

WEEKLY WAVE



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

WATER RESOURCES RESEARCH CENTER



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The Water Resources Research Center - a research unit of the [College of Agriculture, Life and Environmental Sciences](#) and an Extension unit in [UA Cooperative Extension](#) within the Division of Agriculture, Life & Veterinary Sciences & Cooperative Extension.
[Land Acknowledgement](#).

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IN THIS ISSUE: SW Groundwater and Ag Symposium Recap, 104(g) Grant Award, GRIC Inauguration, Factsheet, Arizona Alumni Magazine

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2nd Annual Southwest Groundwater & Ag Symposium Fosters Collaboration

The 2nd Annual Symposium of the Southwest Groundwater and Sustainable Agricultural Systems project was held January 15–17 in Tempe, AZ, and WRRC Director Sharon B. Megdal, Post-doctoral Researcher Valerisa Gaddy, and Communications Coordinator

Jessie Hampton were in attendance. The event provided a platform for the broad range of participating researchers, advisors, and partners from multiple western state universities and elsewhere, to share their work, collaborate, network, and exchange ideas. The symposium emphasized decision-making processes and fostered discussions on sustainable agricultural practices and groundwater management in the region. The lead Principal Investigator Isaya Kisekka of the University of California, Davis opened the symposium. Highlights included a plenary panel on groundwater and agriculture, moderated by WRRC Director Sharon B. Megdal, with three distinguished guest speakers: John Longworth, Senior Executive Engineer and Advisor to the State Engineer, and the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission Director, Allison Febbo, General Manager of the Westlands Water District, and Paul Brierley, CEO and Executive Deputy Director of the Arizona Department of Agriculture. The program also included a keynote presentation from USDA NIFA National Program Leader James P. Dobrowolski, reports from members of the project advisory board, an in-depth small group work session dedicated to brainstorming about collaboration opportunities, and a lively poster session. On the morning of January 17, symposium attendees took a field trip to the Ak-Chin Farms to learn about Tribal agriculture from Ak-Chin Indian Community Chairman Robert Miguel and farm manager Damian Murrietta, who led the tour of the farm reservoir and processing plant.

Image: Tyaun Marshburn, Ak-Chin O'odham Runner Newspaper

- [Symposium Agenda](#)
- [UArizona Project Info](#)
- [UC-Davis Project Info](#)

CONFERENCE UPDATES



The banner features the WRRC 2024 Annual Conference logo on the left, which includes a stylized water drop and the text "WRRC 2024 ANNUAL CONFERENCE". To the right of the logo, the text reads "IMPLEMENTING WATER SOLUTIONS THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS" and "MARCH 12-13 University of Arizona Student Union Grand Ballroom". A large blue speech bubble in the center contains the text "Early Bird DISCOUNT". On the right side, it says "Registration Now Open for WRRC 2024 Annual Conference" and includes a green button that says "Register Today!".

EVENTS

ENVS Colloquium: Groundwater Depletion as Viewed from Space and Implications for the Western United States – Co-sponsored by the WRRC

Date: Monday, January 29, 2024
Time: 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm Arizona Time
Location: UArizona Marley Building, Room 230
and on [Zoom](#) (PW: 533716)



Speaker: Jay Famiglietti, *Hydrologist and Global Futures Professor, Arizona State University, and Chief Scientist, Arizona Water Innovation Initiative*

Dr. Famiglietti will be presenting Groundwater Depletion as Viewed from Space and Implications for the Western United States. In this talk, over two decades of observations from NASA's GRACE and GRACE Follow-On missions are used to show how global and regional freshwater availability are rapidly changing. Of particular concern is the disappearance of groundwater around the world. Recent GRACE/FO-based estimates of large-scale groundwater depletion, e.g. in Arizona and California, where groundwater losses appear to be accelerating, will be presented. The case for elevating the groundwater discussion, both regionally and globally, will be made, with examples provided. Opportunities to collaborate within the ASU/Arizona Water Innovation Initiative will be discussed. This talk is co-sponsored by the Center for Climate Adaptation Science and Solutions (CCASS) and the Water Resources Research Center (WRRC).

