

**PIMA COUNTY CONSERVATION ACQUISITION COMMISSION**

**STUDY SESSION**

**JOEL D. VALDEZ MAIN LIBRARY (DOWNTOWN)  
101 N. STONE AVE.**

**MONDAY JANUARY 9, 2006  
2:00PM**

**SUMMARY OF STUDY SESSION**

The following is a summary of the January 9, 2006 study session. Audiotapes of the meeting are available upon request.

1. Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 2:18pm.

Commissioner Present

Tim Prouty (left at 3:20pm)  
Chuck Pettis (left at 3:20pm)  
Les Corey  
Wanda Shattuck  
Bill Roe, Chair  
Jan Johnson, Vice-Chair  
Rob Marshall  
Helen Wilson (left at 4:10pm)  
Tom Sheridan (arrived at 2:50pm, after Executive Session)

Commissioners Absent

Bill Arnold  
Trevor Hare

Executive Session

Vice-Chair Johnson moved to go into Executive Session, seconded by Commissioner Wilson. Motion was approved 8-0.

Regular Study Session began at 2:40pm

3. Conservation Opportunities in the Tortolita Sub-area/NW Tucson (Discussion only)

Nicole Fyffe provided the Commission an update as to the status of staff's outreach in the Tortolita Sub-area. Through a series of maps, Ms. Fyffe presented the information requested at the November 10, 2005 CAC meeting, regarding all 2004 Bond identified Habitat Protection Priority (HPP) private parcels in this area. Ms. Fyffe indicated that over time, over \$20 million has been spent in this area of the HPPs, she clarified that 30,000 acres are State lands and only 3,000 acres are privately owned. The State Trust Land Reform Initiative does not cover all of the state land identified in the 2004 Bond, and Pima County cannot purchase State land at this time.

At this time, there are 71 parcels of various sizes remaining that have not been contacted. The Town of Marana provided status information on HPPs found within the Town's boundary. Jennifer Christelman, Manager of the Engineering Division for the Town of Marana, gave a brief presentation on these HPPs. It was noted that the majority of the parcels were already part of the Cascada Specific Plan and that the others were primarily vacant with no indication of development activity. Ms. Christelman indicated that Marana has submitted their Habitat Conservation Plan to the Service for review, and that the Town is also working on a draft land use ordinance.

Nicole Fyffe indicated that a request for similar information would be submitted to the Town of Oro Valley for information on private HPPs found within their Town boundary.

Commissioner Marshall suggested that staff focus on largest blocks of contiguous parcels, preferably those adjacent to existing preserves. The goal is to increase the pygmy-owl habitat footprint in this area. Staff should also confer with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to check current viability of the remaining available parcels.

Commissioner Wilson asked that staff not only look at the pygmy-owl, but also consider all relevant species in the area.

Commissioners Marshall, Wilson, and Sheridan requested that staff go back and call all property owners previously contacted via letters. They asked that staff also call all of the owners in the areas recommended by Commissioner Marshall. If contact information is not available, letters should be sent out.

Commissioner Prouty requested that a new map be provided showing all of the remaining available Habitat Protection Priority private parcels in this area, including those parcels that have already been contacted, but did not respond.

Chair Roe asked that staff provide a timeline as to when the Town of Marana will have their Habitat Conservation Plan and land use ordinance in place. Also requested is a timeline indicating when the County would be able to purchase identified State land if the State Land Reform Initiative is passed.

Commissioner Sheridan asked that staff provide a timeline for contacting all parcel owners in the Tortolita Sub-area/NW Tucson area.

#### 4. Next Commission Meeting

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for January 12, 2006.

#### 5. Call to the Public

Carolyn Campbell, Executive Director of the Coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection spoke on the need for public involvement in discussions on proposed projects in other jurisdictions.

6. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 4:20pm.