

WEEKLY WAVE



COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE & LIFE SCIENCES
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

**WATER RESOURCES
RESEARCH CENTER**



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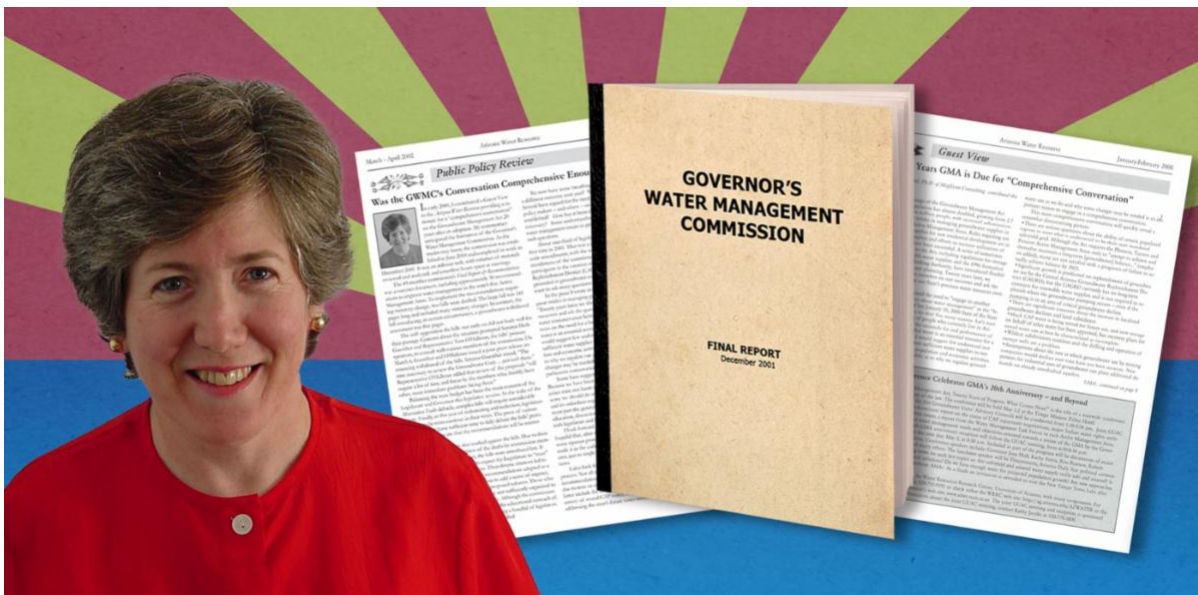
The Water Resources Research Center - a research unit of the [College of Agriculture and Life Sciences](#) and an Extension unit in [UA Cooperative Extension](#) within the Division of Agriculture, Life & Veterinary Sciences & Cooperative Extension. [Subscribe to the Weekly Wave.](#)

[WRRC Office Update](#)

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Reflections: Looking Back 20 Years and a Call to Action

February 14 is an important date for me – and not only because it is Valentine's Day and Arizona Statehood Day. February 14 is also the anniversary date of my joining the Water Resources Research Center and Arizona Cooperative Extension faculty. This year marks 20 years! How did statehood day come to be my work anniversary? There is a story to

that. As has occurred over the years, state budget considerations were causing the University of Arizona to tighten its belt and look carefully at its hiring. Eugene Sander, then Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, was key to my returning to the University of Arizona. He and then WRRRC Director Peter Wierenga were in negotiations with me when, in late January 2002, Dean Sander asked, "How soon can you start?" There was some worry of a hiring freeze. It did not take me long to identify Arizona Statehood Day as a fitting day to return to the University of Arizona, and I joined the WRRRC as Associate Director on February 14, 2002. (I became WRRRC Director on July 1, 2004.) Twenty years later, I am truly grateful for the opportunity to get to know the many individuals and communities, broadly construed, with whom I have worked over the years to foster understanding of the critical water issues faced by Arizona and other semi-arid regions and explore pathways to address them.

