



MEMORANDUM

Date: October 15, 2025

To: The Honorable Chair and Members
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: Jan Leshner 
County Administrator

Re: **Update on Tucson Baseball Team's Efforts Related to Player Visa Status**

On October 10, 2025, I shared with you the Tucson Baseball Team's (TBT) efforts to obtain clarification about player visas based on new information provided by the federal government, which lead to delaying the opening home series at the Kino Sports Complex. On Tuesday afternoon, TBT met with the Vice Consul from the U.S. Consulate General in Hermosillo. The attached letter of support was sent to the Consul General. The meeting was generally supportive, and it was determined that U.S. Consulate General's office is not the correct venue to address this matter.

Based on the meeting, it was determined that the Department of Homeland Security and its United States Citizen and Immigration Services (USCIS) office is the appropriate agency to provide clarification and a determination. TBT will be communicating with USCIS, and are putting together a detailed summary of their business structure and how it pertains to the type of visas for their operations in the United States.

The timing for issuance of a determination has not been determined yet, and it is unclear whether the federal government shut down will slow the review by USCIS.

TBT is working with local partners including Visit Tucson, Southern Arizona Sports, Tourism and Film Authority, and Pima County, as well as members of the Arizona Congressional Delegation, to quickly address the situation. I will provide additional updates as new information becomes available.

JKL/je

Attachment

c: Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator
Steve Holmes, Deputy County Administrator
Sarah Horvath, Director, Kino Sports Complex and Stadium District



COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE

PIMA COUNTY GOVERNMENTAL CENTER
115 N. CHURCH AVE., 2nd FLOOR, Suite 231, TUCSON, AZ 85701-1317
520-724-8661, FAX 520-724-8171

JAN LESHER
County Administrator

October 14, 2025

Drew Hoster
Consul General
Blvd. Juan Navarrete 291, Col Raquet Club
83204 Hermosillo, Sonora

Consul General Hoster,

We write in support of the Tucson Baseball Team and its intent to locate its professional baseball team in Tucson, Arizona, as part of Liga ARCO Mexicana Pacifico, Mexico's largest professional baseball league, and for a quick resolution of the U.S. visa issues that have arisen on the eve of the team's inaugural season in Tucson. The team was set to start its first series in its new home stadium in Tucson October 16 to great fanfare and celebration in our community. The team, in an abundance of caution and at the advice of your office, has chosen to cancel that series, and possibly subsequent series, while it resolves confusion with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service about the appropriate visas for team members.

Pima County built Veterans Memorial Stadium in 1997 to host Major League Baseball Spring Training. When MLB chose to consolidate its Cactus League teams in the Phoenix Metro area in the 2010s, Pima County immediately began remaking the spring training complex into regional tournament sports facility. The Kino Sports and Entertainment Complex is now more successful in terms of visitation and tourism economic impact than it was as a MLB Spring Training facility. But the County and the entertainment and hospitality industry of Southern Arizona never abandoned the desire to host professional baseball again at Kino.

That decade-long effort came to fruition this summer when Victor Cuevas and family announced the relocation of their LAMP team from Navojoa, Sonora, Mexico, to Tucson. Numerous governments and regional partners have collaborated with the Cuevas family to assist in this relocation. The team will bring vital tourism and visitation dollars to our region.

Visit Tucson, the Destination Marketing Organization for Pima County and metropolitan Tucson, estimates Tucson Baseball Team's inaugural season will conservatively generate more than \$12 million in economic impact. We hope the issue with the baseball team's visas can be quickly corrected and Tucson's new hometown professional baseball team can start playing ball at Kino Stadium as soon as possible.

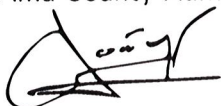
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The owners of Tucson Baseball Team have been diligent in their effort to establish their LAMP team in Tucson and have met with Department of Homeland Security immigration agencies numerous times to obtain the visas that are now in question. They are conscientious and forthright business leaders and intend to follow all U.S., state, and local laws to become a successful Mexican professional baseball team based in the United States. We believe the team's situation to be unique and ask that your office does everything it can to help our community realize this vital economic development opportunity and assist the team in obtaining the proper authorizations to complete its 2025 season in Tucson.

With Great Respect and Appreciation,

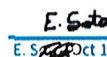


Jan Leshner
Pima County Administrator



J. Felipe García, CTA
President & CEO
Visit Tucson

Edgar Soto
Southern Arizona Sports, Tourism, & Film Authority


E. Soto
Oct 13, 2025 16:55:40 PDT

c: Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator
Sarah Horvath, Director, Kino Sports Complex