

# WEEKLY WAVE



COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE & LIFE SCIENCES  
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION  
**WATER RESOURCES  
RESEARCH CENTER**

**May 8, 2020 / Volume 8, Issue 18**

The Water Resource 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

## WRRC Office Update

Although the WRRC building will be closed to the public until further notice, our staff continue to work and engage as much as possible. You can reach us via email as listed on our [Directory](#). We wish you all the best - Stay safe and healthy!

UArizona Cooperative Extension [COVID-19 info page](#)  
WRRC [COVID-19 Articles](#)

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In this issue: [Nevada Diversion](#) / [COVID-19 Impacts](#) / [COVID-19 Wells](#) / [Pets](#)



**Wicked Water Problems Addressed**

## in WRRC Webinar

Director Sharon B. Megdal returned from her sabbatical to present Wednesday's WRRC Brown Bag Webinar, Developing Pathways to Solutions to Wicked Water Problems. Megdal's sabbatical speaking tour: a worldwide series of lectures focused on water policy and management, was unfortunately cut short due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The presentation began with an illuminating discussion of the contextual background as important determinants of water policy and management. These complex water management issues, often intertwined with their solutions, are what define wicked water problems: problems that seemingly defy standard solutions. Among the characteristics of wicked water problems mentioned in the presentation, Megdal highlighted the need for interdisciplinary collaboration to manage uncertainty, create resilience, and forge pathways to mitigating the challenges. Megdal's broad expertise was evident in the presentation which covered wicked water problems in the Colorado River Basin including Tribal water issues, trans-border groundwater management between the U.S. and Mexico, and conditions on the Lower Jordan River and the Dead Sea.

Recording and presentation slides [here](#)

## WRRC EVENTS

### WRRC Annual Conference Goes Virtual



[Register Today!](#)

## WRRC NEWS

### Northeast Nevada Water Diversion Halted

Last month, Las Vegas water officials scratched a decades-long plan to diversify the city's water resources by piping

groundwater from rural northeast Nevada to urban suburbs and tourist resorts in the state's most populated metropolitan region. This water diversion plan was part of a larger effort to ensure a reliable supply for the city's 2.2 million residents and 40+ million tourists a year that are currently nearly entirely dependent on water from Lake Mead. Opponents maintained that tribal nations' due process rights were denied, and the pumping plan did little to prevent possible damage to cultural areas. The plan's legal journey was put to rest with a judge's order to recalculate the amount of groundwater available to supply the project. Instead of appealing the judge's order, the Southern Nevada Water Authority will update its 50-year water plan to focus on water conservation and relations with other states reliant on Colorado River water.



More on [the plan](#)

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## Blog Foresees Economic Impact of COVID-19 on Water Industry

Economist Rodney Smith, known to the Arizona water community through past WRRRC conferences, among other activities, has written a series of blogs on how the pandemic has affected the water industry economically and how the industry should prepare for recovery. Smith traces the growth of unemployment claims and the likelihood of related business defaults and bankruptcies. Because these numbers are larger than in the Great Depression, he warns that the basic water planning principle of perpetually increasing water demand will no longer hold. Like the petroleum industry before it, water will see a decrease in demand as a result of the unprecedented economic downturn. To develop new principles for water planning, Smith recommends monitoring and improved modeling based on observation to usher in an era of adaptive water management.

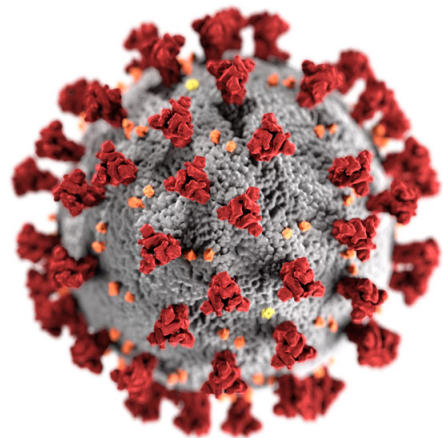


Read the [Blog](#)

