



WRRC 2025 ANNUAL CONFERENCE



SHARED BORDERS SHARED WATERS

Working Together in Times of Scarcity

Conference Info:

- Livestreaming
- Conference Packet (Agenda, Speaker Bios, and More)



MAY 20
1:00 pm

MAY 21
8:30 am

University of Arizona
Student Union Grand Ballroom
Tucson, AZ

Image: Ben Yang – Pink Rain, Mt Lemmon, AZ
(2023), WRRC Photo Contest

Digital Conference Packet

Tuesday, May 20: 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm MST

Tuesday Reception: 5:15 pm – 7:15 pm MST

Wednesday, May 21: 8:30 am – 5:00 pm MST

1. Parking Info & Venue Maps
2. Attendee Info
3. Conference Agenda
4. Speaker/Moderator Bios
5. Day 2 Lunch Program Bios
6. 2025 Conference Advisory Committee
7. 2025 Conference Sponsors
8. WRRC Programs Flyer
9. Arroyo Flyer
10. 2024 Highlights
11. Support the WRRC
12. Conference Participant Evaluation

Parking Directions for WRRC 2025 Annual Conference

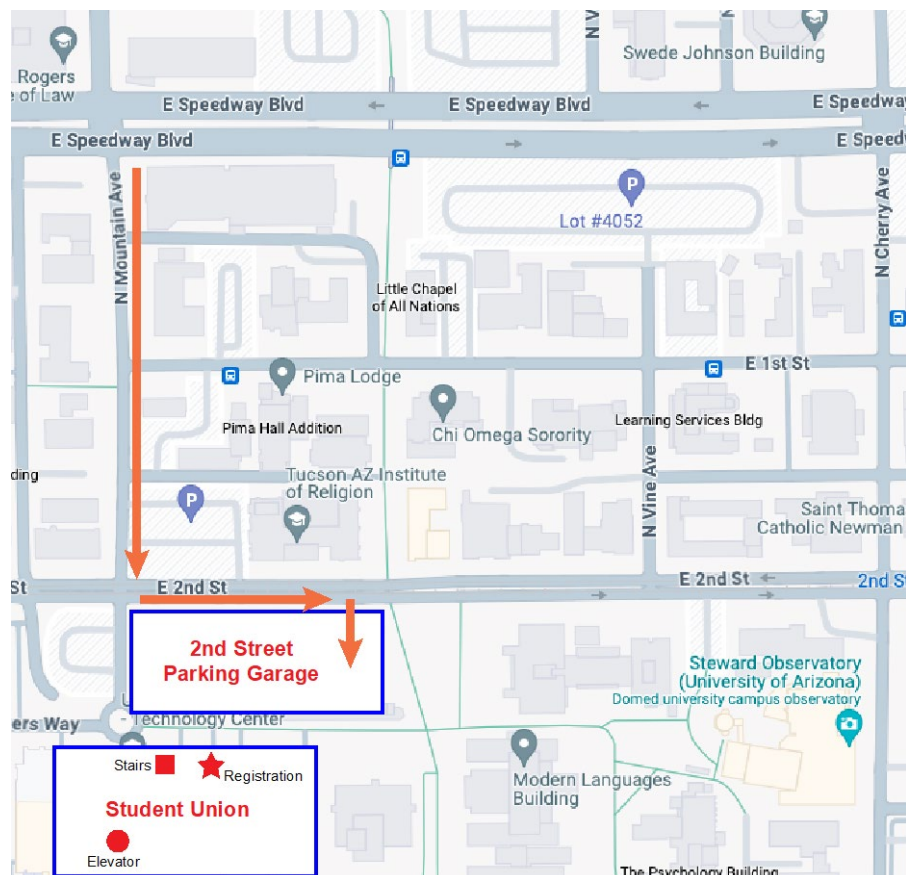
Getting to the Venue

- From Speedway Blvd, turn south onto Mountain Ave at the traffic light.
- At the next traffic light, turn left onto 2nd St.
- Immediately get into the right lane and turn right into the **2nd Street Parking Garage**.
- Push the button to get a ticket from the machine and proceed inside to park.
- **If the parking garage is “full” it is because we reserved space for this event. Tell the attendant you are there for the conference and they will let you in.**
- Use the southwest stairwell (or east side elevators) to exit the garage and walk south to the Student Union.
- Proceed **upstairs** and inside to the registration table to pick up your name badge and attendee packet.

Exiting the Parking Garage

- **If you pre-paid for parking**, you may pick up a parking voucher upon check-in.
- Pre-paid parking vouchers are **only valid at the 2nd Street Garage** and good for one exit.
- **If you have NOT pre-paid for parking** and would like to purchase a parking voucher, you may do so on our [Eventbrite](#) page by going to “Get Tickets” and scrolling down to “Add-Ons.” Pre-paid parking is \$10/day. Otherwise, standard parking is \$2/hour.
- When you leave, **scan your parking ticket and then the parking voucher** to exit. The new payment system in the parking garage may automatically read your license plate, so your total amount due (prior to scanning the voucher) may appear on screen before you have scanned your ticket.

Parking Map





FLOOR PLAN KEY

ATM	Involvement	Rest Rooms	Services	Walkways
Elevator	Lounges	Restricted	Vending	Patios & Open Seating
Food	Meeting Rooms	Retail	Water	

The Student Union memorial Center (SUMC) is a place of restricted public access. The SUMC is intended for the use of student, faculty, staff, guests of the University, and participants in authorized on-campus activities. Loitering or interfering with this intended use is prohibited, and violators will be required to leave.

