

430.5 Site Interpretation/Preservation of County Cultural Resource Sites

Location: Various cultural resource and historic site locations owned by Pima County or the Regional Flood Control District, which may include: Pantano Townsite in Cienega Creek Natural Preserve; Dakota Wash site in southwest Tucson; Honey Bee Village in the Town of Oro Valley; Valencia Site in southwest Tucson; Coyote Mountains east of Tohono O'odham Nation; Los Morteros in Town of Marana; Sabino Canyon Ruin; Reeve Ruin; County historic sites and ranch buildings; and other sites including Marana Mound or Cocoraque Butte, if acquired.

Scope: Planning, design, and construction of facilities, including but not limited to pathways, seating areas, ramadas, interpretive signage, fencing and other protective measures for the conservation and interpretation of County-owned cultural resource sites. Scope items to assess, repair, rehabilitate and stabilize historic buildings and structures on County-owned lands include inventory, building condition assessments, design, stabilization, rehabilitation, and construction efforts, including but not limited to work on adobe, masonry, and wood structures, windows, doors, roofing, drainage and grading, utilities, and HVAC, mechanical upgrades including water-supply and power-generating systems, septic, electrical upgrades, removal of inappropriate or sub-standard features, weather-proofing, security, painting, and other improvements. Pima County owns these properties and no Preservation Easements are necessary. Facilities such as boundary fencing and signage, gates, erosion control, paths, and interpretive signage and amenities will be constructed where necessary and appropriate.

Benefits: These Priority Cultural Resource archaeological sites, acquired by Pima County for conservation, and heritage education purposes, represent the best of the last remaining intact archaeological sites in eastern Pima County that date from the prehistoric and historic periods. These sites require planning and construction activities to ensure their long term protection and conservation as well as public interpretation for heritage education. Pima County's historic ranches are vital to the County's open space conservation initiatives, and many buildings continue to serve their historical function as centers of operation for the ranchers and visiting public.

Total Cost Estimates: \$2,000,000

Bond Funding Estimate: \$2,000,000

Other Funding Estimate: Grant funding will be pursued.

Total Cost Estimate by Major Task: Planning and design at \$500,000, construction at \$1,500,000

Implementation Periods: 4, 5, 6

Project Schedule by Major Task: Project average – planning and design at 12-18 months, construction at 9-12 months.

Project Manager: Pima County

Operator: Pima County

Future Operating and Maintenance Costs: Publicly accessible sites will be operated and maintained by Pima County. Total costs are estimated to be \$50,000-\$100,000 annually including staffing, to be paid from the General Fund. Public facilities will be limited to interpretive amenities

(no public restrooms, picnic or recreation areas), requiring minimal commitment of County staff time (estimated at 2-4 days per year per site) to monitor the condition of these sites, as currently ongoing. Cultural resources monitoring to track changes in condition by Arizona Site Stewards volunteer organization, as currently ongoing.

Regional Benefits: The construction of facilities to protect, conserve, and interpret these sites, as well as the rehabilitation and adaptive use and continued use of historic buildings will contribute to the conservation of these resources and enhance the educational potential of the sites. The focus for all these sites will be on conservation, combined with interpretation of suitable sites, will provide Pima County residents and visitors with the opportunity to experience unique cultural resources and learn about our region's history. The interpretation and conservation of these sites will enhance heritage tourism in the region benefitting County Residents and visitors.