

## APPENDIX H. LAND ACQUISITION CHECKLIST

### RIPARIAN ACQUISITION MAP

The Riparian Acquisition Map (RAM), referred to in Mapguide as the “*Watercourse and Riparian Habitat Mitigation Map*” can be viewed online at:

<http://gis.pima.gov/maps/rfcd/mitigation/>

The RAM is intended for use in determining suitability of parcels being considered under a Land Transfer or Riparian Habitat Preservation Plan (RHPP) offsite mitigation proposal. The map will allow applicants to view the location of potential mitigation parcels in relation to the selection criteria listed below.

The RAM is a GIS map based on reports and data developed in support of the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan (SDCP). These reports spatially define biologically sensitive lands at a landscape level. The map layers include the location of these lands in relation to existing County-owned property, state parks, and federal lands (refuges, national forest, and BLM lands, etc.), special environmental features and natural resources, and corridors associated with watercourses, riparian vegetation, and wildlife movement throughout the County.

### LAND ACQUISITION CHECKLIST

Lands that may qualify for acquisition under the offsite mitigation program shall be selected based on the following criteria:

The following checklist items can be determined from the Riparian Acquisition Map:

Landscape Level:

- Landscape position (Maeveen Marie Behan Conservation Lands System (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>, or if data and/or

evidence of shallow groundwater, intermittent and perennial streams, or springs is available, please provide.

- Hydrology/Hydraulics – ability to support riparian vegetation (FEMA floodplains, locally mapped floodplains, areas of ponding, etc.);
- 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;
- Special Elements (bosques, cottonwood/willow, springs, seasonal cienegas, etc.);
- Constructed vs. natural riverine systems (“bank protection” layer); and
- Adjacency to or use of Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) Program and 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 or provide corridor connectivity.

The following information can be obtained from resources noted:

- 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 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>;
- Historical perennial flows, if 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>