Authority: ABOR Policy 7-201 • UA Campus Use Policy • A.R.S. § 13-2905, -2911

MAIN LEVEL



UA is tobacco free.
TobaccoFree.arizona.edu

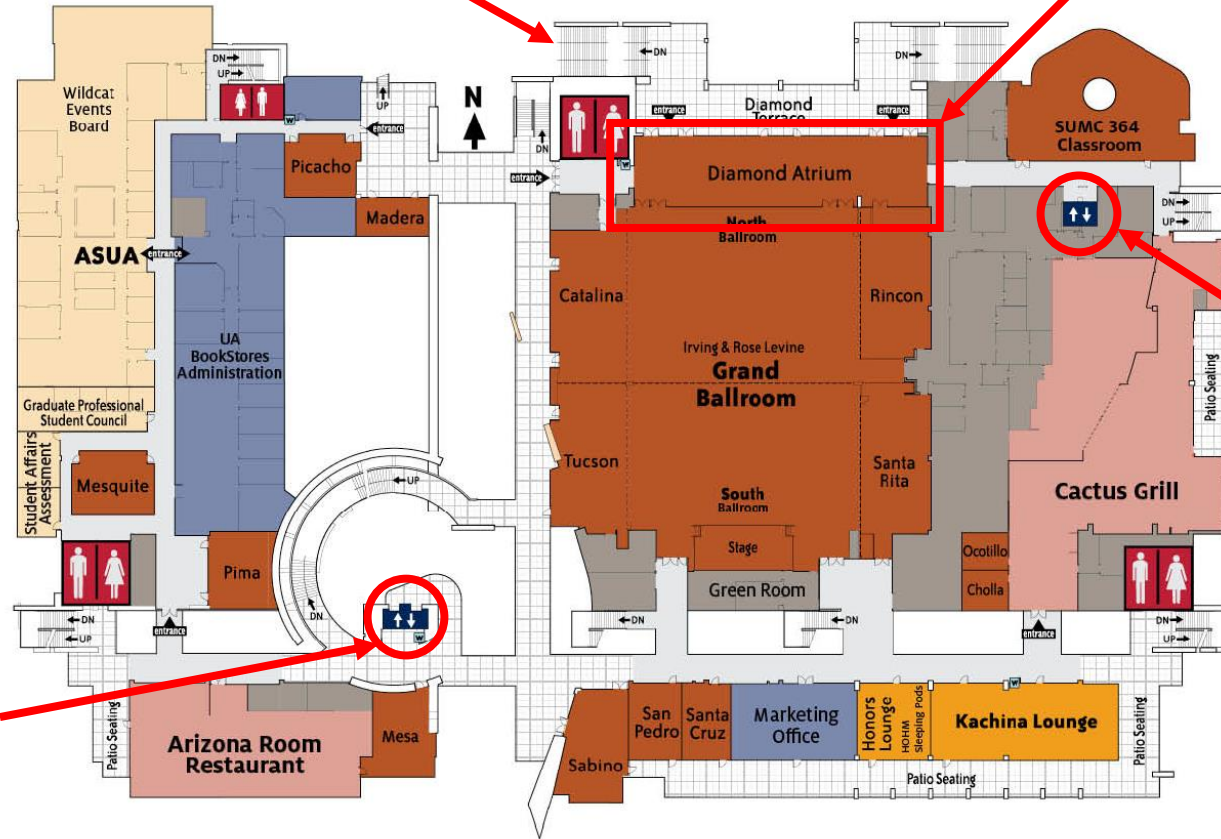
↑ To Second Street Parking Garage

Stairway from
Main Level

Conference
Registration

Elevator to
Main Level

Elevator to
Main Level



FLOOR PLAN KEY

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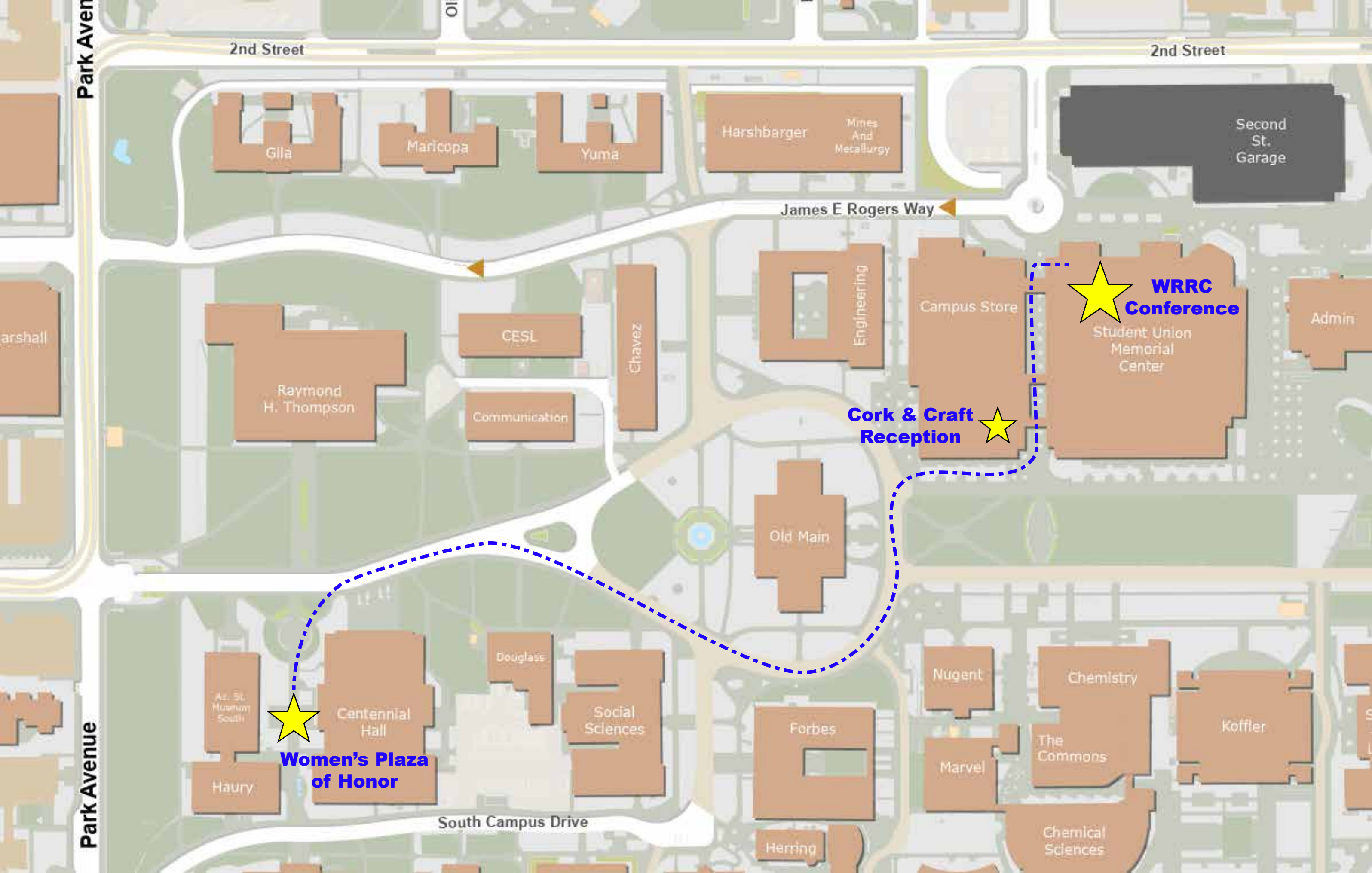
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THIRD LEVEL



UA is tobacco free.
TobaccoFree.arizona.edu



2nd Street

2nd Street

Park Avenue

Park Avenue

Gila

Maricopa

Yuma

Harshbarger

Mines
And
Metallurgy

Second
St.
Garage

James E Rogers Way

Raymond
H. Thompson

CESL

Chavez

Engineering

Campus Store

**WRRC
Conference**

Admin

Communication

**Cork & Craft
Reception**

Old Main

Ar. St.
Museum
South

Centennial
Hall

Haury

**Women's Plaza
of Honor**

Douglass

Social
Sciences

Forbes

Nugent

Chemistry

Koffler

Marvel

The
Commons

Chemical
Sciences

Herring

South Campus Drive

WRRRC Conference Attendee Info

Conference Website

Visit our website to:

- Register for the Zoom and access interpretation
- Download digital conference packet

Visita nuestro sitio web para:

- Inscribirse para el Zoom y accede a la interpretación
- Descargar paquete de conferencia digital



wrrc.arizona.edu/conference

Connect to Wi-Fi



Guests:

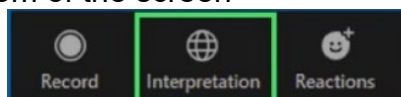
- Select UAGuest wi-fi network
- Open a browser if one doesn't open automatically
- Select "Create Account" if you haven't created one within the last 5 days
- Enter your name and phone number, and you'll receive a text message with your assigned name and password

U of A Students, Faculty, or Staff:

- Select the UAWiFi network
- Use your university NetID and password to sign in

Access Live English-to-Spanish Interpretation via Zoom

1. Register for the free Zoom livestream
2. Join Zoom using your own device and headphones
3. Locate the interpretation icon at the bottom of the screen



4. Select "Spanish" audio and "Mute original audio"
5. Keep your microphone off
6. Use the chat to ask questions about the conference or the Zoom. Unfortunately, we *will not* be able to communicate questions to speakers during Q&A

Acceda a Interpretación de Inglés a Español a través de Zoom

1. Inscribirse para la transmisión en vivo gratuita de Zoom
2. Conéctese a Zoom usando su propio aparato y auriculares
3. Localice el icono de interpretación en la parte inferior de la pantalla



4. Selecciona el idioma "Español" y activar "Silenciar el audio original"
5. Mantenga su micrófono desactivado
6. Utiliza el chat para realizar preguntas sobre la conferencia o el Zoom. Lamentablemente, *no podremos* enviar preguntas a los ponentes durante las sesiones de preguntas y respuestas



WRRC 2025
ANNUAL CONFERENCE



SHARED BORDERS
SHARED WATERS

Working Together in Times of Scarcity

Image: Ben Yang, WRRC Photo Contest



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

WATER RESOURCES
RESEARCH CENTER

Agenda

Tue, May 20

PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP

Better Listening to Help Transform Water Conflicts

8:30 AM Workshop Check-In/Light Refreshments

9:00 AM Workshop Start Time

11:30 AM Workshop Ends

CONFERENCE DAY 1

LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

11:30 AM Sponsor Check-In and SET-UP

12:00 PM Conference Registration Check-In (Ongoing)
University of Arizona Student Union Grand Ballroom
1303 E University Blvd, Tucson, AZ 85719

