

2015 Bond Election Proposed Projects Template

Bond No. HP-103 Priority: A

Project Name: Priority Archaeological Site Acquisitions: Marana Mounds and/or Cocoraque Butte

Location: Marana Mounds is north of Cochie Canyon Trail, east of Interstate 10, and west of the CAP Canal in Marana. Cocoraque Butte is immediately north of the Tohono O’odham Reservation and west of Reservation Road.

Scope: Acquisition and security of priority archaeological sites identified in the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan for preservation purposes.

Benefits: These well-preserved archaeological sites are SDCP Priority Cultural Resources Sites that span more than 1,000 years of human occupation in Pima County. Both sites are in remarkably intact condition, but are threatened by development. Acquisition and preservation of these sites will benefit all Pima County residents and visitors as important elements of Pima County heritage education and heritage tourism. Each site is also an important traditional cultural place of the Tohono O’odham people and retains great cultural value for them.

Marana Mounds is a unique site that represents the very last Hohokam occupation of the northern Tucson basin about AD 1400, and exhibits the greatest prehistoric population and organizational complexity in the area. The ca. 300-acre site includes a platform mound ceremonial and residential center, walled adobe residential compounds, and an enormous range of associated archaeological and agricultural features. The site is owned by the Arizona State Land Department.

Cocoraque Butte is a magnificent ancient petroglyph site situated on a spectacular geologic basalt hill adjacent to the Tohono O’odham Nation. This site adjoins the Cocoraque Butte Archaeological District managed by the BLM within the Ironwood Forest National Monument. The 160-acre parcel consists of hundreds of animal, human, and geometric forms pecked into dark basalt rocks above a former spring site, and it is also the location of the Cocoraque Ranch, homesteaded in the 1880s. The site is privately owned and the owner has expressed a willingness to sell the property to Pima County for conservation purposes.

Costs: \$4,400,000

Bond Funding: \$4,400,000

Other Funding: If available, Certified Local Government funds.

Fiscal Year Project Start and Finish Date: TBD

Project Management Jurisdiction: Pima County

Future Operating and Maintenance Costs: Costs for Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation are projected to be about \$5,000 annually to be paid through the General Fund.

Regional Benefits: The acquisition and preservation of Marana Mounds and Cocoraque Butte will have educational and cultural benefits for all Pima County residents and visitors, especially to the Tohono O’odham Nation who considers these sites to be ancestral places of traditional cultural importance

Supervisor District of Project Location: District **1** (Marana Mounds), District **3** (Cocoraque Butte).
