STANDARD OPERATION PROCEDURE

Subject: NATIVE PLANT SALVAGE ON DOT PROJECTS
Number: SOP 809-01
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Effective Date: 09/23/2016

PURPOSE:

Demonstrating a commitment to environmental stewardship during roadway construction, Pima County DOT will minimize impacts to existing vegetation and provide opportunities for native plant salvage by the Pima County Native Plant Nursery, government agencies, and non-profit native plant organizations.

PROCEDURE:

1. For each roadway project the Project Manager shall determine when plant salvage shall be initiated. During the project design phase, the project manager shall identify when the earliest pre-construction ground disturbance may occur, whether it is caused by activities such as; cultural resource excavations, building demolition associated with right-of-way acquisition, geotechnical investigations, or by modification and relocation of utilities. The start date is dependent on the quantity of plants to be salvaged. Plant salvage shall occur approximately six weeks prior to ground disturbance, but may be less where fewer plants occur. If a significant quantity of plants is present on a project site, plant salvaging may occur as early as several months prior to ground disturbance.

2. The Project Manager shall coordinate salvaging activities with PCDOT’s Landscape Architect (the “Landscape Architect”) and shall advise him/her of any changes in schedule.

3. Approximately eight weeks before any salvage operations occur, the Landscape Architect shall file the Notice of Intent to Clear Land (NOI) with the Arizona Department of Agriculture.


   The Landscape Architect shall copy the NOI to the County Office of Sustainability and Conservation Cultural Resources Division (OSC). OSC will determine whether an archaeological monitor must be present during plant salvage operations and will notify the Project Manager.

4. The Project Manager shall be responsible for requesting the consultant survey team, or Survey Section, to stake the disturbed area boundaries where salvage may occur. The limits of the disturbed area shall include any additional area of utility impacts, if these are
identified to be beyond those necessary for the project. Plant salvage shall occur in county owned right-of-way; no plant salvage shall occur in areas where right-of-way acquisition is still pending.

5. The Pima County Native Plant Nursery shall be provided the first opportunity to salvage plants. The Project Manager is to coordinate with the Landscape Architect and the Pima County Native Plant Nursery Manager throughout the course of the project in regard to plant salvage.

6. In projects of a particularly sensitive environmental nature, where the number of native plants exceeds what the Nursery staff can accommodate, the Project Manager can supplement salvaging efforts with use of the Maintenance/Operations on-call Operations maintenance contract. The Project Manager is to coordinate the storage of these plants with the Native Plant Nursery Manager and the Landscape Architect.

7. Government agencies and non-profit organizations with ties to conservation shall be provided the opportunity to salvage remaining plants not already salvaged by the Pima County Native Plant Nursery. Community Relations shall be responsible for sending out notices to these agencies and organizations notifying them that clearing activities are being planned. The notice will include:
   - Dates when salvage opportunities will be allowed
   - Links to DOT website with a listing of available plants identified by Landscape Architect
   - Links to required permits
   - Project Contact Information: Project Manager and Landscape Architect

8. The interested government agencies and non-profit organization shall be responsible for the following (links will be provided on the DOT website):
   - Obtaining a Right of Way Use Permit (Fee will be waived) Contact PCDOT at 740-6410 for permit application information.
   - Obtaining necessary plant tags from the Arizona Department of Agriculture: https://agriculture.az.gov/sites/default/files/NativePlant_and_Wood_Removal_Application_5-2016.pdf
   - Supplying all labor and equipment necessary for plant salvage
   - Refilling all holes where plants have been salvaged.

9. The County Inspector or Landscape Architect will be available as needed for assistance, guidance and direction with salvage monitoring. The Project Manager should ensure that the Landscape Architect or Pima County Native Plant Nursery staff is present when Pima Pineapple Cactus or other sensitive plants occur within the project area.
ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS:

1. Plant salvage shall occur on a first come, first serve basis. The first non-profit organization or government agency to have completed the necessary steps outlined in this procedure will have the first choice as to which plants they can salvage.

2. Plant salvage shall occur within a defined time period, approximately six weeks, prior to any other work being done on the project. Once ground disturbing activities have started, salvage work will cease.

3. If buffelgrass, fountain grass, or other identified invasive species occur in areas of plant salvage and will be impacted by salvage activity, they shall be manually removed and disposed of in accordance with SOP 2009-02 prior to plant salvage.

4. Links to required forms may move as websites are updated. Contact the Landscape Architect if forms cannot be found through the links provided.

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES TO BE CONTACTED BY COMMUNITY RELATIONS:

City of Tucson Department of Transportation
City of Tucson Parks and Recreation
Pima County DRNR
Oro Valley Parks and Rec
Town of Marana Parks and Rec
Town of Sahuarita Parks and Rec
Saguaro National Park
Buenos Aires NWR
Coronado Nat'l Forest
BLM
Pima County Regional Flood Control District

NON-PROFITS TO CONTACT:

Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society
Tohono Chul Park
Tucson Botanic Garden
Tucson Audubon Society
Tucson Nature Conservancy
Arizona Sonoran Desert Museum
Native Seed Search
Arizona Native Plant Society
Sky Island Alliance
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<td>Priscilla Cornelio, Director</td>
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