1:00 PM Conference Starts: Land Acknowledgement/Blessing/Opening Remarks

- Sharon B. Megdal, *Director, Water Resources Research Center, University of Arizona*
- Austin Nuñez, *Chairman, San Xavier District, Tohono O'odham Nation*

1:20 PM Special Dedication to the Memory and Legacy of Roberto F. Salmón Castelo (1953–2025), Former Commissioner, International Boundary and Water Commission – Mexican Section (2009–2020)

1:35 PM Keynote: Transforming Water Conflicts: Global Lessons in Hydrodiplomacy
Aaron Wolf, *Professor, Oregon State University*

2:05 PM Session 1: Frameworks for Collaboration Across Borders

- Moderator – Meena Westford, *Director of Imported Water, San Diego County Water Authority*
- Ramon Macias III, *Principal Engineer, International Boundary and Water Commission – US Section*
- Adriana Reséndez, *Commissioner, International Boundary and Water Commission – Mexican Section*

2:40 PM NETWORKING BREAK

2:55 PM Special Dedication to the Memory and Legacy of Raúl Grijalva (1948–2025),
US Congressman (2003–2025)

Session 2: Sharing the Colorado River

Session Introduction by Platinum Sponsor: Southern Arizona Water Users Association

- 3:10 PM
- Moderator – Arturo Gabaldón, *President and General Manager, Community Water Company of Green Valley*
 - Andrea Gerlak, *Professor, University of Arizona*
Introduction and Overview: History and Operations of the Colorado River
 - Carlos A. de la Parra, *Founding Partner, Centro Luken de Estrategias en Agua y Medio Ambiente*
Evolution of Collaboration between US and Mexico on the Colorado River
 - Amelia Flores, *Chairwoman, Colorado River Indian Tribes*
Effective Tribal Consultation
 - Francisco Zamora, *Senior Director of Programs, Sonoran Institute*
Cross-border Collaborations with NGOs
-

Session 3: Sharing Other Waters

Session Introduction by Platinum Sponsor: Michelle Oldfield, ASU Arizona Water Innovation Initiative

- 4:05 PM
- Moderator – Justin Dutram, *Assistant Vice President, Mexico and Latin American Affairs, University of Arizona*
 - Gilbert Anaya, *Chief, Environmental Management Division, International Boundary and Water Commission – US Section*
and
Blanca Cabello, *Deputy Director of Water Quality and Sanitation, International Boundary and Water Commission – Mexican Section*
Understanding the Transboundary Aquifer Assessment Program (TAAP) and Advances in Harmonizing Data Across Borders
 - Tanya Trujillo, *Deputy State Engineer and Senior Water Policy Advisor, New Mexico*
Update on the Rio Grande and Groundwater in New Mexico
-

Special Recognition: Chairwoman Amelia Flores and Day 1 Closing

- 4:50 PM
- Amelia Flores, *Chairwoman, Colorado River Indian Tribes*
 - Levi Esquerra, *Senior Vice President for Native American Advancement & Tribal Engagement, University of Arizona*
 - Sharon B. Megdal, *Director, Water Resources Research Center, University of Arizona*
-

5:15 PM RECEPTION at **Cork & Craft (U of A Student Union)**

Wed, May 21

CONFERENCE DAY 2

7:30 AM Day 2 Registration/BREAKFAST

8:30 AM Welcome Back Remarks/Land Acknowledgement

- Sharon B. Megdal, *Director, Water Resources Research Center, University of Arizona*
-

8:35 AM

Keynote: Infrastructure, Investment, and Binational Collaboration
John Beckham, *Managing Director, North American Development Bank (NADBank)*

8:55 AM

Session 4: Water Security and Trade

- Moderator – Natalie DeRoock, *Administrator for Public Affairs, Tucson Water*
- Rob Simm, *Senior Vice President, Emergent Sector Leader, Water, Stantec*
Future Prospects for Binational Desalination
- Glenn Williamson, *CEO, Canada Arizona Business Council*
Project Hourglass and Canadian Investments in the Water Sector
- Ben Ruddell, *Professor, School of Informatics Computing and Cyber Systems, Northern Arizona University*
Virtual Water Across Borders
- Michael Mendonca, *Senior Director, Water Strategic Services, Salt River Project (SRP)*
Cross-border Partnerships Exploring Water Augmentation on the Verde
- Francisco Lara-Valencia, *Professor, School of Transborder Studies, Arizona State University*
Planning Across Borders

10:00 AM

Session 5: Water Challenges and Funding

Session Introduction by Platinum Sponsor: Alice Templeton, Stantec

- Moderator – Thomas Throssell, *Assistant Director, Inter Tribal Council of Arizona*
- Heather Whiteman Runs Him, *Associate Clinical Professor and Director, Tribal Justice Clinic, University of Arizona*
Tribal Water Settlements and Funding for Tribal Water Infrastructure
- Brian Bennon, *Director of National Tribal Water Systems, Inter Tribal Council of Arizona (ITCA)*
Operational Capacity Development and Cross-border Knowledge Sharing
- Antonio Rascón, *Principal Engineer, International Boundary and Water Commission – Mexican Section*
and
Ramon Macias III, *Principal Engineer, International Boundary and Water Commission – US Section*
International Water Treatment Plants in San Diego-Tijuana and Ambos Nogales
- Judah Waxelbaum, *Chief Legislative Liaison, Water Infrastructure Authority*
WIFA's Approach to Water Augmentation and Funding/Financing

11:05 AM

Dear Body of Water Interlude

- Gretchen E. Henderson, *Poetry Center, University of Arizona*

11:10 AM

NETWORKING BREAK

11:25 AM

Tribal Leader Keynotes:

- ♦ Verlon M. Jose, *Chairman, Tohono O'odham Nation*
- ♦ Stephen Roe Lewis, *Governor, Gila River Indian Community*
 - Introduction – Karen Cesare, *Board Secretary, Central Arizona Project*
 - Introduction – Gwendena Lee-Gatewood, *Co-Chair, Indigenous Women's Leadership Network*

**Additional info can
be found here**

wrrc.arizona.edu/conference



12:15 PM LUNCH BUFFET OPENS

Lunch Program: Arizona-Sonora Border Dialogue:

- 12:35 PM
- ♦ The Honorable Katie Hobbs, Governor of Arizona
 - ♦ The Honorable Alfonso Durazo Montaña, Governor of Sonora
- Consecutive Spanish-to-English Interpretation by Jaime M. Fatas, Associate Specialist, University of Arizona
- Acknowledgements – Sharon B. Megdal, *Director, Water Resources Research Center, University of Arizona*
 - Introduction – Suresh Garimella, *President, University of Arizona*
-

Session 6: Water Sector Collaborations

Session Introduction by Platinum Sponsor: Michael Mendonca, Salt River Project

- 2:15 PM
- Moderator – Joaquin Marruffo, *Border Programs Manager, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality*
 - John Kmiec, *Director, Tucson Water*
Municipal Sector: Tucson's Collaborations Across Borders
 - Joshua Moore, *Farm Manager, Colorado River Indian Tribes Farms*
Agricultural Sector: CRIT Farms and Water Conservation
 - Allison Moore, *Executive Vice President, Fresh Produce Association of the Americas*
Agricultural Sector: Cross-border Agricultural Production, Trade, and Transportation
 - Sandy Fabritz, *Director of Water Strategy, Freeport McMoRan*
Mining Sector: Innovations in Mining Water Use
-

3:10 PM NETWORKING BREAK

Session 7: Data and Knowledge Sharing

- 3:25 PM
- Moderator – Holly Estrada Mechsner, *Executive Director, Canada Arizona Business Council*
 - Susan Montgomery, *Attorney, Montgomery & Interpreter, PLC*
Building Trust through Data and Collaborative Modeling
 - Rosario Sanchez, *Senior Research Scientist, Texas Water Resources Institute*
Binational Knowledge Sharing Platform
 - Elia Tapia, *Professor, Universidad de Sonora*
Translating Science
-

US Bureau of Reclamation Update

- 4:10 PM
- Introduction – Alexander Smith, *Area Manager, Bureau of Reclamation, Phoenix Area Office*
 - Carly Jerla, *Post-2026 Program Manager, Bureau of Reclamation (Via Zoom)*
 - Amy Witherall, *Binational Program Manager, Lower Colorado River Basin Region, Bureau of Reclamation (Via Zoom)*
-

