

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

[WRRRC Office Update](#)

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IN THIS ISSUE: Brown Bag Recap, Terry Fulp, US Plumbing Poverty, APW, UArizona Water Courses, SHARP



Photo: CAP

CAP Keeps Water Flowing and Employees Safe During COVID-19

Last Friday, Ted Cooke, General Manager at the Central Arizona Project (CAP), presented “How Arizona’s Largest Water Utility Responded to the Coronavirus Pandemic,” a talk highlighting the measures CAP took to keep delivering water while ensuring the safety of

its nearly 500 employees. After providing some background context, Cooke presented a timeline that detailed developments in the COVID-19 pandemic and CAP's responses, connecting human and operational considerations. By mid-March as the spread of the virus became evident, CAP took early action by canceling or converting their meetings into virtual events. Administrative, technical, and professional staff were asked to work remotely to cut down employee numbers within CAP facilities. Field employees who had to perform essential work were required to socially distance and respect health guidelines. Since the onset of the pandemic, CAP has only experienced 14 cases of the infection. Cooke added that because of rapidly changing information from CDC and local health departments, CAP monitored sources of critical information daily to ensure employee safety. CAP employees may return to pre-COVID schedules by January 3, but this decision might change depending on the state infection rates in the upcoming weeks.

[View the Recording](#)

WRRC EVENTS

Brown Bag Webinar: *Balancing Water for People and Nature: The Upper San Pedro River*

Date: Wednesday, December 2, 2020

Time: 12:00 - 1:15 p.m.

Location: [Webinar](#)

Speakers:

Scott Deeny, *Water Program Lead, Arizona Chapter of The Nature Conservancy*

Holly Richter, *Arizona Water Projects Director, The Nature Conservancy*

Flowing from Mexico into Arizona, the San Pedro is one of the last large, undammed rivers in the Southwest that flows year-round in many of its reaches. Just north of the border, it winds its way for 43 miles through the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area, which provides critical habitat for millions of migrating birds and a wide variety of other wildlife. These lush streamside forests and the wildlife they sustain in turn rely on the same limited water resources as local communities in the region, large copper mines, irrigated agriculture, and the US Army's Fort Huachuca. This presentation will provide an overview of the science, projects, and policies collaboratively developed over the past 20 years in the region to meet the water needs of both the river and local communities.



[Register for the Webinar](#)

Brown Bag Webinar: *Balancing Environmental, Municipal, and Agricultural Needs in the Edwards Aquifer: A Farmer's Perspective*

Date: Wednesday, December 9, 2020

Time: 12:00 - 1:15 p.m.

Location: [Webinar](#)

Speaker:

Adam Yablonski, *President, Comanche Creek Farms*

Adam Yablonski will provide a brief description of the Edwards Aquifer, including the demographics of the region, and give an overview of the political history that led to the permitting of water rights. The presentation will also cover a few of the special rules and considerations for agriculture in the region, programs that came out of a broad stakeholder process, and provide some thoughts on the future.



[Register for the Webinar](#)

Upcoming Webinars

Jan. 14, 2021 – *Transferring Water in Arizona*

Patrick J. Cunningham, *Public Affairs Consultant and General Counsel, HighGround*

Michael J. Pearce, *Partner, Gammage & Burnham*



Happy 
Thanksgiving

From the WRRC

The Weekly Wave will be back on Dec. 4.

NEWS

Leader in Lower Colorado River Basin Management to Retire

Terry Fulp, director of the US Bureau of Reclamation’s Lower Colorado Basin Region, is retiring after a 31-year career managing water resources in the Colorado River Basin. In a recent interview with Gary Pitzer of *Western Water*, Fulp spoke to his legacy and the work yet to be done to meet future water management challenges in the basin. Fulp’s long career is marked by his expertise and leadership brokering key decisions that have shaped and stabilized management of the Colorado River. Notably, he played an important role in the 2007 Colorado River Interim Guidelines for Lower Basin Shortages and the Drought Contingency Plans brokered in 2019. When asked by Pitzer what accomplishment he is most proud of, Fulp pointed to the

