

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 Summer Wave.](#)



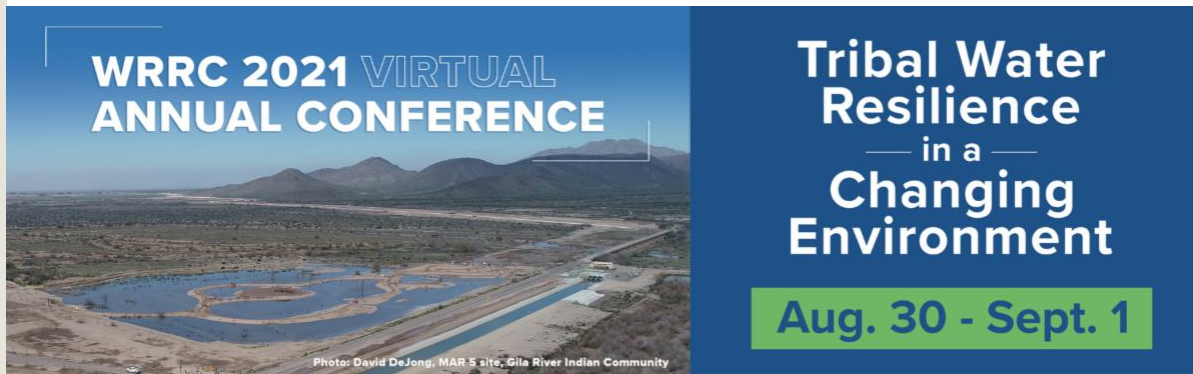
A Personal Tribute to Rodney Blaine Lewis

by Sharon B. Megdal

The Water Resources Research Center is dedicating our 2021 Annual Conference, *Tribal Water Resilience in a Changing Environment*, to Rodney "Rod" Blaine Lewis. A member of

the Gila River Indian Community, Rod was an inspiring leader and a mentor to many. On Monday, August 30, 2021, at 1:00 pm Arizona time, we will begin our conference with a blessing and remarks from Rod's brother and children. A special recording and announcement will follow. Because time will not permit me to share remarks about Rod at the conference dedication, I would like to share some words to express my admiration and appreciation of him.

[Read More](#)



[Register for the Conference](#)

The program for the WRRC 2021 Annual Conference, *Tribal Water Resilience in a Changing Environment*, kicks off at 1:00 pm Arizona time on Monday, August 30. We are excited to feature a diversity of voices and discussion formats. Please check out the [agenda](#)! Registration will remain open throughout the conference.

Post-Conference MAR 5 Field Trip Coming this Fall

On Friday, October 22, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM, the Gila River Indian Community (GRIC) will host a field trip to the MAR 5 Managed Aquifer Recharge site. This limited-sized event will only be open to WRRC 2021 conference attendees. Please note that participants will need to provide their own transportation. The WRRC will provide more details to conference attendees following the conference.

The following is background information on the MAR 5 project, as provided by Pima-Maricopa Irrigation Project Director David DeJong.

The Akimel O'otham or "River People" have lived and farmed along the middle Gila River since time immemorial, with the river at the center of Community social, economic, cultural, and spiritual life. In the years following the American Civil War in the 1860s, upstream diversions of water from the Gila River not only decimated the Community's economy but also struck at the core of its cultural existence. A self-reliant people lost a living river with all of its riparian benefits and came to rely on federal assistance, altering the way of life for a proud, self-reliant people.

[Read More](#)

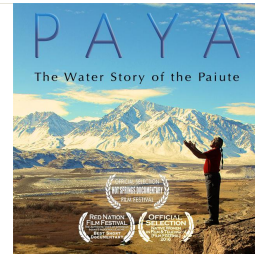
Paya: The Water Story of the Paiute

Date: Tuesday, August 31

Time: 4:00 - 5:30 PM (AZ time)

[Via Zoom](#)

As part of its 2021 conference programming, the WRRC is pleased to announce a special webinar screening and panel discussion of *Paya: The Water Story of the Paiute*.



[Register for the Paya Film](#)

Brown Bag Webinar — Binational Cooperation in the Colorado River Basin: United States and Mexico

Date: Tuesday, September 14
Time: 12:00 - 1:15 PM (AZ time)

[Via Zoom](#)

Speakers:

Amy Witherall, Binational Program Manager, Lower Colorado Basin Region, Bureau of Reclamation

Sean Schrag-Toso, Binational Program Analyst, Lower Colorado Basin Region, Bureau of Reclamation



The Colorado River is shared between the United States and Mexico pursuant to the 1944 Mexican Water Treaty (Treaty), which addresses both operational issues and water volume allocation of the river between the two countries. The Treaty also provides a mechanism for adoption of binational agreements to address issues that arise during treaty implementation. These implementing agreements are known as “Minutes” to the 1944 Treaty, and are negotiated under the authority and direction of the US Department of State and the US Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) and their counterparts in Mexico.

Through a binational cooperative process that began in 2007, Reclamation has been working in partnership with the seven Colorado River Basin States, IBWC, non-governmental organizations, and the Republic of Mexico to develop binational approaches to address water conservation, binational responses to historic drought, and environmental enhancement along the Colorado River in the border region. This presentation will provide an overview of the partnerships and negotiations that led to the adoption of Minute 323 to the Treaty, which provides operational certainty for water users in both the United States and Mexico by extending proactive, cooperative reservoir management strategies previously agreed to in 2012 through “Minute 319.”

[Register for the Brown Bag](#)

Our announcements will be back next week!