Keynote: Status of Colorado River Negotiations

- 4:30 PM
- Tom Buschatzke, *Director, Arizona Department of Water Resources*
- Introduction – Jamie McEvoy, *Associate Director, Water Resources Research Center, University of Arizona*
-

4:50 PM Conference Closing Remarks

5:00 PM End of Conference

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**WATER RESOURCES
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Bios

Image: Ben Yang, WRRC Photo Contest

Gilbert Anaya

Chief, Environmental Management Division,
International Boundary and Water Commission – US Section



Gilbert Anaya joined the International Boundary and Water Commission – U.S. Section in 1999 and is currently the division chief of the Environmental Management Division, working on various environmental and water issues along the United States-Mexico border. He serves on binational

technical teams dealing with water resources, sanitation, and the environment. Anaya is currently working on sanitation issues in the Tijuana River basin and a transboundary aquifer study for the Santa Cruz River Aquifer. He has a Bachelor of Science and Ph.D. from the University of Texas at El Paso and a Master of Science from the University of Texas at San Antonio. He also served in the United States Army. He is a lifelong desert dweller and enjoys tennis, movies, and finding solutions to complex water issues (really!!).

John Beckham

Managing Director, North American Development Bank (NADBank)

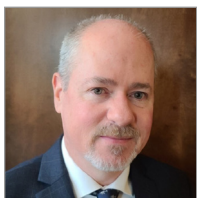


John Beckham was appointed as managing director by the NADBank board of directors on November 8, 2023, after serving as deputy managing director of the bank since January 2021. Prior to joining NADBank, Beckham worked at the Inter-American Investment Corporation (IIC) for 19 years in

various positions. He also served as chief investment and operating officer for MicroVest, a private impact investment management company. He has worked in international finance and development since 1991. Beckham has a BA from the University of Notre Dame and an MBA from the Ohio State University. A native Spanish speaker, he has lived in Argentina, Brazil, and Mexico. He is active in community affairs through various volunteer, parish, and alumni advisory boards.

Brian Bennon

Director of National Tribal Water Systems,
Inter Tribal Council of Arizona (ITCA)



Brian Bennon is the director of the National Tribal Water Systems Department at ITCA, a non-profit organization created by the 21 Member Tribes of the Inter Tribal Association of Arizona. Bennon oversees the ITCA national training, certification, and technical

assistance services for drinking water and wastewater operator personnel from over 200 tribal communities across a service area spanning U.S. EPA regions 5 through 10. He has worked for Indian Country for 28 years. Prior to joining ITCA in 2010, he worked for a tribe in Arizona for 14 years as a hydrologist, helping with the management of the tribe's water resources.

Tom Buschatzke

Director, Arizona Department of Water Resources

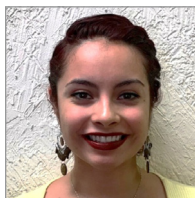


Tom Buschatzke was appointed director of the Arizona Department of Water Resources in January 2015. Buschatzke serves as the Governor's Representative for the state of Arizona on matters relating to the Colorado River. He is the chairman of both the Arizona Water Banking Authority and the Governor's

Water Policy Council as well as a member of the newly created Water Infrastructure Finance Authority board. Further, he is a co-chair of the Drought Inter-Agency Coordinating Council and represents the state in Tribal water rights negotiations. Buschatzke is the U.S. co-chair for the Minute 323 Binational Desalination Work Group, which is charged with exploring desalination opportunities with the Republic of Mexico.

Blanca Cabello

Deputy Director of Water Quality and Sanitation,
International Boundary and Water Commission – Mexican Section



Blanca Cabello has a bachelor's degree in chemistry from the Autonomous University of Ciudad Juárez, Mexico. For four years, she has worked in the private sector developing environmental impact assessments. She has worked with the Mexican Section of the IBWC between Mexico and the United States

since 2019, where she began as head of the water quality office until 2024, when she became the deputy director of water quality and sanitation.

Karen Cesare

Board Secretary, Central Arizona Project

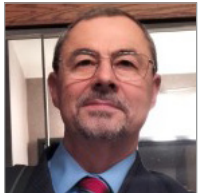


Karen Novak Cesare was elected to her first six-year term on the CAWCD Board representing Pima County on November 4, 2014, and was re-elected to a second term on November 3, 2020. Cesare was born in Phoenix and is a third-generation Arizonan.

She is a registered landscape architect in Arizona and California and has owned and operated Novak Environmental, Inc., since 1998. Cesare graduated from the University of Arizona with a bachelor's and master's degree in landscape architecture from the College of Agriculture – School of Renewable Natural Resources. Cesare previously served and chaired the City of Tucson's Citizens' Water Advisory Committee and CAP Oversight Committee and served and chaired the Arizona State Board of Technical Registration.

Carlos de la Parra

Founding Partner, Centro Luken de Estrategias en Agua y Medio Ambiente



Carlos de la Parra is a professor and researcher at the Colegio de la Frontera Norte in the department of Urban Studies and Environment, where he has worked since 1986. de la Parra played a role in the negotiation of the recent bilateral agreement on the management of the Colorado River, serving as advisor to the International Boundary and Water Commission. He was the federal delegate to Baja California for the Mexican Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources from 2002 to 2004 and served as environmental minister at the Mexican Embassy in Washington, DC, from 2004 to 2006. He earned a Ph.D. in environmental planning from the University of Michigan and has published extensively on issues of sustainability and development in the Mexico-U.S. border region.

Natalie DeRoock

Administrator for Public Affairs, Tucson Water



Natalie DeRoock is the senior public information officer for Tucson Water. She is a former public affairs strategist for the U.S. Department of State. DeRoock served overseas where she amplified global programming for research partnerships, economic development, and higher education and directed the national Fulbright Program. She was also the co-recipient of a National Science Foundation award for best practices in cross-disciplinary STEM education at the University of Arizona. She's a natural multicultural communicator and is best known by colleagues as a "water diplomat."

Justin Dutram

Assistant Vice President, Mexico and Latin American Affairs, University of Arizona



As assistant vice president for Mexico and Latin American Affairs for the University of Arizona, Dutram is responsible for regional international education initiatives, including developing new partnerships and managing dual degree micro-campus locations in Latin America and Spain and serving as an institutional liaison with higher education, government, and private sector partners in Mexico and Latin America. Dutram joined the U of A in 2008 and has since served in multiple roles focused on international collaboration development. He

received his M.Ed. in bilingual and multicultural education from Northern Arizona University in 2003 and his B.S. in geography from New Mexico State University in 1993.

Levi Esquerria

Senior Vice President for Native American Advancement & Tribal Engagement, University of Arizona



The Honorable N. Levi Esquerria (Chemehuevi) is the University of Arizona's first senior vice president for Native American advancement and Tribal engagement. In this position, he coordinates university-wide efforts to advance Native American programs, serves as a point of contact for Native issues, and acts as a liaison between the university and Tribal governments and regional and national tribal organizations. Esquerria has three decades of experience facilitating and promoting Native American advancement and economic development for Native Nations, including 32 months as chairman. He is currently serving his fourth term on the Tribal Council.

Sandy Fabritz

Director of Water Strategy, Freeport McMoRan



Sandy Fabritz has served as the director of water strategy for Freeport-McMoRan for the past nine years, responsible for the company's water supplies and water rights, water acquisition, conservation, and water supply sustainability across its portfolio. Fabritz is a former director for the Arizona Department of Water Resources and has been in water management for over 30 years, including work in water regulation and water resources planning for the State of Arizona and Freeport. She works with government agencies and leaders at the local, state, and federal levels on water supply issues and has led efforts on drought management, Tribal water settlements, groundwater management, and Colorado River issues in the southwest. Fabritz is a graduate from Arizona State University and, as a native Arizonan, understands what it is to live and thrive in an arid environment and is committed to sustainable water management and cooperative water resource development for all water users.

