

ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING

Results Memorandum

Cortaro Farms Road/Magee Road: Thornydale Road to Oracle Road

Screening Process Description

- Partnering Meeting, November 1, 2007, attended by representatives of design team, county staff, stakeholders, public involvement consultant, and environmental consultants. Meeting included a site survey that identified the general technical and environmental issues that may be associated with the project.
- Environmental Consultant Field Reconnaissance, November 15, 2007, undertaken by representatives of the environmental consultants. Collected and analyzed information on adjacent land uses, potential Waters of the United States, and potential hazardous materials concerns in the project area.
- Environmentally Sensitive Roadway (ESR) Guidelines for Native Plant Inventory and Mitigation Meeting, December 12, 2007, attended by project manager, county environmental staff, and environmental consultants. Clarified applicable mitigation requirements for native plant impacts in accordance with Pima County ESR, Pima County Flood Control, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permitting process guidelines (meeting notes attached).
- Biology Site Evaluation, December 20, 2007, conducted by environmental consultant biologist. Evaluated area for biological resources.
- Environmental Coordination Meeting, January 3, 2008, attended by project manager, county environmental staff, Arizona Department of Transportation environmental staff, public involvement consultant, and environmental consultant. Project representatives met to discuss environmental issues, technical issues, environmental documentation, and sequencing of environmental document submittals and review processes (meeting agenda and meeting minutes attached).
- Class I Inventory and Class III Survey, January 15–16, 2008, conducted by environmental consultant. Researched records and surveyed area for cultural resources.

Identification of Technical Studies Completed During Screening Process

- Biology report (draft)
- Preliminary Initial Site Assessment (draft)
- Recommended determination of Waters of the United States (draft)
- Class I inventory for cultural resources (results identified in the environmental questionnaire and Class III survey draft)
- Class III survey for cultural resources (draft)

Environmental Issues Identified During Screening Process

Biology

- Removal of native vegetation, including cacti and desert trees, in the project area. Mitigation measures outlined by Pima County ESR guidelines, the Pima County Flood Control District, and Clean Water Act Section 404 are applicable (ESR guidelines for native plant inventory and mitigation meeting notes attached).
- Special status species list requested for project area (completed Arizona Game and Fish Department On-Line Environmental Review Tool).
- Endangered lesser long-nosed bat habitat listed as in the project vicinity (within 3 miles). Project is not expected to have direct or indirect effects on the lesser long-nosed bat because few potential food resources and no temporary or maternal roost sites will be affected.
- Substructure of bridge over Cañada del Oro Wash is potential roosting habitat for other bat species.
- Cactus ferruginous pygmy-owl (currently delisted) habitat. No cactus ferruginous pygmy-owls have been recorded during surveys by Pima County in the project area. Pima County will continue to survey the area for owls.
- Potential wildlife movement corridors are likely limited to Cañada del Oro Wash due to relatively dense urban development along other washes in the project area.

Hazardous Materials

- Potential presence of asbestos and lead-based paint, requiring special handling and disposal during bridge demolition or reconstruction.
- No other hazardous materials concerns were identified.

Section 401 and Section 404

- Four potentially jurisdictional washes occur in the project area:
 - Pegler Wash
 - A tributary to Pegler Wash
 - Carmack Wash
 - Cañada del Oro Wash
- If determined to be jurisdictional, an application for a Section 404 permit covering the entire corridor will be filed with the U.S Army Corps of Engineers.

Cultural

- Residences in Samalayuca Estates adjacent to the project area near the Magee Road/Paseo del Norté intersection are more than 50 years old. The project is not expected to impact these residences.

- Two other cultural sites were identified: AZ BB:9:41 (ASM), Cañada del Oro, a historic trail; and AZ FF:9:17 (ASM), SR 80, a component of the Historic State Highway System. The project is not expected to impact these sites.

Suggestions on Addressing Issues Through Design Modifications and/or Alternative Investigation

Coordination with the Arizona Game and Fish Department and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service should continue throughout project development. Specific measures may be identified, including:

- Bat exclusion measures should be undertaken prior to demolition or reconstruction of the bridge over the Cañada del Oro Wash.
- The Cañada del Oro Wash may serve as a wildlife corridor, and the construction of a new bridge provides an opportunity to preserve wildlife movement. Measures to minimize the impact to wildlife crossing during bridge demolition or reconstruction should be considered, as appropriate.

Due to the potential presence of Waters of the United States, the final design should anticipate the need for a Section 404 permit or authorization. Because federal funding and the need to acquire an Individual Section 404 Permit are likely, an Alternatives Analysis and an Environmental Assessment will likely need to be prepared for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Design alternatives should be developed to avoid or minimize impacts on Waters of the United States. Compensatory mitigation, which could include on-site habitat restoration or in-lieu fees, may be required for impacts to Waters of the United States.

Alternative designs should be analyzed for the proposed realignment through the currently vacant 40-acre Pima County–owned parcel to minimize impact to Carmack Wash, existing habitat, and adjacent residents. A number of feasible alternatives should be developed and compared to evaluate traffic operations, drainage, and associated environmental impacts.

Identification of Any Technical Analyses Needed Beyond That Specified in Original Scope of Work for the Environmental Assessment and Mitigation Report

Technical analyses beyond the original scope of work for the Environmental Assessment and Mitigation Report are not necessary.

Attachments

- Completed questionnaire
- Completed summary matrix
- ESR guidelines for native plant inventory and mitigation meeting notes
- Environmental coordination meeting agenda and meeting minutes