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## COVID-19 Risk from Private Wells Assessed

The National Ground Water Association has published a new report on COVID-19 and groundwater. "Groundwater, Wells, and Coronavirus," by William Alley and Charles Job, describes what is known about the risks of contracting the disease through contact with water from private wells. Although leaky septic systems and inadequately sealed wells can allow bacteria and viruses to contaminate well water; the COVID-19 virus has not been detected in groundwater from wells. One possible explanation is that, as a type of corona virus, COVID-19 is less stable in the environment than, for example, noroviruses, which cause gastrointestinal illness. After surveying the literature on viruses in groundwater, septic systems, and treatment, the authors conclude that the risk is low but not zero.



Read [more](#)



## Coworker of the Week

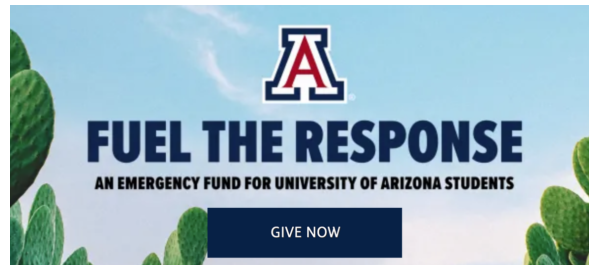
This week's coworker shares a workspace with WRRC Research Scientist, Jean McLain. Meet Venus McLain, a black German Shepherd who keeps the McLain

home in Armory Park free from trespassers and cats. Venus loves helping "mom" Jeannie McLain work in her home office, since Jeannie will open the treat jar at the slightest sign of cuteness, which Venus displays 24/7. Venus has several favorite things in the world:

1. her family of three (2 biped, 1 quadriped);
2. waking up before the sun for a long morning walk in downtown Tucson; and
3. peanut butter, or whatever you happen to be eating right now.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS



- **Various Dates:** [AWRA Awards and Scholarships - Nominations and Applications](#)
- **USGS Publications:** ["Hydrogeologic Characterization of the Hualapai Plateau on the Western Hualapai Indian Reservation, Northwestern Arizona"](#) and ["Geophysical Surveys, Hydrogeologic Characterization, and Groundwater Flow Model for the Truxton Basin and Hualapai Plateau, Northwestern Arizona"](#)
- **USGS Study Published:** ["Case Studies of a Grassroots Binational Restoration Collaborative in the Madrean Archipelago Ecoregion \(2014- 2019\)"](#)
- **AMWUA:** [Program Assistant Job Posting](#)
- **Upper Verde River Fish Barriers - Feedback**
- **May 11-12:** [Ben-Gurion University of the Negev International Water Summit - POSTPONED](#)
- **May 13:** [GRAC Webinar - Fate and Transport of Viruses in Groundwater - Registration Open](#)
- **May 14-15:** [Western Water Law Conference San Diego - POSTPONED](#)
- **May 15:** [The Babbitt Center for Land and Water Policy - Call for Proposals on Indicators in the Colorado River Basin - Close of Application Period](#)
- **May 18:** [5MP Agricultural Subgroup Meeting - Location/Format TBA](#)
- **May 18:** [IWA Women in Water Award - Call for nomination](#)
- **May 18:** [AWRA Annual Water Resources Conference, Nov. 9-12 - Abstracts Due](#)
- **May 29:** [IWRA: Call for mentoring early-career professionals to publish](#)

in a Special Issue of Water International - International Water Resources Association

- **June 1:** Central Arizona Project Award for Water Research - Abstracts Due
- **June 1:** NWRI Fellowship Deadline Extended
- **June 4-5:** Law Seminars International Conference - Tribal Water in the Southwest
- **June 14-17:** ACE20 Future So Bright - **RESCHEDULED** - June 13-16, 2021
- **Oct. 7-9:** BSMAR 17 Symposium
- **October 14-15:** 2020 Permanent Forum of Binational Waters - Save the Date

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