Amelia Flores

Chairwoman, Colorado River Indian Tribes



Amelia Flores serves as chairwoman of the Colorado River Indian Tribal Council. In this role she oversees all aspects of the Tribal government, chairs council meetings, and addresses issues like health and education. Flores is involved in language revitalization efforts within the community. She earned a bachelor's in education at NAU and a master's in linguistics from the U of A. A former Tribal Librarian/Archivist, Flores has volunteered her time serving on local, tribal, state committees, boards, and commissions in regards to libraries, archives, early childhood education, foster care, language revitalization, and the humanities. She has received many awards for her Library/Archives and Language work, and

was recently recognized as 2021 Leader of the Year – Environment/Public Policy by the Arizona Capitol Times. Flores lives on the Colorado River Indian Reservation with her husband, Neil Flores, Sr.

Arturo Gabaldón

*President and General Manager,
Community Water Company of Green Valley*



Arturo Gabaldón is president and general manager of Community Water Company of Green Valley, a nonprofit utility in Southern Arizona, where he has served since 1990. A CPA proficient in leadership, finance, and public service, he leads the utility's operations, long-term planning, and community outreach. Gabaldón serves on several boards and committees, including the Arizona-Mexico Commission, the Water Utilities Association of Arizona, AZWarn, and the Southern Arizona Water Users Association. He is dedicated to advancing water sustainability, workforce development, and building strong community partnerships. Gabaldón and his spouse, Rosanna, make their home in Sahuarita.

Andrea Gerlak

Professor, University of Arizona



Andrea K. Gerlak is the director of the Udall Center for Studies in Public Policy and a professor at the School of Geography, Development, and Environment at the University of Arizona. Her research agenda focuses on cooperation and conflict in water governance, including questions of equity and access, institutional change, learning, and adaptation. She is author or co-author of more than 100 publications. Presently, she serves on the City of Tucson's water advisory committee and is a senior fellow with the Earth Systems Governance network. Gerlak has more than two decades of experience leading interdisciplinary environmental studies programs and university-community environmental partnerships. She has consulted on water governance and climate resilience efforts for UNESCO and the WMO.

Gretchen Henderson

Poetry Center, University of Arizona



Gretchen Ernster Henderson is an environmental writer, educator, and founder of *Dear Body of Water*: a poetic water-harvesting project (with the University of Arizona Poetry Center and Kent State University's Wick Poetry Center), inviting people to write love letters to water to join a global poem and cultivate care for watersheds (dearbodyofwater.poetsforscience.org). Henderson lives seasonally in the Sonoran Desert, grateful for the Santa Cruz River Watershed among vital waterways. In Fall 2025, she will begin as the Spence L. Wilson Distinguished Professor in Humanities at Rhodes College in the Mississippi River Watershed while continuing to collaborate with the U of A Poetry Center and partners like WRRC to grow *Dear Body of Water* and cultivate care for WaterWays.

Carly Jerla

Post-2026 Program Manager, Bureau of Reclamation



Carly Jerla is an engineer with the Lower Colorado Region of the Bureau of Reclamation. Her work entails conducting studies using water operations models and the development of those models, primarily long-term. Prior to joining Reclamation, she worked at the University of Colorado's Center for Advanced Decision Support for Water and Environmental Systems, a research center jointly sponsored by Reclamation, the Tennessee Valley Authority, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Jerla obtained B.S. degrees in Civil and Environmental Engineering and Engineering and Public Policy from Carnegie Mellon University in 2002. She earned her M.S. in Civil Engineering from the University of Colorado in 2005.

Verlon Jose

Chairman, Tohono O'odham Nation



Chairman Verlon M. Jose is an enrolled member of the Tohono O'odham Nation from the Tecolote Community of the Nation's Chukut Kuk District. He has dedicated more than 20 years to serving the Tohono O'odham community, including tenures on the Tohono O'odham Legislative Council and as chairman of the Chukut Kuk District. He served as Vice Chairman of the Tohono O'odham Nation from 2015-2019 and most recently represented the O'odham communities in Mexico as Governor of the Traditional O'odham Leaders. He has served on multiple boards, committees, and organizations at the local, state, and national levels. Jose plays an active role in upholding O'odham Himdag (culture and way of life) by sharing traditional songs and values.

John Kmiec

Director, Tucson Water



John Kmiec's career spans more than 30 years with an emphasis on water resource management, utility leadership, aquifer storage and recovery, and water quality challenges. Throughout his career and during his tenure as the director of Marana Water, Kmiec amplified efforts to shape Arizona's long-term vision and policy about sustainable water supplies, water quality, and the principle that all water has value.

Francisco Lara-Valencia

Professor, School of Transborder Studies, Arizona State University



Francisco Lara-Valencia is a professor at the School of Transborder Studies and Southwest Borderland Scholar at Arizona State University. He is also an affiliated faculty member at the School of Geographical Sciences and Urban Planning. He received his Ph.D. in urban planning from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor and completed graduate and undergraduate work in Mexico. He has lectured

in Mexico and the U.S., teaching primarily urban and environmental planning, transborder theory, and U.S.-Mexico border development. Lara-Valencia's research focuses on socio-environmental vulnerability, regional development, urban governance and planning, and the role of community networks on sustainable development along the U.S.-Mexico border and in the U.S. Southwest.

Gwendena Lee-Gatewood

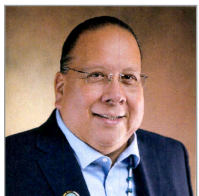
Co-Chair, Indigenous Women's Leadership Network



Gwendena Lee-Gatewood is a resilient voice of her people. As co-chair of the Indigenous Women's Leadership Network, she uplifts Native women on global stages. She serves on the Show Low Chamber of Commerce board and leads as community president of McNary-Hondah. From 2018–2022, she served as the first woman elected Tribal Chair of her Nation. Her leadership flows from deep cultural roots and a sacred relationship with the land and water.

Stephen Roe Lewis

Governor, Gila River Indian Community

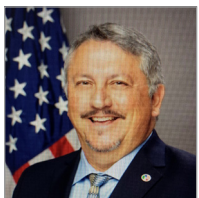


Governor Stephen Roe Lewis was elected governor of the Gila River Indian Community in 2014. His parents are Rodney B. and Willardene Lewis. Gov. Lewis oversees the implementation of the Community's Water Settlement of 2004 (the largest water settlement of its kind in U.S.

history at the time). He serves on the executive committee of the National Congress of American Indians and on many boards, commissions, and councils. Gov. Lewis graduated with a B.S. from Arizona State University and pursued graduate studies at John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

Ramon Macias

Principal Engineer, International Boundary and Water Commission – US Section



Ramon (Ray) Macias III has over 36 years of federal service. He worked for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for 32 years before transferring to the U.S. Section of the IBWC in July 2020. While with the Corps, he deployed to Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom, where he

oversaw a \$500M construction program. Before coming to the IBWC, he served in multiple positions, including project engineer, resident engineer, section chief, project manager, area engineer, and acting chief of the construction branch. As principal engineer for USIBWC, Macias manages the planning, coordinating, budgeting, and supervising of engineering and construction for any projects built on or within USIBWC property or that cross the international border. Macias is a registered professional engineer with a bachelor's in civil engineering and a master's in business.

Joaquin Marruffo

*Border Programs Manager,
Arizona Department of Environmental Quality*



Joaquin Marruffo Ruiz holds a bachelor's degree in architecture and a master's in renewable energy management from the Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey (ITESM). He has a second master's degree in environmental planning from Arizona State University.

Marruffo has worked in the environmental public sector for more than 25 years. He provides a special focus on binational cooperation between Mexico and the United States, addressing issues on water quality, flooding, air quality, and waste management along the US-Mexico border region. He worked for the Mexican federal government at SEMARNAT, the state government at the environment department, and the North American Development Bank, where he was part of the team that launched the first border green infrastructure program. Since 2020, Marruffo has worked for the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality as the border programs manager and the Title VI Coordinator.

