recognize Kirkland is not in a concentric growth area or in fill area to Prescott and our Vision Statement reflects the residents desire to remain rural.
  
- II. **Vision Statement:** Kirkland is an unincorporated community that values our rural lifestyle, family values, natural beauty, unspoiled scenic views, dark night skies, and our residents that bring diversity, but all have the common goal of protecting our rural way of life and culture. We are a community that believes the current RCU-2 acre zoning is appropriate for our area and does not support high density projects that require zoning changes to increase density or bring excessive growth in population at the expense of our rural lifestyle. We strongly believe we need to keep certain areas in the County rural. Rural people have the right to remain rural, just as urban people have the right be urban. Our community does not desire the creation of an urban environment in the middle of our rural area.
  
- III. **Issues and Goals:**
  1. Community Character – Like many unincorporated rural towns Kirkland does not have a specific town center. The historic Kirkland Bar, Kirkland Post Office and the Kirkland School are located at the three corners of Iron Springs, Kirkland Valley Road and the Hillside Road. There are 1,637

residents. Kirkland encompasses 58,000+/- deeded acres, resulting in the average acre per resident being 35+ acres. There are few areas of concentrated density, mainly the Windmill Road area and the existing RV Park. Our community lacks any public infrastructure other than County roads that are supported by our residents tax dollars.

2. Land Use - Our community enjoys a low-density zoning that has allowed its residents to live the rural lifestyle they were raised with in Kirkland, or moved here because of their appreciation and desire for the rural way of life. Whether they are ranchers whose families have been here for generations or are people new to the area, we all have the common goal of protecting our rural lifestyle. The current two-acre zoning is strongly supported by the community. High density planned unit developments or housing developments that include leased units are not supported and are not appropriate for our area.
3. Growth – Residents understand the value of growth that is appropriate for the area. Bringing additional tax base that does not conflict with our core values is necessary. Protection of land and home values is important and our residents desire to have and should have an active voice determining what is appropriate growth for our area. This requires communication with our elected officials and having our voices heard. Growth that is in keeping with our current 2-acre zoning and brings homeowners that are invested in our community and tax paying residents is encouraged. Limited additional designated commercial areas that would be a direct benefit to our community by providing a service in keeping with our lifestyle would be supported, provided adequate demand is demonstrated to ensure their success.
4. Transportation – Our existing county roads and the increasing traffic remains a concern for our residents that travel to Prescott, Bagdad, or Wickenburg. Limited sight distances, few passing areas, narrow bridges, and trailer truck traffic create many unsafe situations that are typical of a rural area. The area has yet to see the possible impact of the potential

increased truck traffic due to the opening of the Kirkland mine and additional development that brings significant increased traffic should be discouraged. We are not a community that requires or desires additional bike lanes, sidewalks, or other urban forms of transportation. The residents of Kirkland do not want a major road expansion that will bring additional through traffic to our scenic area nor do we want to increase commuter traffic.

5. Open Space and Recreation – Our community enjoys an abundance of state lands next to private property that provide a multitude of recreational opportunities. Because of our low density our community believes there is currently adequate open space for our residents.
6. Economics – Residents understand our community has many limitations in what it can offer in terms of conveniences and services and we have chosen to live in the area knowing those limitations. Kirkland's economics rely heavily on the agricultural community thru the raising of cattle, horses and other agriculture related business's. Additional economic growth that is not at the expense of our agricultural business's, environment, lifestyle, and culture is welcomed. Economic growth at the expense of our core values and is a not a benefit to the people in our community is not supported.
7. Water – Our community depends upon our continued source of water for our agricultural related businesses and existing residents. Additional high density development growth would jeopardize our sole source of water, the Skull Valley aquifer. The aquifer is recognized as being drought influenced and historical data shows a decline in the depth to groundwater. Anecdotal information shows wells in the area going dry requiring drilling deeper, local springs have dried up or reduced their production, a concern to our community. Because our groundwater is outside an Active Management Area it is unregulated. Based on current data there is adequate water to support the existing agricultural and residential development with careful conservation.

8. Energy – Our existing electric power supply source reliability is a concern to our community. Appropriate additional sources of energy alternatives in areas that do not impact our scenic views or ranching business's should be considered on a case by case basis.
9. Environment – The protection of our natural resources is important for this community to be able to continue our chosen lifestyle, whether it's the business of ranching, hiking, riding horses, etc. We value our unique resources and are committed to their protection and do not want to compromise short term benefits at their expense. This includes protection of our limited water and energy resources, riparian areas, open spaces, peaceful night skies, and unspoiled scenic views.
10. Schools – We are proud of having our own school for our children K-8 that allow them to go to a rural school in a safe place with a diverse group of children. The education and protection of our students is an important part of our community. Our school is currently being expanded to accommodate up to 115 students which is the anticipated additional population in 10 years. High density development would bring additional students that have not been planned for in the current expansion and could not be accommodated by the school without significant cost to the existing residents.
11. Safety – Our community is committed to keeping Kirkland a safe and family value-oriented area by attracting land and homeowners that have similar values and lifestyle. We have a cooperative Volunteer Fire and EMS department in our neighboring community of Skull Valley. Our community has concerns regarding the on-going protection of our residents being served by the existing Yavapai County Sheriff's office that is currently understaffed. We rely upon members in our community for assistance in situations where a Sheriff may not be readily available. We protect our own when needed.

12. Cost of Development – Our community does not have the resources or the desire to support additional development in the form of infrastructure participation. Any proposed land or planned unit development project that would require extensive infrastructure either at a cost to our community or provided by others would not be supported by our community.

IV. **SUMMARY:** Kirkland is a rural community that embraces our rural lifestyle and culture and wishes to remain rural. We believe our residents are diverse but they have a common goal of protecting their most precious resource, their rural community.

We the undersigned parties participated in and support the Kirkland Vision Statement dated 9-20-22.

Renee Howes 9.20.22

Name: Renee Howes

Date

Pamela L Denney 9/26/22

Name: Pam Denney

Date

Brian Hampton 9-25-22

Name: Brian Hampton

Date

Skye Simpson 9/25/22

Name: Skye Simpson

Date

Nina Lockhart 9/25/22

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Date