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EVENTS

Native Voices in STEM Spring 2022 Seminar Series: Wastewater-Based Epidemiology in Tribal Communities

Date: March 14, 2022

Time: 3:00-4:00 pm Arizona Time

Location: [Webinar Only](#)



Speaker: Otakuye Conroy-Ben, *Assistant Professor in the School of Sustainable Engineering and the Built Environment at Arizona State University*

Dr. Otakuye Conroy-Ben is an Assistant Professor in the School of Sustainable Engineering and the Built Environment at Arizona State University. Conroy-Ben received a BS in Chemistry from the University of Notre Dame, an MA in Analytical Chemistry from the University of Arizona, and a PhD in Environmental Engineering from the University of Arizona. Her research focuses on the biological effects of polluted water. Her research interests include environmental endocrine disruption, metal and antibiotic resistance in bacteria, and wastewater epidemiology.

[More Info](#)

Upcoming Events

Mar 29: [WRRC Brown Bag Webinar: Upper Basin Conservation](#); Jennifer Gimbel, *Interim Director and Senior Water Policy Scholar, Colorado Water Center*; Jim Lochhead, *CEO/Manager, Denver Water*; Steve Wolff, *General Manager, Southwestern Water Conservation District*

April 7: [WRRC Brown Bag Webinar: Public Interest, Indigenous Rights, and the Los Angeles Aqueduct](#); Sophia Borgias, *Assistant Professor, Interdisciplinary Programs, Boise State University*

Apr 11: [Native Voices in STEM Spring 2022 Seminar Series: Environmental Justice](#); Tommy Rock, *PhD in Earth Science and Environmental Sustainability, Northern Arizona University*

Apr 19: WRRC Brown Bag Webinar: Carlos de la Parra, *Research Professor of Urban and Environmental Studies, El Colegio de la Frontera Norte*

NEWS

Brown Bag Webinar Explores the Future of Water Management in Southern Nevada

On Tuesday, Deputy General Manager of Resources for Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) Colby Pellegrino gave a talk in another installment of the WRRC's Brown Bag Webinar series. Pellegrino explained her role with SNWA, and the role that SNWA plays in Nevada, managing the Colorado River water allocation for the driest state and driest metropolitan area in the country. Over 90% of the water used in Southern Nevada comes from the Colorado River. Decades of drought, the growing effects of climate change, and a booming population have required SNWA to implement new technologies and policies to avoid running out of water. Pellegrino discussed SNWA operations, as well as the history of the organization and its responses to drought since the 2000s. She emphasized their proactive approach to water management and provided an overview of the multitude of methods used to promote water conservation. Now, as Colorado River Basin states face historic shortage declarations and water levels in Lake Mead continue to drop, this proactive approach has prompted SNWA to develop new strategies for water conservation to address the new reality.



Image: Colorado River Aerial, Southern Nevada Water Authority

Recording and Slides

2021 Photo Contest Winners Announced at WRRC Chocolate Fest

On Wednesday, February 16, the WRRC announced the winners of its 2021 Photo Contest during the 18th Annual Chocolate Fest. For this year's contest, we received the most submissions to date; with so many unique and extraordinary photos, judging was a tough but enjoyable task. James Bowman won "Best in Show" with his image of Sandhill Cranes taking flight over Whitewater Draw in Cochise County. At the virtual event, participants enjoyed a slideshow of the winning photographs from each category, along with some comments from two of the photographers in attendance. The second half of the program recognized WRRC Director Sharon Megdal's 20 years of service at the WRRC with photos of Dr. Megdal, a virtual chocolate toast, comments from friends and family, and a commemorative staff gift! We would like to congratulate Dr. Megdal and this year's photo contest winners and thank all who participated in the contest and attended our virtual Chocolate Fest. Visit our website to see all of the amazing winning photos!



Image: Whitewater Draw, AZ, James Bowman, WRRC Photo Contest

Photo Contest

Growing New Water Stewards in Pinal County

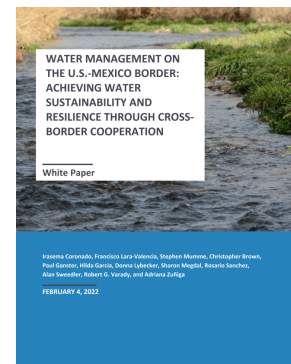
Arizona Project WET Pinal County is excited to share that they had two very successful in-person water festivals this month! APW celebrated its first Coolidge Water Festival on February 2. With help from the Arizona Water Company and the City of Coolidge, 248 students learned basic water concepts to become future water stewards. Then on February 8, APW celebrated its 8th Annual Maricopa Water Festival at Copper Sky Recreation Complex. 409 students and over 26 community volunteers experienced another excellent day as students engaged in an interactive exploration of the Groundwater System, Watershed Management, Water Conservation Technology, and the Water Cycle. APW would like to thank the many volunteers who helped with both festivals, from the Arizona Water Company, Global Water, Abbott Fund, Maricopa Agricultural Center, Project CENTRL, and the UArizona Cooperative Extension, Pinal County. With their support and assistance, APW was able to get students back to attending outdoor field trips after a long hiatus and provided some hands-on educational water fun.