Jamie McEvoy

*Associate Director, Water Resources Research Center,
University of Arizona*



Jamie McEvoy is the Associate Director of The University of Arizona WRRC and Associate Extension Specialist in the Department of Environmental Science. She received her Ph.D. in Geography and Development from the University of Arizona in 2013 with a focus on climate change adaptation in the water sector in the

U.S.-Mexico border region. Prior to joining the WRRC, McEvoy was an Associate Professor at Montana State University (2013-2024), where she conducted research on water governance. She has published on topics including participatory water planning, ecological drought, flood risk communication, desalination, climate adaptation, and nature-based strategies. As a social scientist, Jamie works with interdisciplinary teams and diverse stakeholders to analyze water policy and management strategies and identify barriers and opportunities for equitable water governance. The cornerstone of her research and extension activities is building relationships with interested partners to collaboratively address water issues.

Holly Estrada Mechsner

Executive Director, Canada Arizona Business Council



Holly Estrada Mechsner is an international executive with a broad background in corporate finance, management, marketing, and business consulting, and she is a global data compliance professional. Her current position is founder and CEO of Global Executive Compliance. As a consultant, she assesses, recommends, and creates an overall data compliance plan, including updating existing platforms for small- to mid-sized companies. Holly's dynamic mix of global experience, management, people skills, and solid business sense have

made her a highly reputable leader both locally and internationally. Mechsner is currently contracted by the Canada Arizona Business Council in the position of executive director. She is responsible for the recruitment of new members, maintaining existing member relationships, and supporting the non-profit's mission to increase bilateral trade between Canada and Arizona through its many initiatives.

Sharon Megdal

Director, Water Resources Research Center, University of Arizona



Sharon B. Megdal is director of the WRRC, professor and specialist in the department of environmental science, C.W. & Modene Neely endowed professor, and distinguished outreach professor. Her work aims to bridge the academic, practitioner, and civil society communities through water

policy and management research, education, and engagement programs. Megdal teaches the graduate course Water Policy in Arizona and Semi-arid Regions and has won multiple awards for her contributions to water research and education. Her current professional activities include serving on the leadership team for the Water & Tribes Initiative, Colorado River Basin; the board for the Kasser Joint Institute for Food, Water, and Energy Security; and the Global Leadership Council for the Women in Water Diplomacy Network. Past service includes the Central Arizona Project board of directors and the Arizona Corporation Commission. Megdal holds a Ph.D. in Economics from Princeton University.

Michael Mendonca

Senior Director, Water Strategic Services, Salt River Project (SRP)



Michael Mendonca is the senior director of SRP's Water Strategic Services, which is responsible for water strategy, water finance, and water technology support. Part of the focus of his team is regional water resiliency through key projects such as the Verde sedimentation project and the

expansion of SRP's interconnection with CAP, which are in support of SRP's mission of providing reliable, affordable, and sustainable water and energy. Mendonca has been with SRP for 28 years. He holds bachelor's degrees in computer information systems and marketing as well as an MBA. On a personal note, Mendonca is married to his beautiful wife of 26 years with three children and three grandchildren.

Susan Montgomery

Attorney, Montgomery & Interpreter, PLC



Susan Montgomery is a founding partner of the Phoenix-based law firm Montgomery & Interpreter, PLC. For more than two decades, she has provided legal representation and strategic policy advice to Tribal governments, Tribal enterprises, and private businesses on federal Indian

law, water law, cultural resource protection, and environmental law. Montgomery also represents several federally recognized Indian Tribes in the legal proceedings charged with determining the surface water rights for state and federal water rights

claimants in Arizona. In addition to her work for Tribes in Arizona, Montgomery is a board member for Arizona's Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona.

Allison Moore

Executive Vice President, Fresh Produce Association of the Americas



Allison Moore is the executive vice president of the Fresh Produce Association of the Americas and has been with the association since 2001, working on government affairs issues related to cross-border trade, agriculture, transportation, infrastructure, food safety, and more. She has served on the boards of the Nogales Economic Development Foundation, Nogales Community Development, and the Greater Nogales Santa Cruz County Port Authority. Through her involvement in the produce industry, Moore actively works to strengthen produce businesses through bringing infrastructure improvements to the area, working on federal regulatory issues, enhancing customs and border protection processes and integration with industry and partnering government agencies in the U.S. and Mexico, and creating a more effective business environment for the members of the produce industry. She is a graduate of the University of Virginia and the University of Arizona and lives in Santa Cruz County, Arizona.

Joshua Moore

Farm Manager, Colorado River Indian Tribes Farms



Joshua Moore is the general manager of the CRIT Farms, a 33,000+ acre farm owned and operated by the Colorado River Indian Tribes near Parker, Arizona. A member of the Colorado River Indian Tribes, Moore works with tribal leadership at CRIT to steward the land and waters for the benefit of future generations of Tribal members to live and farm along the banks of the Colorado River. With a B.S. and M.S. from the University of Arizona, Moore focuses on creating collaborative partnerships with public and private institutions in order to elevate agricultural production at the Colorado River Indian Tribes.

Austin Nuñez,

Chairman, San Xavier District, Tohono O'odham Nation



Austin Nuñez has been chairman of the San Xavier District, one of the eleven legislative districts of the Tohono O'odham Nation, since 1987. He presides over district council and community meetings and is CEO for the district's governmental operations. Prior to becoming district

chairman, Nuñez worked for two different Native American community development programs, first serving as assistant director for an international community development organization, serving 19 Native American nations in Arizona, then as assistant director for the Tohono O'odham Nation's (formerly Papago Tribe of AZ) Community Development Program. Nuñez is president of the San Xavier Development Authority Board, an allottee-controlled board that manages the

Hikdan Business Park located on the San Xavier District. He was appointed in 2022 to the Governmental Advisory Committee providing guidance to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Nuñez has three adult children and six grandchildren.

Antonio Rascón

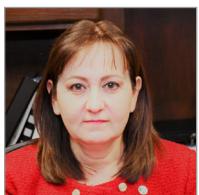
Principal Engineer, International Boundary and Water Commission – Mexican Section



Antonio Rascón is a civil engineer who graduated from the Autonomous University of Chihuahua and earned a master's degree in water resources management from the Haifa Institute of Technology, Israel. He has worked as an academic and researcher at the Autonomous University of Chihuahua and Ciudad Juárez and as a consultant developing water supply studies for several communities in Mexico. He worked at the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources, where he held the positions of geohydrological evaluation resident, well resident, and geohydrology and arid zones resident in the State of Chihuahua. He currently works at the Mexican Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission between Mexico and the United States, where he has held the positions of Head of the Groundwater Department, Deputy Director of Engineering, and Principal Engineer, the latter of which he has held since 1990.

Adriana Reséndez

Commissioner, International Boundary and Water Commission – Mexican Section



Adriana Beatriz Carolina Reséndez Maldonado has served as the Mexican commissioner of the IBWC between Mexico and the United States since September 2021. Reséndez has a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the Universidad Autónoma de Chihuahua, where she also completed a master's degree in hydraulic resources in arid zones. During her 25 years at the Mexican section of the IBWC, she has contributed to the compliance of binational treaties between Mexico and the U.S. regarding the distribution of international waters between binational river basins. As a commissioner, Reséndez participates in the negotiation of several Commission Minutes as well as in the inter-institutional and binational coordination for the development of major projects in the U.S.-Mexico border region.

Ben Ruddell, Professor

School of Informatics Computing and Cyber Systems, Northern Arizona University



Benjamin Ruddell is currently a professor in the school of informatics, computing, and cyber systems at Northern Arizona University. From 2020-2022, he served as director of SICCS. His Ph.D. was in civil and environmental engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

He is a registered professional engineer in Arizona in the water

resources practice area. His professional experience is in informatics, data science, systems engineering, and the leadership of the interdisciplinary university enterprise.

Rosario Sanchez

Senior Research Scientist, Texas Water Resources Institute



Rosario Sanchez is a senior research scientist at the Texas Water Resources Institute and an associate graduate faculty member of the water management and hydrological sciences program at Texas A&M University. She is co-chair of the Transboundary Aquifers Commission of the International Association of Hydrogeologists and Founder and Director of the Permanent Forum of Binational Waters. She is also the PI of the Transboundary Aquifer Assessment Act Program (TAAP) for the state of Texas, founder of the Transboundary Water Portal, and leader of the transboundary groundwater research team. She has served on international panels and committees at UNESCO, International Groundwater Resources Assessment Center, and the International Water Resources Association. She has a bachelor's degree in international relations from Monterrey Tech, a master's degree in diplomacy from the Institute of Diplomatic Studies Matias Romero (Foreign Service Academy), and a Ph.D. in water management and hydrological sciences from Texas A&M University.

