

SUMMER WAVE



COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE & LIFE SCIENCES
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

**WATER RESOURCES
RESEARCH CENTER**

July 13, 2018 / Volume 6, Issue 5

The [Water Resources Research Center](#) - a research and [Extension](#) unit of the [College of Agriculture and Life Sciences](#)

In this issue: [UCOWR](#) / [ADEQ](#) / [APW](#) / [Upper Gila Project](#)



Food, Water, and Energy in the Hyper-arid Climate of Arava Valley, Israel

Turning disadvantage to advantage in the hyper-arid climate of the Arava Valley is the topic for the July 18th WRRRC Brownbag. The Arava Valley, a sparsely populated region in southern Israel, has a hyper-arid climate with summer temperatures reaching 120°F and less than one inch of rain a year. Even with these obstacles, the Arava Valley is a successful agricultural center and is a major exporter of fruits and vegetables. Recently, the residents of the Arava Valley started employing private solar power fields to provide 100% of the daytime energy needs to the city of Eilat and the villages in the Arava Valley. The WRRRC welcomes David Lehrer, Director, Arava Institute for Environmental Studies, and Dorit Davidovich Banet CEO, Eilat-Eilat Renewable Energy Initiative, to discuss the way this region is addressing food, water, and energy issues to maintain its productive and successful economy. Note that this brownbag will be held at the special time of 8:30 am to 10:00 am and will be held at the WRRRC, Sol Resnick Conference Room, 350 N. Campbell Ave., Tucson, AZ. Light refreshments will be served.

[Event Info](#)

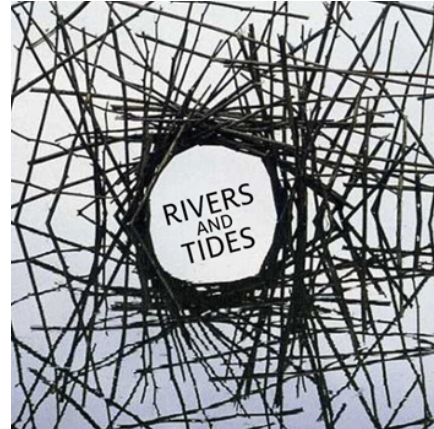
OTHER EVENTS

Water Roots - Special Film Screening: Rivers and Tides - Loft Cinema

July 31, 2018

Time/Location: 7:30 p.m./Loft Cinema, 3233 E. Speedway Blvd., Tucson, AZ 85716

Join us for a special screening of the critically acclaimed documentary Andy Goldsworthy's Rivers and Tides (2001), hosted by the Loft Cinema. After the film, you are invited to a panel discussion and dynamic community conversation about how we value water and protect natural areas in Arizona.



This documentary offers a vision of the natural world molded by currents, driftwood, ice, mud, leaves, and stones, and modified with human hands. A spectacular visual gallery of Goldsworthy's relationship with nature, this artist painstakingly makes ephemeral sculptures built out of bits of ice in the trees or loose rock, which may be overgrown by plants or swallowed by high tides. Filmmaker Thomas Reidelsheimer goes to great lengths to demonstrate Goldsworthy's ideas about the forgotten relationships between light, color, movement, balance, and fluidity of form in nature, creating a surprising and enjoyable journey through art of the natural world.

[Event Info Here](#)

AZ Water Law Conference - Reforms, Initiatives, and In-Depth Legal Analysis

August 2-3, 2018

Time/Location: Hilton, Scottsdale Resort and Villas, 6333 North Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale, AZ 85250



This conference offers facts, opinions, and in-depth analysis on water law in Arizona. Important updates on relevant issues, including on-the-ground perspectives on groundwater mitigation, ethics, and Endangered Species Act (ESA) reform, will be presented

A featured presentation on The Governor's Water Policy Initiative will be given by Hunter Moore, Policy Advisor for Natural Resources to Governor Doug Ducey.

[Event Info Here](#)

WRRC NEWS

WRRC At Two National Water Conferences

On June 26-28 WRRC Director Sharon B. Megdal traveled to



Pittsburgh, PA for the 2018 Universities on Water Resources and the National Institutes for Water Resources (UCOWR/NIWR) Annual Water Conference. On Wednesday, June 27 Dr. Megdal, who served as the President of UCOWR over the last twelve months, turned the gavel over to incoming President Jeff Johnson from Mississippi State University. Dr. Megdal will remain active in the Past President role over the next year.



The American Water Resources Association's 2018 Summer Specialty Conference, "The Science, Management and Governance of Transboundary Groundwater", held July 9-11 in Fort Worth, TX, featured presentations from three WRRRC staff. Director Sharon B. Megdal and Research Analyst Jacob Petersen-Perlman presented in a session on the Transboundary Aquifer Assessment Program (TAAP), and Graduate Research Assistant Elia Tapia presented on her work related to the TAAP in a Transboundary Groundwater Science session. The conference featured presentations from academics, scientists, and government officials from across the world, as well as a working session to discuss the future of transboundary groundwater science, management and governance.

