

# **A Cultural Resources Assessment for the Valencia Road, Wade Road to Mark Road, Project, in Pima County, Arizona**

October 2011

Pima County Department of Transportation

Project No. 4RTVMW

Federal Project No. STP-PPM-0(230)A

TRACS No. 0000 PM PPM SS975 01C



**HDR**



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October 2011



**Prepared for:**

Pima County Department of Transportation  
201 N. Stone Avenue  
Tucson, AZ 85701  
Project No. 4RTVMW  
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ASM Accession No. 2011-0082







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## Abstract

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**Report Title:** A Cultural Resources Assessment for the Valencia Road, Wade Road to Mark Road, Project in Pima County, Arizona

**Date of Report:** October 25, 2011

**Project Name:** Valencia Road, Wade Road to Mark Road

**Federal Aid No.:** STP-PPM-0(230)A

**ADOT TRACS No.:** 0000 PM PPM SS975 01C

**HDR Project Number:** 152226

**Permit:** Arizona Antiquities Act Permit 2011-009bl and Bureau of Land Management Permit AZ-000472, Field Authorization No. 8110 (AZG020). Verbal approval to access Pascua Yaqui Tribe trust and fee land was obtained from the Pascua Yaqui Tribe Land Department on June 9, 2011.

**ASM Accession No.:** 2011-0300

**Agencies:** Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Pima County, Arizona State Land Department (ASLD), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), and United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

**APE:** The area of potential effects (APE) for the consideration of direct impacts to archaeological resources and the historic built environment is defined as the construction footprint, which includes the existing Valencia Road R/W, new drainage and temporary construction easements, and a buffer of up to 50 feet (except for drainage easements where the buffer was up to 450 feet) from 0.5 mile (2,640 feet) west of Wade Road to 0.4 mile (2,200 feet) west of Mark Road. The APE for the consideration of indirect impacts (visual, audible, and seismic) to the historic built environment includes the construction footprint plus a 0.25 mile buffer (see Appendix A).

**Land Jurisdiction:** Pima County, State Trust, BLM, United States of America in Trust for Pascua Yaqui Tribe (Bureau of Indian Affairs), Pascua Yaqui Tribe fee, and private land.

**Applicable Laws:** Federal: Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended; the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended; the Archaeological Resource Protection Act of 1979, as amended; the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990; and Sections 401/404 of the Clean Water Act; State: the Arizona Antiquities Act of 1960, Arizona State Historic Preservation Act of 1982; and, specifically in reference to human remains and associated funerary items, Arizona Revised Statutes §§ 41-844 and 41-865; County: Pima County Board of Supervisors Policy C3.17 (Protection of Cultural Resources), and the 2002 Pima County Comprehensive Plan.

**Total Acres Surveyed:** 101.11



**Project Funding:** Funding sources for this project are FHWA and the Pima County Regional Transportation Authority.

**Project Description:** The purpose of this project is to increase vehicular capacity and to improve overall vehicular, pedestrian, and bicyclist connectivity within the area. The project scope of work includes:

- reconstructing Valencia Road along its existing alignment from one lane in each direction to two lanes in each direction
- constructing a raised median with openings at cross streets
- installing landscaping in the raised medians and right-of-way (R/W)
- constructing the following drainage improvements:
  - installing a box culvert with ten 10-foot-wide by 5-foot-high cells under Valencia Road at Black Wash
  - installing six box culverts and one pipe culvert with the capacity to convey 100-year storm flows under Valencia Road
  - constructing upstream training dikes to direct the flow through the culverts
  - constructing roadside ditches designed to keep one travel lane open in each direction during a 10-year storm
- modifying the existing traffic signal at Valencia Road's intersection with Camino Verde to accommodate the new roadway geometry
- installing a traffic signal at Valencia Road's intersection with Wade Road
- constructing paved driveway entrances to every property currently accessing Valencia Road
- constructing multiuse lanes in each direction on the new roadway, and sidewalks set back from the edge of the pavement

Additional elements possibly incorporated into the design include retaining walls and railings at the culverts; however, the need for these features will be determined through the design process.