Rob Simm

Senior Vice President, Emergent Sector Leader, Water, Stantec



Rob Simm is a senior vice president at Stantec. He has over 30 years' experience in municipal and industrial water and wastewater treatment, including project development, process evaluation and design, project management, facility planning and optimization, pilot testing, operators training, and contract administration. Simm focuses on project development for Stantec and specifically private equity-funded industrial and municipal infrastructure projects. He is an adjunct professor in the civil engineering department at the University of British Columbia and a visiting scholar at John Hopkins University in the school of public health.

Alexander Smith

Area Manager, Bureau of Reclamation, Phoenix Area Office



Alexander B. Smith has been the area manager for the Phoenix area of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation since 2022. Smith began his career with Reclamation in June 2010 with the Phoenix Area Office, and since that time has held roles as a wildlife biologist, environmental resource management division manager, and deputy area manager. Smith has been involved in many key water issues within the State of Arizona, including the Colorado River shortages, numerous Indian water rights settlements, the Verde Reservoirs Sediment Mitigation Project, and Pumped Storage. Smith

earned a bachelor's in terrestrial wildlife conservation biology and a J.D. from Arizona State University and is a member of the Arizona Bar Association.

Elia Tapia

Professor, Universidad de Sonora



Elia Tapia is a faculty professor at Universidad de Sonora in Hermosillo, Mexico. She holds a PhD in Arid Lands Resource Sciences, and her expertise includes applied hydrology, hydrogeology, climate change, and disaster risk assessment. Tapia has contributed to the U.S.-Mexico Transboundary Aquifer Assessment Program and projects for private and public institutions across the US, Latin America, and the Caribbean. She has also worked with the Inter-American Development Bank on transboundary water initiatives, focusing on governance, stakeholder engagement, and climate resilience in water resources.

Thomas Throssell

Assistant Director, Inter Tribal Council of Arizona



Thomas R. Throssell is an enrolled member of the Tohono O'odham Nation, whose family comes from the village of San Miguel in Chukut Kuk District. He has more than 25 years of experience working in media and communications; has an extensive history working with Tribal, state, and federal governments; and has operated an independent Tribal publishing company for more than 10 years. Throssell produced the Tohono O'odham Nation's The Runner newspaper and online media outlets, which were distributed to all four O'odham sister Tribes and throughout the United States. Throssell served as Tribal liaison for the Central Arizona Project. He now serves as the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona's Assistant Director, where he works to address common issues that affect Tribal communities in Arizona by strengthening Tribal governance and sovereignty.

Tanya Trujillo

Deputy State Engineer and Senior Water Policy Advisor, New Mexico



Tanya Trujillo is a water lawyer with more than 30 years of experience working on complex natural resources management issues and interstate and transboundary water agreements. Trujillo currently serves New Mexico as Deputy State Engineer and Senior Water Advisor to the Office of the Governor. Trujillo previously served as Assistant Secretary for Water and Science at the U.S. Department of Interior and was general counsel of the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission. Her background also includes work on the Colorado River as the executive director of the Colorado River Board of California, as a program director with the Colorado River Sustainability Campaign, and as senior counsel for the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. She holds a bachelor's degree from Stanford University and a Juris Doctor from the University of Iowa College of Law.

Judah Waxelbaum

Chief Legislative Liaison, Water Infrastructure Authority



Judah Waxelbaum serves as the chief legislative liaison of the Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona. Overseeing WIFA's government relations, he has been able to watch the over \$1 billion in projects funded through WIFA make a real difference for Arizona communities.

Waxelbaum has spent nearly a decade in Arizona politics and government affairs, encompassing statewide campaigns, administrative rule making, and successful legislative portfolios. He is a proud two-time graduate of Arizona State University, having received his master's in public policy and bachelor's in political science.

Meena Westford

Director of Imported Water, San Diego County Water Authority



Meena Westford rejoined the San Diego County Water Authority in 2024 after serving for the previous 12 years as an executive policy advisor for Colorado River Programs at the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. Westford has more than three decades of experience in water

policy, water resource management, and intergovernmental and foreign relations. At Metropolitan, she worked on Colorado River issues, intergovernmental relations with Tribal nations, and engagement with NGOs and Mexico. Before that, she worked for the Water Authority from 2008-2012 in the General Manager's Office on dry-year water transfers and regional outreach and as manager of the water conservation department. During the 1990s and early 2000s, Westford served at the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation in a variety of capacities and locations, including the California-Great Basin Region, the Lower Colorado Basin Region, and several stints in Washington, D.C.

Heather Whiteman Runs Him

Associate Clinical Professor and Director, Tribal Justice Clinic, University of Arizona



Heather Whiteman Runs Him is a citizen of the Apsaalooke/Crow Nation. She is the director of the Tribal Justice Clinic and associate clinical professor at the University of Arizona Rogers College of Law, where she also teaches courses on Tribal water rights, Tribal courts, and Tribal law. Before joining the law school faculty, she worked as an attorney at the Native American Rights Fund in Boulder, Colorado, advocating for the rights of Indigenous Peoples to water, land, and self-determination and as an in-house attorney for her own Tribe. She serves as a member of the Arizona Civil Rights Advisory Committee, a board member of the Agua Caliente Water Authority, a judge on the Southwestern Intertribal Court of Appeals, and a North American Representative on the Indigenous Coordinating Body on Enhanced United Nations Participation for Indigenous Peoples.

Glenn Williamson

CEO, Canada Arizona Business Council



Glenn Williamson is the founder and chief executive officer of the Canada Arizona Business Council, former diplomat, mentor, entrepreneur, and public speaker, with 35 years of experience in a multitude of executive-level and board membership positions. With Williamson's experience and natural skill set, he has the ability to assess and connect people and companies, creating opportunities that have resulted in highly profitable and mutual success for all. His experience includes advanced capital formation, marketing, management, and leadership, and he has demonstrated a talent for taking products, concepts, and companies to new levels of national and international growth.

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Amy Witherall

Binational Program Manager, Lower Colorado River Basin Region, Bureau of Reclamation



Amy Witherall is the binational program manager for the Lower Colorado Basin Region of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, a position she has held since 2012. She was an integral part of the development and negotiation of Minutes 319, 323, and 330.

She has implemented agreements in the binational 1944 Treaty for Utilization of Waters of the Colorado and Tijuana Rivers and the Rio Grande and plays a leadership role in implementing current Minutes. Witherall works with federal, state, local, university, and non-governmental organization partners and stakeholders in both the United States and Mexico. Witherall received her undergraduate degrees in natural resource ecology and conservation biology and Spanish from the University of Idaho, where she also minored in international studies. She earned her master's degree in international environmental policy at the Monterey Institute of International Studies. She lives in Carlsbad, California, with her husband and two sons.

.....

Aaron Wolf

Professor, Oregon State University



Aaron T. Wolf is a professor of geography at Oregon State University, with an appointment as professor of water diplomacy at IHE-Delft Institute for Water Education in the Netherlands. He has acted as a consultant to the U.S. government, the World Bank, and several international governments and development partners on various aspects of water resources and conflict management. As a trained mediator and facilitator, Wolf directs the Program in Water Conflict Management and Transformation, through which he has offered workshops, facilitations, and mediation in basins throughout the world.

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Francisco Zamora

Senior Director of Programs, Sonoran Institute



Francisco Zamora Arroyo joined the Sonoran Institute in April 2002 to lead activities in the Colorado River Delta. He has more than 25 years of experience working as a researcher and project coordinator focused on the restoration of the river and its wetlands in Mexico. He has

played a key role in the management and implementation of the binational agreements Minutes 319 and 323, including the historic delivery of the pulse flow. Zamora holds a Ph.D. in natural resource geography from Oregon State University, with a specialization in geographic information systems and natural resource economics. He also earned a master's degree in marine resource management from Oregon State University and a bachelor's degree in oceanography from the Universidad Autónoma de Baja California. He has published extensively on topics related to ecological restoration, public policy, and binational collaboration in the Colorado River Delta in various scientific journals.