[TAAP Webpage](#)

ADEQ Consults the Public about the IOI at July 9 Meeting in Tubac, AZ

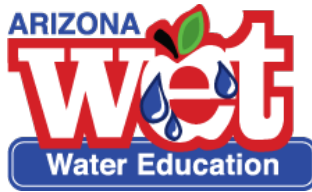


When the monsoons come to Ambos Nogales, there is a pretty good chance that flooding will cause the International Outfall Interceptor (IOI) to rupture and contaminate Nogales Wash with raw sewage. That contamination flows down the Santa Cruz River and can be detected in Pima County. Misael Cabrera, Director of Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) made that point at the outset of a meeting held in Tubac on Monday, July 9. The purpose of the meeting was to obtain public input on a new opportunity to resolve the on-going saga of the IOI and its intermittent breaches and sewage spills. The IOI is the pipe that carries raw sewage from Nogales, Sonora and Nogales, Arizona some nine miles north to the Nogales International Wastewater Treatment Plant. The International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) operates the treatment plant and ADEQ regulates its discharge. Mexico owns the effluent representing their share of the sewage currently treated in the plant, and by treaty they can retain the sewage and treat it themselves or convey their share of the effluent back to Mexico. According to the ADEQ presentation, the region north of the treatment plant receives significant benefits from the flow of treated effluent in the Santa Cruz River. Six years ago ADEQ sued IBWC for failure to prevent discharges of regulated contaminants from the IOI. In settlement discussions it was revealed that \$21 million could be available from the federal government for IOI rehabilitation, but the funds needed to be committed before September 30, the end of the federal fiscal year. The federal government was asking for a 22 percent local match, or about \$5.9 million. The ADEQ called the July 9 meeting to gauge local willingness to participate in raising the matching funds required to secure the federal investment. After a lively question and answer session, the audience at the meeting was polled. Although there was overwhelming support for addressing the IOI problem, there were enough questions about how the funds might be raised and whether the Mexican effluent would continue to flow that only a slight plurality of voters expressed willingness to sign a non-binding statement of their interest in participation.

Pinal County Sponsors Step Up for



Local Water Festivals



Throughout the last year, Arizona Project WET engaged over 3100 students in water programs across Pinal County. We reached those students with four festivals and multiple seminars for



teachers and volunteers. It's a big job - a job which couldn't be done without the help and support of our local sponsors, partners, and volunteers. Ten years ago, our founding sponsor, The Abbott Foundation, helped establish a Water Programs Coordinator position to support water education programs across the county. Again this year, Arizona Project WET is working with the Foundation to assure the continuity of these important water education and conservation efforts. With continued support from the Foundation and our other sponsors - Nissan and Global Water in Maricopa, and the Arizona Department of Corrections-Eyman in Florence - APW hopes to carry on its work advancing water education and stewardship in Pinal County.

Newly Released: CCAST-WRRC Regional Water Plan Case Study

This spring, the WRRC was selected to contribute a case study for the Collaborative Conservation and Adaptation Strategy Toolbox (CCAST). The case study, "Water Resources Management Planning: A Demonstration on the Upper Gila River," highlights effective partnerships and engagement strategies to assist local decision-making capacity in the face of water scarcity and complex systems. The WRRC began working in the Upper Gila Watershed in 2012 through partnerships with the Gila Watershed Partnership and Graham County Cooperative Extension, with funding from the US Bureau of Reclamation. The case study is now included in the CCAST [galleries](#) for Water Resources and an online version is available [here](#). A two-page summary for the case study are included on the Desert LCC resources page [here](#).



ANNOUNCEMENTS

- [AMWUA Seeks Water Policy Analyst](#)
- [Sonoran Institute Seeks Associate Director - Sustainable Landscapes and Communities](#)
- [AHS Annual Symposium Call for Abstracts - Deadline Extended](#)
- [GRA's First Annual Western Groundwater Congress - Draft Agenda Now Available](#)
- [July 16 CWA 404 Technical Work Groups Accepting Applications](#)

- [July 17 Peoples public hearing about the state of our rivers and ecological water in Tucson](#)
- [July 22-24 WateReuse Symposium - Registration Open](#)
- [July 27 Student Deadline for Texas Desal 2018, Sept 13-14](#)
- [July 30 Lake Tahoe Basin, Sciences, & Research Scholarship - Applications Due](#)
- [August 3 Nation Council for Science and the Environment Annual Conference submission deadline, Jan 8-9, 2019](#)
- [August 16 The New Arizona Prize Water Public Art Challenge - Registration Ends](#)
- [August 23 in Phoenix ADEQ Triannual Review Stakeholder meeting](#)
- [August 24 CAZMEX Consortium for Arizona-Mexico Arid Environments - Call for Proposals](#)
- [September 7 AZ Water Protection Fund Accepting Application for Fiscal Year 2019 Grant Cycle](#)
- [September 12 BARD Research Grant Proposals - Applications Due](#)
- [September 26 Innovations at the Nexus of Food, Energy, and Water Systems \(INFEWS\) - NIFA Grant Applications Due](#)
- [September 27 Draft Resource Management Plan for San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area Public Comments Due](#)
- [December 6 Mine Water Management Symposium Scholarship - Applications Due](#)

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