Recently Published White Paper Addresses US-Mexico Cooperation on Water

The white paper, “Water Management on the U.S.-Mexico Border: Achieving Water Sustainability and Resilience Through Cross-Border Cooperation” is posted on our updated [Transboundary Aquifer Assessment Program website](#).

The United States International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) invited a group of researchers to write a white paper to help strengthen its “ability to respond to the challenges of US-Mexico border water management in the 21st century.” The paper, “Water Management on the U.S.-Mexico Border: Achieving Water Sustainability and Resilience Through Cross-Border Cooperation,” is organized into three main sections: 1) institutional context; 2) US-Mexico border water management challenges and opportunities in the 21st century, and 3) institutional and policy needs. The paper notes that population and economic growth require a steady water supply, which border cities will likely struggle to secure, and that it is critical to incorporate future climate scenarios in future agreements while also considering environmental justice concerns.



[Read More](#)

Sophia Borgias Receives UCOWR PhD Dissertation Award

Congratulations to Dr. Sophia Borgias, recipient of the UCOWR 2022 PhD Dissertation Award in the Water Policy & Economics category, on her paper “Public Interest, Indigenous Rights, and the Los Angeles Aqueduct.” Dr. Borgias received her PhD and MA in Geography from the UArizona under the guidance of Dr. Carl Bauer. Borgias' research examines the legal and political dimensions of water and has investigated the social response to large-scale hydropower



development in central and southern Chile. The focus of her dissertation, for which she earned this award, centered on the ongoing conflict over the City of Los Angeles' control of land and water resources in Owens Valley. On April 7, WRRRC will host a Brown Bag webinar featuring Dr. Borgias that will discuss her award-winning research, as well as her current "collaborative research about Indigenous land and water rights in Payahuunadü, the Nüümü/Newe territory encompassing the Owens and Mono basins in eastern California."

[UCOWR Award](#)

[Register Here for the Brown Bag](#)

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

WRRRC Invites Research Proposals

Faculty and research personnel at any of Arizona's three public universities are invited to submit research proposals to the WRRRC for grants of up to \$10,000. Proposals should feature student work and explore new ideas to address water problems in AZ and the Southwest and expand understanding of water and related phenomena. Proposals are due by 5:00 pm MST on Tuesday, March 1, 2022.



[More Information](#)

WATER JOBS

UArizona Director, Cooperative Extension [Job Listing](#)

The University of Arizona seeks a strategic and innovative leader to be the next Director of the [UArizona Cooperative Extension System \(CES\)](#).

- WRRRC [Postdoctoral Research Associate \(RAPIDS\)](#)
- WRRRC [Postdoctoral Research Associate](#)
- EPA Water Quality Fellowships: [Water Quality Modeling and Economics](#), [Water Quality and Valuation](#), [Environmental Justice in Water Quality](#)
- ADEQ [Project Manager \(TMDLS & Watershed Plans\)](#)

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Feb 20:** [Water Science Policy Groundwater Photostory Competition – Submission Deadline](#)
- **Feb 21:** [AWRA 2022 – Topical Sessions Deadline](#)
- **Feb 23:** [Free Webinar: Getting to the Heart of Science Communication](#)
- **Feb 23-25:** [9th Natural History of the Gila Symposium](#)
- **Feb 24:** [ADWR 2022 Annual Report Virtual Open House](#)
- **Feb 25:** [Circle of Blue Fellowship Program: Reporting Water Inequality In A Changing Climate – Application Deadline](#)