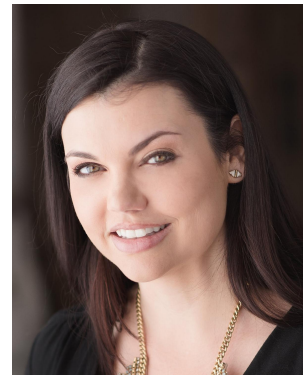
[Zoom Link](#)
[More Info](#)

WRRC Water Webinar: Yuma Agriculture's Water Use and Efficiency

Date: Tuesday, January 30, 2024
Time: 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm Arizona Time
Location: [Zoom](#)

Speaker: Meghan Scott, *Attorney, Noble Law Office*

This WRRC Water Webinar will provide an overview of Yuma agriculture's water use and its efficiencies and will also cover high-level Colorado River law as it relates to Yuma irrigation districts' and other contractors' priorities and uses. The presentation will also cover possible impacts on the Yuma area and its water users resulting from drought and potential federal action.



[Register Here](#)
[More Info](#)

Arizona Association of Women in Water & Agriculture: Networking Mixer and Annual Meeting – Co-hosted by the WRRC

AAWWA "Wine, Women & Water" Cocktails & Networking Mixer – Enjoy an evening of spirits, networking with colleagues, new friends, and water!

Date: January 30, 2024
Time: 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm Arizona Time
Location: Cork & Craft: 1303 E University Blvd, Tucson, AZ 85719

AAWWA Annual Meeting – Spend a day being inspired by women in the water industry! Visit the vendor market, and breakfast, lunch, and network with women throughout Arizona who have an interest in water.



Date: January 31, 2024

Time: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm Arizona Time

Location: University of Arizona Student Union (Grand Ballroom): 1303 E University Blvd. Tucson, AZ

[Register Here](#)
[More Info](#)

Upcoming WRRC Events

- **Feb 16:** [WRRC 20th Annual Chocolate Fest](#)
- **March 12–13:** [WRRC 2024 Annual Conference: Implementing Water Solutions Through Partnerships](#)

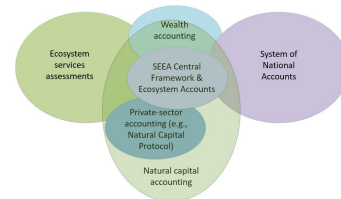
Upcoming WRRC Co-sponsored Events

- **Feb 6:** [NVIS Spring 2024 Seminar: Indigenous Ingenuity: A Path Forward – Co-sponsored by the WRRC](#)
- **Mar 12:** [NVIS Spring 2024 Seminar: Place Based Learning and Cultural Fire Practice in California – Co-sponsored by the WRRC](#)

NEWS

NAU Research Project Receives Federal 104(g) Grant

Guest Author: Benjamin Ruddell, Professor, School of Informatics, Computing, and Cyber Systems, Northern Arizona University



Each year, in accordance with the Water Resources Research Act, Section 104(g), the US Geological Survey — in cooperation with the National Institutes for Water Resources (NIWR) — issues a call for research proposals. The 104(g) National Competitive Grants Program supports research on water problems and issues of a regional or interstate nature beyond those of concern only to a single state. A 2023 proposal from NAU researchers, titled "Developing the Next Generation of US Water Accounts: A Water Tower Methodology for Natural Capital Accounting," has been awarded funding, a notable accomplishment due to the competitive nature of the 104(g) program. The project, proposed by Principal Investigators Benjamin Ruddell and Richard Rushforth, PhD student Eric Sjöstedt, and USGS collaborators Ken Bagstad and Pierre Glynn, will be carried out over the next three years.