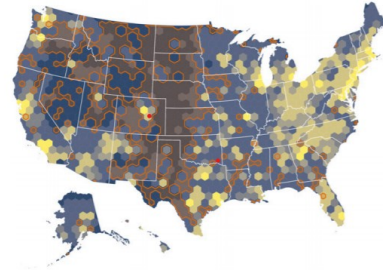


collaborative approach taken by Reclamation over the past 20 years. He went on to say “What really is the key to success are relationships. You can’t really work closely with folks and on very complex and contentious issues if you don’t know about each other and respect each other.” Looking forward, Fulp cautioned that the challenges water managers face will only become harder, but “the way to solve them is to communicate and collaborate.”

[Western Water Interview](#)

New Article Reports on US Plumbing Poverty

In the United States, an estimated 471,000 households or 1.1 million individuals live without a piped water connection. UArizona alumna Katie Meehan (now at King’s College London) and colleagues at UArizona and ECONorthwest conducted a study of US plumbing poverty to find out who the plumbing poor are. Contrary to the generally held belief that most of them live in rural areas without developed water supply systems, a recent study found that 73 percent of them live in metropolitan areas close to water distribution networks. Published in the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* (PNAS) on November 2, 2020, the study found, in addition, that households led by a person of color, rented homes, and households in neighborhoods with high-income disparities were much more likely than others to have deficient plumbing.



[Read the Study](#)



Engagement Leads to Action and Results

Natural curiosity is the foundation of science. As a child, who hasn’t asked “why is the sky blue” or wondered how flies can walk on the ceiling? When fostered, children’s natural state of wonder can lead to a deeper level of learning. Engaging students in structured inquiry helps develop strong scientific minds capable of challenging current perceptions and designing solutions for a better future.



[Read More](#)

UArizona Experts Proffer Spring Semester Courses on Water

UArizona is offering a number of water-related courses in the Spring 2021 semester. Two of them deal directly with Arizona and Colorado River policy. One course, to be taught by WRRRC Director Sharon B. Megdal, is “Water Policy in Arizona and Semi-arid Regions.” Presented live on-line Friday mornings, the course takes a multi-disciplinary perspective, with several lectures by guest speakers drawing on their experiences with real-world water

issues. On Thursdays, law professor Robert Glennon is offering, “The Colorado River in American History,” which will examine the competition for Colorado River water rights through lectures and readings in law, environmental history, economics, and ecology, and draw lessons relevant to current water issues. It will also be presented on-line and includes virtual field trips, site visits, and a screening of the film *China Town*. Interested students can find other water-related courses through specific departments and at Arizona Environment. Non-students may be interested in a course on climate change offered through the UArizona Humanities Seminar Program and taught by three of the university’s most knowledgeable climate scientists.



- [Water Policy Course](#)
- [Colorado River Law Course](#)
- [Arizona Environment Courses](#)
- [HSP Climate Change Course](#)

Recreation, Reuse, and Recharge – SHARP Facility to Open to the Public

The Tucson Water Southeast Houghton Area Recharge Project (SHARP) facility will open to the public for recreational activities on December 1, 2020. SHARP is the newest addition to Tucson Water’s aquifer recharge projects and allows the utility to recharge and store recycled water underground for future use. Using three infiltration basins, the project has the capacity to recharge 1.3 billion gallons of water per year. But that’s not all! The 40-acre facility’s design incorporates trails for walking, running, and mountain biking. Ramadas with picnic tables and benches offer opportunities for visitors to enjoy the desert landscape and recharge basins when they are filled with water. The facility also includes educational signs with information about water resources in Tucson and SHARP’s function.



[More Information](#)

WATER JOBS

GRA Position at WRRC

The WRRC is hiring a half-time graduate research assistant to help our team investigate best practices for expanding the diversity of voices heard in water resource discussions and decisions. See the full position description [here](#). Submit a letter of interest, resume, and two references to Michael Seronde at seronde@arizona.edu.

