

## ENVS Colloquium Fall 2026 Seminar

### Understanding Shared Aquifers: Science, Data, and Collaboration across the U.S.–Mexico Border

#### Speakers:

**Sharon B. Megdal, Director, U of A Water Resources Research Center**

**Elia Tapia, Associate in Extension, U of A Water Resources Research Center**

**Date: September 28, 2026**

**Time: 3:00–4:00 pm MST/Arizona Time**

**Location: ENR2, Room S225 and on Zoom**

**ZOOM LINK**

In this ENVS Colloquium seminar, WRRRC Director Sharon B. Megdal and Associate in Extension Elia Tapia will introduce the Transboundary Aquifer Assessment Program (TAAP), a binational effort to improve scientific understanding and information exchange for shared aquifers. They will highlight the program's framework, aquifers of focus, and recent activities, followed by a closer look at the Transboundary Santa Cruz Aquifer. The Santa Cruz case illustrates the connections among groundwater, surface water, recharge, climate variability, water use, and water management decisions, while also emphasizing the importance of monitoring, scientific assessment, information sharing, and continued collaboration for understanding shared groundwater resources.



**Sharon B. Megdal** is Director of The University of Arizona Water Resources Research Center, Professor in the Department of Environmental Science, C.W. & Modene Neely Endowed Professor, and Distinguished Outreach Professor. A frequent speaker and author, she aims to bridge the academic, practitioner, and civil society communities through water policy and management research, education, and engagement programs. Sharon, who teaches the graduate course Water Policy in Arizona and Semi-arid

Regions, has won multiple awards for her contributions to water research and education. Current professional activities include serving on the leadership team for the Water & Tribes Initiative | Colorado River Basin and the Board for the Kasser Joint Institute for Food, Water, and Energy Security. Sharon Megdal holds a Ph.D. in Economics from Princeton University.



**Elia Tapia** is an Associate in Extension at the University of Arizona Water Resources Research Center. She works with the Transboundary Aquifer Assessment Program (TAAP) and the Water RAPIDS Program on applied research and outreach related to groundwater availability, climate resilience, and drought planning. Her work emphasizes stakeholder engagement across the U.S.-Mexico border to support science-based water decision-making. She holds a PhD in Arid Lands Resource Sciences and has led and contributed to projects across the U.S., Latin America, and the Caribbean.

