

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.](#)

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Photo: Colorado River, Sharon B. Megdal

End of 2020 Reflections

It is that season when we look back at the year about to end and ahead toward the coming year. What does one say at the end of this COVID-19 pandemic year? The pandemic changed things in ways we never could have imagined. We had to minimize or eliminate in-person interactions. Dislocation was experienced everywhere, including in the educational realm. Our lives were profoundly affected.

[Read More](#)

WRRRC EVENTS

Upcoming Webinars

Jan 14, 2021

Colorado River Water Transfers - Let's Discuss

Patrick Cunningham, *General Counsel Emeritus, HighGround Public Affairs*

Transfer of Water Rights in Arizona

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



Jan 20, 2021 – Collaborative Capacity Building and Sovereign Science with NASA and the Navajo Nation

Amber Jean McCullum, PhD, *Applied Scientist, BAERI/NASA Ames Research Center*
Nikki Tulley, *PhD Student, Department of Environmental Science, University of Arizona*

Feb 3, 2021 - Recovery Planning

Angie Lohse, *Senior Policy Analyst, Central Arizona Project*
Virginia O'Connell, *Director, Arizona Water Banking Authority*

Mar 11, 2021 - Community Service and Environmental Justice as Essential Best Practices for the Clean Water Utility of the Future

Andrew Kricun, *Managing Director, Moonshot Missions; Senior Fellow, US Water Alliance*



Happy Holidays

and a Joyful New Year!
From the WRRRC

The Weekly Wave will Return on Jan. 8, 2021

NEWS

Reclamation Article Series, Part 3: Eloy and Maricopa-Stanfield Basin Study

The following is part three of a four-part article series from our valued colleagues at the US Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation). The series will cover the three Basin Studies currently underway in Arizona. John Rasmussen, Eve Halper, and Valerie Swick, Water Resource Planners at Reclamation, authored the series. The final article in the series will be published in the January 8, 2021 issue of the Weekly Wave.

The Eloy and Maricopa-Stanfield Basin Study (Basin Study) is a collaboration between the US Bureau of Reclamation and the Pinal Partnership. The Pinal Partnership is an organization made up of public and private groups to create a vision of uniting community growth efforts in Pinal County. The study area is approximately 2,000 square miles of Pinal County in central Arizona, located between the rapidly expanding cities of Phoenix and Tucson. This area is a “hot spot” in the Arizona water resource management arena due to the confluence of water users and water demands. Currently, non-tribal agriculture occupies about 20% of the land and accounts for about 80% of the water used in the study area. In addition to other arid-southwest water issues, these agricultural users now face large delivery reductions of Central Arizona Project (CAP) water due to agreements set forth in the recently signed multi-state Lower Basin Drought Contingency Plan (DCP). As a result, groundwater pumping and aquifer overdraft effects may increase. This Basin Study will document the current water budget and profile a set of future supply and demand scenarios. The scenarios will be examined in an updated groundwater flow model. Adaptation strategies will be developed that consider the modeled scenarios and optimize water use. This Basin Study, initiated in November 2018, is scheduled to be completed in May 2022. For more information please see the project website at <http://pinalpartnership.com/ems-basin-study> or contact Valerie Swick at vswick@usbr.gov.



Stakeholder Consensus Process in the Edwards Aquifer Region, Texas

Last week's WRRC Brown Bag webinar “Balancing Environmental, Municipal, and Agricultural Needs in the Edwards Aquifer” featured Adam Yablonski, a farmer and rancher in Medina County, Texas, who has been involved in regional water planning for more than a decade. The Edwards Aquifer provides easy access to irrigation water to agricultural users in the Western counties and drinking water to two million people in the San Antonio and Austin metropolitan areas. For years, springs in the Eastern counties downstream received a very limited flow, which threatened already endangered species. Yablonski traced how a lawsuit, brought by the Sierra Club in the 90s, forced the Texas legislature to act, creating the Edwards Aquifer Authority to implement a water permitting system. Then in 2007, the legislature created the Edwards Aquifer Recovery Implementation Program, a consensus-based process involving stakeholders from cities, industries, utilities, environmental groups, river authorities, state governmental entities, and citizens. Through this process, many water management decisions were made, such as habitat restoration, municipal conservation, aquifer storage and recovery, and voluntary irrigation suspension options. Yablonski insisted on the importance of establishing trust and understanding among parties during the four-year-long consensus process.



[View the Recording](#)

Season's Greetings!

As the end of the year approaches, it is hard not to reflect on the changes in our work lives since we went into quarantine in March. Like many outreach programs at UArizona, we strove to reinvent ourselves and find new ways to reach our audiences with effective education. In time, our team learned how to be videographers, graphic designers, and technology wizards. Thanks to our team's herculean efforts, we have developed new ways to deliver our programs fully online. The Home Water Audit Program has accumulated student-generated water savings of 250,000 gallons per year to date! The Arizona Water Festival continues to engage 4th graders and now culminates with a magical virtual Celebration of Learning. We are continuing these efforts and bringing groundwater, outdoor exploration, and climate resiliency programs online in January. We are dedicated to serving teachers, students, and parents throughout AZ – those greatly impacted by this pandemic. We are especially grateful for our teachers, who have stayed committed to our programs and continue to do so much for their students.