Project-related activities are anticipated to largely occur within the existing 150- to 200-foot R/W; so no new R/W acquisitions are anticipated. However, drainage and temporary construction easements are needed for work within the washes and drainages on Arizona State Trust Land, Pascua Yaqui Tribe fee and trust lands. Temporary construction easements are required at private driveways accessing Valencia Road. Project construction is anticipated to begin in spring of 2013 and is anticipated to be complete in late 2014.

**Location:** The project is located on Valencia Road between Wade Road and Mark Road, within portions of Sections 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15 of Township 15 South and Range 12 East (Cat Mountain, AZ United States Geological Survey 7.5' Quadrangle Map; Gila and Salt River Base Line and Meridian).

**National Register of Historic Places (National Register) Eligible Sites:** None

**National Register Ineligible Sites:** AZ AA:16:380 (ASM)

**Management Recommendations:** At the request of Pima County, HDR Engineering, Inc. (HDR), conducted a Class III cultural resources survey for the Valencia Road, Wade Road to Mark Road, project. The majority of the APE had been surveyed previously; however, several of the surveys were performed more than 10 years ago. At the request of the Pima County archaeologist, Roger Anyon, HDR surveyed



the entire APE. Archaeological Consulting Services, Ltd. (ACS), previously recorded one site, AZ AA:16:380 (ASM), within the APE. The site was determined to be ineligible for listing in the National Register in prior consultation between the Bureau of Reclamation and SHPO (Appendix C). Based on field observations, HDR supports the original determination of ineligibility.

HDR performed a review of Pima County Assessor tax records and parcel maps, and 1967 aerial photographs, to determine if there were historic aspects of the built environment (buildings, structures, ranches, etc.) in the vicinity of the project that could potentially be affected by the undertaking. The data review was supplemented with a windshield survey of the APE plus a 0.25 mile buffer to identify historic architecture. No historic buildings were observed within 0.25 mile of the APE. Valencia Road was legally established by Pima County in 1959; the segment within the APE was built sometime between 1959 and 1967. The road fails to meet any of the criteria for evaluation and, therefore, is recommended as “not eligible” for listing in the National Register.

Four isolated occurrences (IOs) and three roadside memorials (RMs) were recorded in or adjacent to the APE; however, the IOs and RMs do not meet National Register eligibility criteria and, therefore, are ineligible for listing in the National Register.

No known historic properties are present within the APE, therefore, no further archaeological or architectural investigations are recommended for this project.

Because of the project’s proximity to two reservations (Pascua Yaqui Tribe and San Xavier District of the Tohono O’odham Nation), it is recommended that FHWA consult with both tribes, as well as any other tribes whose claim area overlaps the project, regarding the potential for traditional cultural properties to be affected by the undertaking.

The Class III survey has identified no historic properties that are eligible to the National Register within the APE. Consequently, HDR recommends a finding of “no historic properties affected” for this proposed federal undertaking.

Any materials sources required for this project outside of the project area would be examined for environmental effects by the contractor, prior to use, through a separate environmental analysis in accordance with Pima County, state, and federal requirements, unless the facility has already received prior clearance under local, state, and federal laws. Materials sources for this project are expected to come from existing, permitted facilities in the area.

Should any archaeological resources, human remains, or funerary objects be discovered during implementation of the project, all surface disturbing activities in the area of discovery should immediately cease and the discovery should be reported to the director of the Arizona State Museum at (520) 621-6281 and to the Pima County archaeologist at (520) 740-6405 to make arrangements for the proper notification and treatment of those resources. State burial laws—Arizona Revised Statutes §§41-844 and 41-865—only apply to State, County, and private land. Discoveries on federal or tribal lands are subject to compliance with ARPA and NAGPRA.