- [Democratic Staff Policy Advisor, Arizona House Of Representatives](#)
- [Water Conservation Specialist, Arizona Water Company](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- [USGS National Water Dashboard \(NWD\)](#) real-time water, weather, and flood forecast information - beta version
- **Nov 30:** [Hydrology 2021 Travel Awards - Application Deadline](#)
- **Nov 30:** [GRA's The Future of Water 2021 – Abstract Deadline](#)
- **Dec 1:** [WEF SWI Stormwater Summit 2021 – Abstract Deadline](#)
- **Dec 1:** [ADWR Public Meeting – Governor’s Water Augmentation, Innovation, and Conservation Council \(GWAICC\)](#)
- **Dec 2:** [AZ Water Association InfoShare: Water Conservation Goes Virtual: COVID-19 Adaptations & Challenges](#)
- **Dec 2:** [EcoPeace Middle East Annual Conference 2020 – Save the Date](#)
- **Dec 3-9:** [ADWR 5MP Subgroup Meetings - Turf Breakout Meeting, 5th Management Plans Work Group Meeting](#)
- **Dec 6:** [The Third International Congress on Desert Economy: Energy Economics between Deserts and Oceans \(Dakhla, Morocco\) - Call for Papers Deadline](#)
- **Dec 10:** [2021 Ford Foundation Fellowship Programs - Dissertation and Postdoctoral Application Deadlines](#)
- **Dec 17:** [2021 Ford Foundation Fellowship Programs - Predoctoral Application Deadline](#)
- **Jan 5-9, 2021:** [NCSE Drawdown 2021 Conference Research to Action: Science and Solutions for a Planet Under Pressure](#)
- **Jan 15, 2021:** [Resources 2021 Travel Award - Application Deadline](#)
- **Feb 1, 2021:** [AWRA 2021 Summer Conference Connecting Land and Water for Healthy Communities \(July 19 – 21\) Denver, CO - Special Session Submission Deadline](#)
- **Feb 16-26, 2021:** [RiversEdge West 19th Annual Research and Management Conference](#)
- **Mar 15-25, 2021:** [36th Annual WaterReuse Symposium: Resilience Redefined: health.economy.environment](#)
- **Apr 1, 2021:** [Special Issue of the Journal Water \(ISSN 2073-4441, IF 2.544\) - Advances in Transboundary Aquifer Assessment - Manuscript Submission Deadline](#)
- **Apr 1-Jul 1, 2021:** [Women in Water Scholarship - Applications Accepted](#)
- **Apr 6-8, 2021:** [AZ Water 2021 Annual Conference](#)
- **May 9-14, 2021:** [IWA World Water Congress & Exhibition - Water for Smart Liveable Cities \(Copenhagen\)](#)
- **May 18-20, 2021:** [11th International Conference on Sustainable Water Resources Management: Effective Approaches for River Basins and Urban Catchments \(Milan, Italy\)](#)
- **Jun 8-10, 2021:** [UCOWR/NIWR Annual Water Resources Conference](#)
- **Jun 13-16, 2021:** [ACE21 - Registration Open](#)

PUBLICATIONS

- [Geochemical Assessment of Groundwater in the Big Chino Subbasin, Arizona, 2011–18: U.S. Geological Survey Scientific Investigations Report 2020–5094.](#)
- [Trends in Recent Historical and Projected Climate Data for the Colorado River Basin and Potential Effects on Groundwater Availability: U.S. Geological Survey Scientific Investigations Report 2020–5107.](#)
- [Recent and Projected Precipitation and Temperature Changes in the Grand Canyon Area with Implications for Groundwater Resources: Scientific Reports, 10, 19740.](#)

- [Water Quality Data from Select Spring and Stream Sites and Water and Sediment Quality Data from Major Tributaries of the Colorado River in Grand Canyon, Northern Arizona: U.S. Geological Survey Data Release.](#)

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