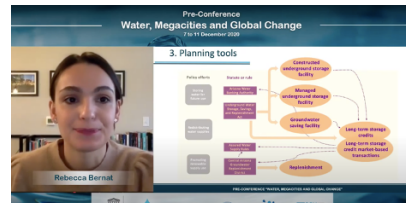


Thank you all for your interest in Arizona Project WET. We will continue to work hard for you!

We wish you Happy Holidays and Happy New Year! Check out our [Holiday Greetings Video](#). Thank You!

WRRC Graduate Assistant Featured on UNESCO YouTube Channel

WRRC Graduate Research Assistant Rebecca Bernat, Ph.D. Candidate in Environmental Science, presented her research at the *Second International Water, Megacities and Global Change Pre-Conference* organized by the UNESCO Division of Water Science and three French partners. The conference was held virtually on December 7-11, 2020, and live-streamed on the UNESCO YouTube Channel. The conference featured researchers, operators, civil society, students, and political representatives addressing challenges and solutions related to water, megacities, and global change. On December 10, Bernat presented her research on managed aquifer recharge and Arizona's water policy in a talk entitled "Global Change in the Sun Corridor Megaregion: managed aquifer recharge planning tools in the Central Arizona Desert, USA."



[Watch the Session](#)

New Accounting Assistant Joins WRRC

Kayla Catacutan is WRRC's new Accounting Assistant. She will receive an accounting certificate from Eller College of Management in Spring 2021. Kayla

previously worked at Facilities Management at UArizona where she was the first point of contact for any building maintenance need. She was born and raised in Tucson and has two dogs and one cat. Kayla enjoys traveling with her husband and her favorite destination is the Philippines. Welcome aboard, Kayla!



WATER JOBS

Arizona Project WET has an exciting new position in Maricopa County for an **Outreach Instructional Specialist**. This person will be working to develop and deliver the new *Groundwater Education and Conservation* (GEC) program in the West Valley area and will work with a broader statewide extension team of education specialists to meet APW's programmatic goals and objectives. [Click here to apply](#)

OR go to <https://talent.arizona.edu/> and search for Posting Number: **req3540**.

For additional information, please contact Sandra Hurlbut at shurlbut@arizona.edu.

- [Arizona Water Resources Specialists](#)
- [City of Tempe Environmental Compliance Supervisor](#)
- [ICWP Water Policy Internships](#) (Spring 2021 unpaid student internships)

Please visit [UA Water Network](#) for more water jobs & opportunities.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Dec 31:** [International Conference on Water Energy Food and Sustainability \(ICoWEFS 2021 – Leiria, Portugal\) - Abstract Deadline](#)
- **Dec 31:** [Water 2021 Travel Awards – Application Deadline](#)
- **Dec 31:** [2021 Virtual Joint AWRA & National Capital Annual Water Symposium, Human Dimension to Resilient and Sustainable Water Management: Promoting Integrated Collaboration – Abstract Deadline](#)
- **Jan 5-9, 2021:** [NCSE Drawdown 2021 Conference Research to Action: Science and Solutions for a Planet Under Pressure](#)
- **Jan 8, 2021:** [US Government Review: IPCC Sixth Assessment Report \(WGII\) – Deadline to submit comments](#)
- **Jan 12, 2021:** [GWAICC Desalination Committee Meeting](#)
- **Jan 15, 2021:** [Resources 2021 Travel Award - Application Deadline](#)
- **Jan 27-Mar 10, 2021:** [ADWR 5MP Work Group Meetings - 5MP Agricultural Subgroup Meeting, 5MP Municipal Subgroup Meeting, 5MP Turf Breakout Meeting, 5MP Safe-Yield Technical Subgroup Meeting](#)
- **Feb 1, 2021:** [AWRA 2021 Summer Conference Connecting Land and Water for Healthy Communities \(July 19 – 21\) Denver, CO - Special Session Submission Deadline](#)
- **Feb 15, 2021:** [Arizona Growing Water Smart Workshop - Application Deadline](#)
- **Feb 16-26, 2021:** [RiversEdge West 2021 Conference - Changing Rivers](#)
- **Feb 23-24, 2021:** [GRA Virtual Event: The Future of Water](#)
- **Mar 1, 2021:** [2021 Babbitt Center Dissertation Fellowships – Application Deadline](#)

- **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 18-19, 2021:** [The Third International Congress on Desert Economy: Energy Economics between Deserts and Oceans \(Dakhla, Morocco\)](#)
- **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](#)
- **Jun 21-23, 2021:** [WEF SWI Stormwater Summit 2021](#)
- **Nov 1-3, 2021:** [AIWW 2021: Blue-Green Deals with Integrated Solutions](#)
- **Sept 2022:** [IWA World Water Congress & Exhibition - Water for Smart Liveable Cities \(Copenhagen\)](#)

PUBLICATIONS & MEDIA

- [The Fragile Flyway: Conserving the Rio Grande Corridor](#)

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