[Read More](#)

GRIC Governor Lewis Inaugurated for Historic 4th Term

On January 20, 2024, Stephen Roe Lewis was inaugurated Governor and Regina Antone was inaugurated Lieutenant Governor of the Gila River Indian Community (GRIC). WRRC Director Sharon B. Megdal attended the ceremonies, which included administering the oath of office to six Judges and remarks by several dignitaries. After taking the oath of office for his historic fourth term, Governor Lewis outlined a 100-day plan focused on

water, infrastructure, land, and culture. Regarding water, he indicated they will aim for a late April adoption of a new five-year strategic plan. They will expand the Community's managed aquifer recharge programs, install new infrastructure for the delivery of reclaimed water, and continue the development of the Pima-Maricopa Irrigation Project. He pledged to guard their water rights, conserve every drop for use, and protect Central Arizona Project supplies. Governor Lewis also highlighted the Community's project to install solar panels over GRIC's Casa Blanca water delivery canal, the first project of its kind in the United States. He closed his discussion of water by emphasizing their commitment to advancing the Blue-Green Economy.



[More Info](#)



Did You Know?

With headwaters in Yavapai County, the Verde River is a major perennial river — one of only six in Arizona — and sustains the longest stretch of continuous riparian habitat in the state, at over 150 miles! Verde River flows can vary from still pools to seasonal, fast rapids and even waterfalls, supporting diverse riparian ecosystems along its course. It is estimated that Verde River riparian areas support upwards of 60% of the vertebrate species in the Tonto, Coconino, and Prescott National Forests. Of these, more than 50 supported species are categorized as endangered, threatened, sensitive, or special status. To preserve riparian habitat and sustain river flows, multiple organizations in the Verde River Watershed are forging collaborative community partnerships. Coordinated and careful management of local watersheds is important for continued year-round flows of the Verde River and its tributaries, which support communities, agriculture, tourism, and rich riparian ecosystems. To learn more about water in Yavapai County, read the full [Yavapai County Factsheet](#).



[More Info](#) [Yavapai County Factsheet](#)

Arizona Alumni Magazine Features Two Water Leaders

In the latest edition of Arizona Alumni Magazine, WRRRC Director Sharon B. Megdal and Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT) Chairwoman Amelia Flores discussed important water issues facing the Southwest. In her interview, Megdal spoke to the need to learn about and ultimately understand Tribal issues, especially when it comes to water. She also noted how water use has changed over the years, with municipalities having greater water needs than they used to, and expressed hope about reaching a new equilibrium for the drought-impacted Colorado River. In a republished 2022 interview with *Western Water*, Chairwoman Flores discussed CRIT's historical and cultural ties to the Colorado River. Looking ahead to 2026 and a new set of Colorado River operating guidelines, she said it

was important for CRIT to have a seat at the negotiation table and for Tribal voices to be heard throughout the process. Chairwoman Flores also discussed the importance of the CRIT Water Resiliency Act, which was passed by Congress in 2023 and allows CRIT to lease its water to other entities in Arizona.

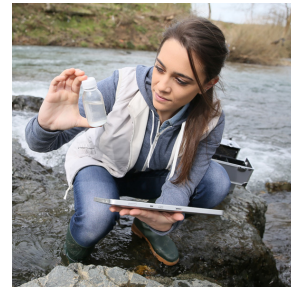
[Sharon Megdal Interview](#)
[Chairwoman Flores Interview](#)



WATER JOBS/OPPORTUNITIES

WRRC Invites Research Proposals for 104(b) & 104(g) Programs

Faculty and research personnel at any of Arizona's three public universities are invited to submit research proposals to the WRRC for federal 104(b) grants of up to \$10,000 or competitive 104(g) grants of up to \$310,000. Grant funds are provided by the Water Resources Research Act through the US Geological Survey (USGS). For more information, visit the web pages below or email Jessie Hampton (jessiehampton@arizona.edu).



[104\(b\) Grant Info](#) Proposal Deadline: March 1, 2024
[104\(g\) Grant Info](#) Proposal Deadline: March 27, 2024

- Town of Gilbert [Water Conservation Specialist](#)
- WestWater Research [2024 Summer Associate](#)
- WestWater Research [2024 Summer Analyst](#)
- WestWater Research [Senior Associate – Rocky Mountain Water Resources Lead](#)
- WestWater Research [Research Associate, Water Resource Economics and Finance](#)
- WestWater Research [Research Analyst, Water Resource Economics and Finance](#)

Please visit [WRRC's website](#) for a complete listing of water jobs and opportunities.

