

**Cortaro Farms Road, Camino de Oeste to Thornydale Road
Community Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary
February 28, 2008**

I. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Joe Vaskovic, Psomas Project Manager, welcomed and thanked everyone for coming to the CAC meeting. Project team members and CAC members introduced themselves. Project team members in attendance included: Bob Roggenthen, PCDOT; Rick Ellis, PCDOT; Dewayne Tripp, PCDOT/Psomas; Carol Brichta, PCDOT; Joe Vaskovic, Psomas; Kevin Thornton, Psomas; Colby Henley, RECON; Joy Lyndes, SAGE Landscaping; Theresa Fortner, Harris Environmental; Nina Borgia-Aberle, Public Art; and Carol Oaks, Kaneen Advertising & Public Relations.

II. ATTENDANCE

CAC Members:

David G. Philips
James V. Barnhart
Maeve O'Brien
David Gittings
Carolyn Pataconi for
Daniel Pataconi

Leonard Bike
Sy Lakosky
Robert S. Crossland
Dan Brader

Members Absent:

Sandra Elliott
Greg Ogden

Public Attendees:

Bruce Williams
Lue Ann Martin
HP Friedrichs
Lynn Friedrichs

Stephen Garcia
LuAnn Sjursen
Doug Canon
Ann Romand

III. Review of Tasks Completed to Date – Joe Vaskovic

Since the December 12, 2007 meeting, the project team has been working on the following tasks:

- Biological Evaluation
- Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment
- Cultural Resource Survey
- Native Plant Inventory
- Summary of Native Plant Conservation goals
- Narrative of Visual Qualities – the project is considered an Environmentally Sensitive Roadway
- Public Art
- Drainage Report Addendum
- Traffic Engineering Report Addendum

- Noise Report
- Submittal of Revised Construction Documents

IV. Recent Project Related Developments – Joe Vaskovic

Joe explained to the CAC that as the project team was updating the plans they found they have an opportunity for value engineering. Cost savings can potentially be achieved through the review of the profile of the roadway, pavement, earthwork, drainage, and landscaping impacts. The wildlife crossing criteria is not critical upon recent project review by Federal Fish and Wildlife. The current design is open to change. Pima County is committed to building the project and believes it is worth the time to investigate these changes to the design to decrease the costs and increase the value of the project.

V. Environmental – Theresa Fortner

Theresa, from Harris Environmental Group, Inc., presented the Environmental portion of the project. Theresa said pygmy owl surveys have been done the past couple of years, even though the pygmy owl was de-listed as an endangered species. There were no pygmy owls found in the area. They completed a preliminary Biological Evaluation three items were recommended: continue to do the pygmy owl surveys, do invasive weed control, and follow the Environmental Sensitive Roadway (ESR) guidelines.

Phase 1 Environmental Assessment did not find any hazardous conditions; therefore no further hazardous work is required. A Cultural Resource Survey found that there were no cultural resource concerns for the current project design. The cultural survey looked for prehistoric and historic artifacts such as bones, pottery, and things over 50 years old.

There are some washes that could potentially require a Section 404 permit, however with the current design the impact to the washes is minimal and will not require notification to the Army Corps of Engineers.

VI. Landscape – Joy Lyndes

Joy Lyndes, from SAGE Landscape Architecture & Environmental, said the native plant inventory and visual assessment have been completed and are under review. Joy reminded the CAC that since 2003, Cortaro Farms Road has been designated an Environmentally Sensitive Roadway and Ecologically Sensitive Scenic Route. This means there are different guidelines for vegetation and visual elements of the roadway.

The objectives of the visual assessment are to preserve the high quality visual resources and to mitigate the low quality resources. The native plant conservation goals are to identify significant plants and plant groups, preserve the high quality plants where possible, and mitigate with revegetation with the same species.

Joy said they have submitted inventory findings to the County for review. Currently they are working with team to evaluating the pros and cons and adjusting the design parameters to see if they can achieve a higher quality project. The landscaping team is also working with the project artist to coordinate artwork and landscape features.