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LOCAL NEWS

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County approves development plan for pecan groves

By Philip Franchine

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A rezoning that would turn 1,095 acres of pecan groves in Green Valley into homes and businesses on Tuesday won easy approval by the County Board of Supervisors, whose members praised Farmers Investment Co. for its community outreach and willingness to dedicate more than 700 acres to open space.

The approval of the Continental Farms Specific Plan by a 5-0 vote, with Supervisor Ally Miller participating by phone, means FICO can now turn its attention to winning similar approval for the Sahuarita Farms Specific Plan covering about 6,000 acres in the town of Sahuarita.

FICO said it hopes to win that approval in the next three months.

The first tangible product of the Continental Farms Specific Plan will be visible later this year when FICO expects to create a path through the pecan groves to Canoa Preserve Park in Green Valley, home of a soft-ball complex.

The 1,095 acre Continental Farms area is now zoned for a maximum of 1,975 homes, but FICO said it expects to develop 1,500 homes there.

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