NOTICES, PUBLICATIONS & MEDIA

WRRC Activities:

Waterloop Podcast Episode #207: Western Leaders & Adaptation Insights

As a variety of forces continue to change the water landscape in the American West, adaptation is the focus. This episode features conversations with several prominent water leaders from the One Water Summit in Tucson, including WRRC Director Sharon B. Megdal. [Watch or Listen Here](#)

CALENDAR ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Jan 26:** [WRRC 2023 Annual Conference – Student Poster Abstract Deadline Extended!](#)
- **Jan 29:** [ENVS Colloquium: Groundwater Depletion as Viewed from Space and Implications for the Western United States — Dr. Jay Famiglietti \(ASU\)](#)
- **Jan 30:** [WRRC Water Webinar: Yuma Agriculture's Water Use and Efficiency](#)
- **Jan 30:** [Arizona Association of Women in Water & Agriculture \(Wine, Women & Water Reception\) – Co-sponsored by the WRRC](#)
- **Jan 31:** [Arizona Association of Women in Water & Agriculture Annual Meeting – Co-sponsored by the WRRC](#)
- **Jan 31:** [3rd International Groundwater-Agriculture Conference: Toward Sustainable Groundwater in Agriculture - Linking Science and Policy – Abstract Deadline](#)
- **Jan 31:** [Pete McBride: Into the Grand Canyon, Between River and Rim](#)
- **Feb 4–7:** [NIWR 2024 Annual Meeting](#)
- **Feb 5:** [ENVS Colloquium — Rick Tafoya \(USDA\)](#)
- **Feb 6:** [NVIS Spring 2024 Seminar: Indigenous Ingenuity: A Path Forward – Co-sponsored by the WRRC](#)
- **Feb 8–9:** [First International Atmospheric Water Harvesting Summit](#)
- **Feb 11–13:** [AWWA/WEF Young Professionals Summit](#)
- **Feb 12:** [WRRC 2024 Annual Conference – Early Bird Registration Deadline!](#)
- **Feb 12:** [ENVS Colloquium — Dr. Sheldwin Yazzie \(Albuquerque Area Indian Health Board\)](#)
- **Feb 16:** [WRRC 20th Annual Chocolate Fest](#)
- **Feb 16:** [2024 Bouwer Intern Scholarship – Application Deadline Extended!](#)
- **Feb 19:** [ENVS Colloquium — TBD](#)
- **Feb 20:** [Advanced Irrigation Training for Conservation Professionals](#)
- **Feb 20:** [Santa Cruz River Research Days – Abstract Submission Deadline](#)
- **Feb 22:** [Spring 2024 Tumamoc Talk: What Goes on Inside the Clouds? – Dr. Sylvia Sullivan](#)
- **Feb 22–23:** [2024 Family Farm Alliance Annual Conference – Resilience in Every Drop: Safeguarding America's Food Security](#)
- **Feb 25:** [AWRA/UCOWR/NIWR 60th Anniversary Joint Water Resources Conference – Topical Session Deadline](#)
- **Feb 26–27:** [Environmental Professionals of Arizona \(EPAZ\) Conference](#)
- **Feb 26–28:** [Water Resources Management & Sustainability: Solutions for Arid Regions 2nd International Conference](#)
- **Feb 27–29:** [2024 Southwest Adaptation Forum – Save the Date](#)
- **Feb 28–Mar 1:** [MSSC 2024 Annual Salinity Summit](#)
- **Mar 1:** [Water Resources Research Institute Program 104\(b\) Student Grant – Proposal Deadline](#)
- **Mar 3:** [Regreening the Desert: Free Soil Health Film Screening](#)
- **Mar 4:** [WRRC 2024 Annual Conference – Standard Registration Deadline!](#)
- **Mar 5–7:** [RiversEdge West 2024 Conference – Restoration for the Future: Promoting Resilience in Our Rivers and Communities](#)
- **Mar 6–8:** [Land & Water Summit](#)

