Section 1. Introduction

1.3 Establishment of the National Historic Trail

The Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail was established by an act of the United States Congress in 1990. The act approved the Feasibility Study for the project and authorized the establishment of a National Historic Trail from Nogales, Arizona, to San Francisco, California. The congressional authorization was followed by the preparation of a Comprehensive Management and Use Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement (April 1996). This document calls for a multi-theme approach to trail development.

The multi-theme element of the plan provides for the development of both an automobile route and a continuous multi-use recreational trail. This Master Plan is for the non-motorized, multi-use recreational trail component of the project.

The Pima County section of the automobile route is shown in Figure 1-B. The automobile route through Pima County was developed by the staff of the Cultural Resources Office of the Pima County Administrator’s Office with input from the National Park Service. (See Figure 1-B). The automobile route is not the subject of this document.

The multi-theme approach allows for interpretation of the two Anza expeditions, the lives of expedition members and descendants, the American Indian tribes along the route, and the natural and cultural environment the expedition encountered.

1.4 Status of the Pima County Trail Segment

The Pima County segment of the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail is identified as an element of the Eastern Pima County Trail System Master Plan which was adopted by the Board of Supervisors in February 1998. The Trail System Master Plan shows the approximate alignment of the Anza Trail through Pima County.

Additional planning work has been performed by Pima County staff related to certain portions of the trail within Pima County. This work has resulted in the certification of three trail segments located within the Tucson urban area. These segments follow the Santa Cruz River Park and extend from Irvington Road to Ajo Way, from Silverlake Road to Mission Lane, and from Saint Mary’s Road to Grant Road.

Planning for the balance of the Pima County section of the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail is the subject of this Master Plan.