- **Feb 28:** [11th International Symposium on Managed Aquifer Recharge – Early Bird Registration Deadline](#)
- **Mar 1:** [Water Resources Research Institute Program 104\(b\) Student Grant – Proposal Deadline](#)
- **Mar 1:** [Babbitt Center for Land and Water Policy 2022 Dissertation Fellowships – Application Deadline](#)
- **Mar 2:** [AWRA 2022 Spring Conference: *Water Risk Under a Rapidly Changing World - Evaluation & Adaptation* – Early Bird Deadline](#)
- **Mar 3:** [ADWR 2022 Annual Report Virtual Open House](#)
- **Mar 4:** [2022 AHS Annual Symposium – Abstract Deadline](#)
- **Mar 9:** [Spring 2022 UCOWR Roundtable Series: *Aquatic Invasive Species* – Email to RSVP](#)
- **Mar 14:** [Native Voices in STEM Spring 2022 Seminar Series Presents Dr. Otakuye Conroy-Ben](#)
- **Mar 16:** [El Día del Agua y la Atmósfera – Registration Deadline](#)
- **Mar 16-18:** [Water Education Foundation's Lower Colorado River Tour](#)
- **Mar 17-18:** [The Colorado River Compact: Navigating the Future](#)
- **Mar 22:** [World Water Day 2022](#)
- **Mar 22-24:** [Expo 2020 Dubai, *Water Resources Management and Sustainability: Solutions for Arid Regions*](#)
- **Mar 24-25:** [Santa Cruz River Research Days](#)
- **Mar 29:** [WRRC Brown Bag Webinar: Upper Basin Conservation](#)
- **Mar 31:** [Los Charros Foundation Scholarship – Application Deadline](#)
- **Apr 1:** [EPA Environmental Justice Video Challenge for Students – Phase 1 Submissions Due](#)
- **Apr 6:** [Udall Center Workshop: *State of the Art in Green Infrastructure Research & Practice: Reframing Stormwater from a Hazard to a Resource in Tucson, Arizona*](#)
- **April 7:** [WRRC Brown Bag Webinar: *Public Interest, Indigenous Rights, and the Los Angeles Aqueduct*](#)
- **Apr 11:** [Native Voices in STEM Spring 2022 Seminar Series Presents Dr. Thomas Rock \(*Diné*\)](#)
- **Apr 11-15:** [11th International Symposium on Managed Aquifer Recharge](#)
- **Apr 11-17:** [Arizona Water Professionals Appreciation Week](#)
- **Apr 12-14:** [AZ Water 95th Annual Conference & Exhibition](#)
- **Apr 15:** [Fall 2022 Agents of Change in Environmental Justice Fellowship – Application Deadline](#)
- **Apr 19:** [WRRC Brown Bag Webinar: Carlos de la Parra – Save the Date](#)
- **Apr 20:** [Spring 2022 UCOWR Roundtable Series: *Coastal Water Issues II* – Email to RSVP](#)
- **Apr 22:** [Earth Day 2022 Lower Salt River Cleanup](#)
- **Apr 25-27:** [AWRA 2022 Spring Conference: *Water Risk Under a Rapidly Changing World - Evaluation & Adaptation*](#)
- **Apr 27:** [WRRC Brown Bag Webinar: Sharon Nappier – Save the Date](#)
- **May 11-12:** [The Third International Congress on Desert Economy: *Energy Economics between Deserts and Oceans \(Dakhla, Morocco\)*](#)
- **May 19-20:** [23rd Annual Law of the Colorado River Conference](#)
- **Jun 14-16:** [UCOWR/NIWR 2022 Annual Water Resources Conference](#)
- **Jun 19-24:** [Frontiers in Hydrology 2022: *Future of Water*](#)
- **Jun 21-24:** [Global Council for Science and the Environment \(GCSE\) 2022 Virtual Conference: *Biodiversity, Conservation Science, and Climate Change*](#)
- **Sep 11-14:** [AWWA 2022 Water Infrastructure Conference & Exposition](#)
- **Sep 11-15:** [IWA World Water Congress & Exhibition - *Water for Smart Liveable Cities* \(Copenhagen\)](#)
- **Sep 14-16:** [2022 AHS Annual Symposium](#)
- **Oct 6-8:** [SustainValencia2022; *Achieving Sustainable Groundwater Management: Promising Directions and Unresolved Challenges*](#)
- **Nov 7-9:** [AWRA 2022](#)

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

[Contact us here](#)