- **Mar 7–8:** [Sustainable Water Investment Summit](#)
- **Mar 10–16:** [National Groundwater Awareness Week](#)
- **Mar 11:** [ENVS Colloquium — Dr. Thomas Lavanchy \(Oklahoma State University\)](#)
- **Mar 11–14:** [AWWA WateReuse 2024 Symposium](#)
- **Mar 12:** [NVIS Spring 2024 Seminar: Place Based Learning and Cultural Fire Practice in California – Co-sponsored by the WRRC](#)
- **March 12–13:** [WRRC 2024 Annual Conference: Implementing Water Solutions Through Partnerships](#)
- **March 12–13:** [A Meeting of Sacred Waters: A Global Gathering of Indigenous Voices](#)
- **Mar 14:** [Spring 2024 Tumamoc Talk: The Influence of a Variable and Changing Climate on Upper Gila River Streamflow – Dr. Connie Woodhouse](#)
- **Mar 18:** [ENVS Colloquium — SEES Earthweek Keynote Speaker](#)
- **Mar 21:** [ENViSion Research Symposium](#)
- **Mar 25:** [ENVS Colloquium — Dr. Katerina Dontsova \(UArizona\)](#)
- **Mar 25–27:** [AWRA 2024 Geospatial Water Technology Conference: Data to Decisions: Managing & Modeling Water Challenges](#)
- **Mar 27:** [USGS 104\(g\) National Competitive Grant – Proposal Deadline](#)
- **Apr 1:** [ENVS Colloquium — TBD](#)
- **Apr 2:** [NVIS Spring 2024 Seminar: \[Presentation title TBD\] – Co-sponsored by the WRRC](#)
- **Apr 3–6:** [BSMAR18](#)
- **Apr 6:** [2024 Water Awareness Month Festival](#)
- **Apr 8:** [ENVS Colloquium — Dr. Luisa Ikner \(UArizona\)](#)
- **Apr 8–10:** [AWRA 2024 Spring Conference: Water Risk & Resilience: Research and Sustainable Solutions](#)
- **Apr 11–12:** [Law of the Rio Grande Annual Conference](#)
- **Apr 15:** [ENVS Colloquium — ENVS Undergraduate Presentations](#)
- **Apr 16–17:** [NGWA Conference: Groundwater in the PFAS Era: Stressors, Protection, & Compliance](#)
- **Apr 18:** [Spring 2024 Tumamoc Talk: The Science and Wonder of Arizona Lighting – Ron Holle](#)
- **Apr 22:** [ENVS Colloquium — Dr. Beth Marlowe \(Quest Diagnostic Labs\)](#)
- **Apr 23–25:** [97th Annual AZ Water Conference & Exhibition Annual AZ Water Conference & Exhibition](#)
- **Apr 24–26:** [Santa Cruz River Research Days](#)
- **Apr 29:** [ENVS Colloquium — Dr. Jen McIntosh \(UArizona\)](#)
- **May 6–7:** [Law of the Colorado River Annual Conference](#)
- **May 7:** [NVIS Spring 2024 Seminar: Eleltek Waali \(I'm Reading Country\) – Co-sponsored by the WRRC](#)
- **Jun 1:** [2024 Central Arizona Project Award for Water Research — Abstract Deadline](#)
- **Jun 10–13:** [AWWA 2024 Annual Conference & Expo \(ACE24\): Transforming Our Water Future](#)
- **Jun 17–20:** [3rd International Groundwater-Agriculture Conference: Toward Sustainable Groundwater in Agriculture - Linking Science and Policy](#)
- **Jul 28–30:** [2024 Arizona Water Reuse Symposium](#)
- **Sep 30–Oct 2:** [AWRA/UCOWR/NIWR 60th Anniversary Joint Water Resources Conference](#)

Do you have a story idea, water job announcement, or event to share?

[Contact us here](#)