

APPENDIX D. Natural Resource Assessment Report (NRAR) Requirements

A Natural Resource Assessment Report (NRAR) will be required once property(s) selected for mitigation under the Land Transfer or Riparian Habitat Preservation Plan (RHPP) option have been reviewed and approved by the District. The NRAR will provide an evaluation of the ecological resources on the property(s) proposed for mitigation and shall include the following information:

Report Exhibit(s)

1. Mitigation property(s) exhibit(s). Exhibit(s) shall include:
 - Recent aerial photograph. Aerial photographs are available through the Pima County MapGuide website: <http://www.gis.pima.gov>
 - Existing topography, if available.
 - Scale, north arrow, township/range/section, and parcel tax ID number(s)
 - Prepare exhibit(s) to a standard engineering scale e.g., 1"=20', 1"=50', 1"=100', etc.
 - Location of riparian habitat as shown on the 2005 Riparian Classification Maps
 - Location of riparian habitat not mapped under the 2005 Riparian Classification Maps, if present
 - Location of special elements or features, such as springs, caves, cottonwood-willow forest, etc.

Report Text

Report text shall include a discussion of the following items:

2. Discuss in detail the location of the proposed property in relation to or designated as:
 - Maeveen Marie Behan Conservation Lands System (CLS) Category.
 - Critical Landscape Linkages. The general location of Critical Landscape Linkages can be viewed on the Riparian Acquisition Map under the heading "Critical Landscape Connections". Descriptions of these six general areas can be found in Exhibit A.
 - A Habitat Protection or Community Open Space priority acquisition property as displayed on Riparian Acquisition Map. Identify which designation applies to the site and comment on the status of

communications, if any, between the owner and Pima County regarding the County's potential acquisition of the property.

3. Lands that may qualify for acquisition under the offsite mitigation program shall be selected based on the following criteria. (This is not necessarily a prioritized list. The qualifying lands will be evaluated based on all criteria, with no weighted consideration). Please evaluate each item listed below in the Report.

Landscape Level:

- Landscape position (CLS categories)
- Covered species habitat (Priority Conservation Areas)

Watershed/Project Site Level:

- Adjacency to existing Preserves;
- Adjacency to major watercourses;
- Connectivity between riparian areas;
- 2005 Riparian Classification Maps – Riparian vegetation plant community (Hydroriparian or Mesoriparian (Class H) vs. Xeroriparian) and density (Total Vegetation Volume (TVV) designated by Classes A, B, C, or D);
- Water Availability (shallow groundwater/intermittent and perennial streams/springs) can be viewed in Mapguide and supporting report, *GIS Coverages of Perennial Streams, Intermittent Streams, and Areas of Shallow Groundwater*, found at: (<http://www.pima.gov/CMO/SDCP/reports/d7/002GIS.PDF>);
- Hydrology/Hydraulics – ability to support riparian vegetation (FEMA floodplains, locally mapped floodplains, areas of ponding, etc.);
- Adjacency to reaches of watercourses defined by the 2002 SDCP Report “Riparian Priorities” (available for viewing and download at <http://www.pima.gov/CMO/SDCP/reports.html>);
- Adjacency to existing District-/County-owned property; however, this criterion is subject to verification of future uses of the land prior to being considered. Certain Pima County-owned lands are set aside for future development;
- Within Habitat Protection Priority Areas or Private and State Priority areas, pursuant to the Conservation Bond Program (2004 and 2010);
- Connectivity with parks, refuges, existing Pima County restoration projects, and undeveloped land;

- Adjacency to platted Natural Open Space (NOS). NOS can be identified through subdivision plats or development plans, which can be viewed at: <http://www.pimaxpress.com/SubDivision/Default.htm>;
- Special Elements (bosques, cottonwood/willow, springs, seasonal cienegas, etc.);
- Historical perennial flows, if data is available. Information for historical perennial flows can be found at the following online resources:

SDCP Publication *Historical Occurrence of Native Fish in Pima County* (<http://www.pima.gov/CMO/SDCP/reports/d7/011HIS.PDF>)

USGS water data website for Arizona, which can be viewed at: <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/az/nwis/rt>

- Constructed vs. natural riverine systems (Mapguide “bank protection” layer); and
 - Adjacency to or use of Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) Program Sending Areas. Development rights are severed from these lands, which allows for higher density development in receiving areas (growth areas). TDR Sending Areas must have comparable RRH values.
4. If utilizing the RHPP option, the report must also address the overall connectivity and function of preserved habitat on the proposed mitigation parcel and how the RHPP will enhance overall function of riparian habitat.
 5. If areas outside the 2005 Riparian Classification Maps are delineated as riparian habitat under the mitigation proposal, an evaluation of onsite riparian resources in accordance with Technical Procedure 116 will be required.
 6. For properties to be conveyed in fee simple to the District, provide a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) or Level I Environmental Site Assessment in accordance with standards established by the American Society of Testing and Materials (ASTM). Purpose of this information is to document onsite conditions, particularly possible environmental contaminants, hazards, or stewardship issues.

A Phase I report should contain the following information: physical description of the property, environmental setting, and general condition of the property. The report should document all environmental hazards, either historically or currently recognized, or indications that a hazard may exist, observed infrastructure, vegetation condition, or other potential concerns, both onsite and offsite, if the recognized offsite environmental condition potentially affects the parcel. A Phase I report also includes all historical and recorded information available on the parcel.

EXHIBIT A

Maeveen Marie Behan Conservation Lands System (CLS) Critical Landscape Linkages

By definition, Critical Landscape Linkages are areas where habitat loss and fragmentation by roads and other infrastructure pose major challenges to wildlife movement.

Critical Landscape Linkage No. 1. Across the Interstate 10/Santa Cruz River corridors in the northwest.

Critical Landscape Linkage No. 2. Through Oro Valley, between the Catalina and Tortolita Mountains.

Critical Landscape Linkage No. 3. Across the Interstate 10 corridor along Cienega Creek in the east.

Critical Landscape Linkage No. 4. Across the Interstate 19 and Santa Cruz River corridors in southern Pima County.

Critical Landscape Linkage No. 5. Across the Garcia Strip extension of the Tohono O'odham Reservation.

Critical Landscape Linkage No. 6. The CAP Canal in Avra Valley.