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**Additional info can
be found here**

wrrc.arizona.edu/conference



We respectfully acknowledge the University of Arizona is on the land and territories of Indigenous peoples. Today, Arizona is home to 22 federally recognized tribes, with Tucson being home to the O'odham and the Yaqui. The University strives to build sustainable relationships with sovereign Native Nations and Indigenous communities through education offerings, partnerships, and community service.



The Honorable Katie Hobbs

Governor of Arizona

Born and raised in Arizona, Governor Katie Hobbs has spent her life exemplifying hard work and public service. She is a graduate of both NAU and ASU and has used her Master's of Social Work to help unhoused youth in Phoenix and run one of the largest domestic violence shelters in the country. With over a decade of public service, Governor Hobbs spent eight years in the Arizona Legislature, including two terms as Senate Minority Leader. She later became Arizona's Secretary of State, where she forcefully defended the votes and voices of every single Arizonan. In 2022, she was elected the fifth woman and also the fifth Arizona native to lead as governor of the state. Governor Hobbs sees her role in government as an extension of her social work. In her first term, she has already moved the needle forward on some of our state's most critical issues, including housing, water security, and economic development. Governor Hobbs approaches each challenge with a desire to make people's lives better and give every Arizonan an opportunity to thrive.



Suresh Garimella

President, University of Arizona

Suresh Garimella serves as the 23rd president of the University of Arizona and a distinguished professor in the mechanical and aerospace engineering department. He was president of the University of Vermont from 2019 to 2024. Throughout his career, Garimella has emphasized the importance of access and affordability for students, and he has worked to promote excellence in the student learning experience. As a researcher, Garimella has made seminal contributions to the field of electronics thermal management and energy efficiency at the micro and nano scales and in sustainable energy systems technology and policy. He is a co-author of over 625 refereed publications and 16 issued patents. His educational background includes a Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley, an M.S. from The Ohio State University, and a bachelor's degree from the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras.

WRRC 2025 Conference Advisory Committee

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Brenda Burman, Central Arizona Project

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Thank You to USGS



The WRRC 2025 Annual Conference was supported in part by Water Resources Research Act Grant G21AP10594.

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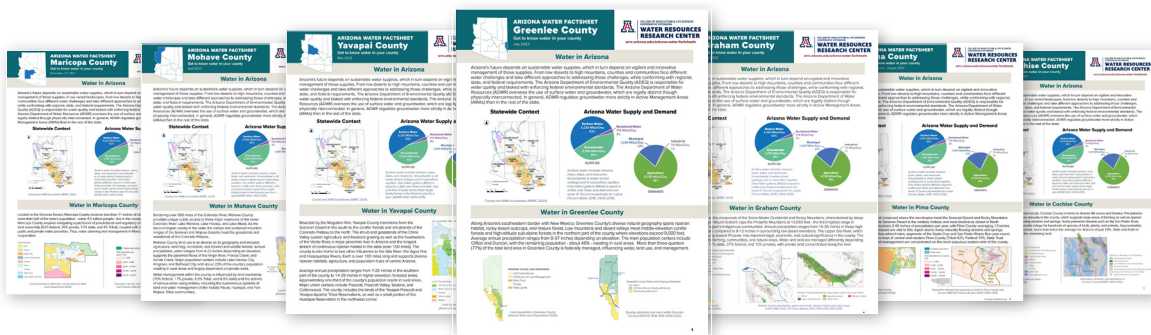
Water Issues Critical to Arizona

The WRRC's *Arroyo* is a unique publication produced each spring to look in depth at a single topic of timely importance to Arizona. Intended for the lay public, it reaches educators, water managers, decision makers, students, and interested individuals and has been used to inform policy discussions.

wrrc.arizona.edu/arroyo



ARIZONA WATER FACTSHEETS



Get to Know Water in Your County

These county-level factsheets are designed to answer common questions about water resources, tailored to every county in Arizona so as to foster understanding of the local nature of Arizona water resource challenges and solutions.

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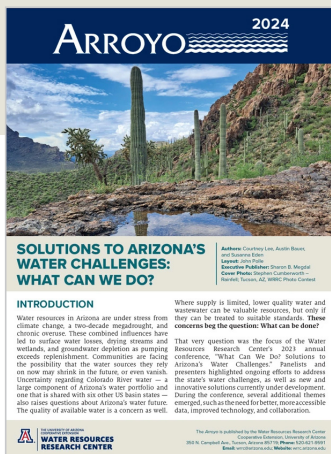
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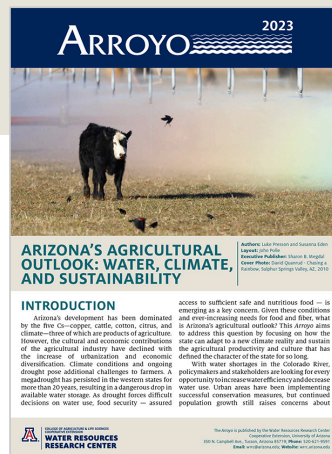


Water Issues Critical to Arizona

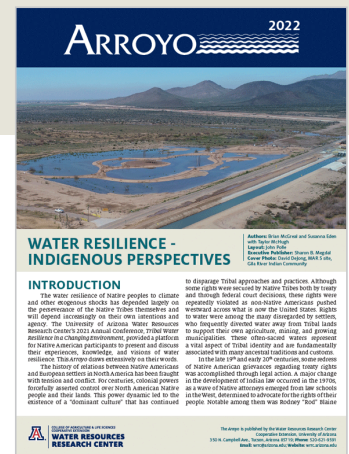
The WRRC's *Arroyo* is a unique publication produced each spring to look in depth at a single topic of timely importance to Arizona. Intended for the lay public, it reaches educators, water managers, decisionmakers, students, and interested individuals and has been used to inform policy discussions. Published regularly since 2007, topics have ranged widely. In recent years, the *Arroyo* has been linked with the WRRC Annual Conference topic to capture and expand on the themes and lessons of the conference. Prepublication reviews by experts ensure accuracy and comprehensibility. Copies of the *Arroyo*, from its earliest issue to the present, are available online: <https://wrrc.arizona.edu/arroyo>



2024 – Solutions to Arizona's Water Challenges: What Can We Do?



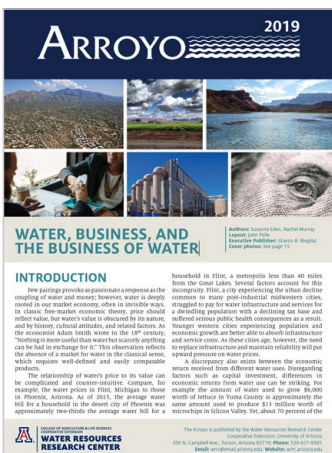
2023 – Arizona's Agricultural Outlook: Water, Climate, and Sustainability



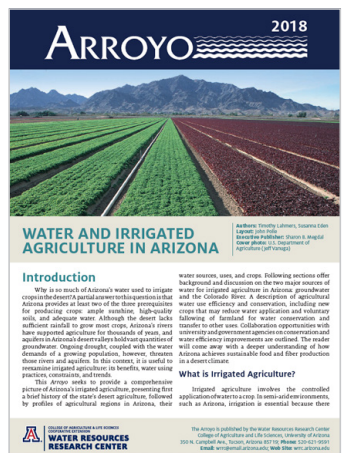
2022 – Water Resilience - Indigenous Perspectives



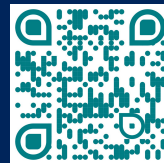
2020 – Community-based Solutions to Local Water Challenges In Arizona



2019 – Water, Business, and the Business of Water



2018 – Water and Irrigated Agriculture in Arizona



Expanding and Diversifying Arizona's Water Portfolio

Authors: Austin Bauer and Susanna Eden

Layout: John Polle

Executive Publisher: Sharon B. Megdal

Cover Photo: Thomas Roche, Organ Pipe Cactus
National Monument, WRRC 2025 Photo Contest

INTRODUCTION

Arizona relies on a diverse portfolio of water resources to meet its overall water needs, including groundwater, Colorado River water, in-state rivers, and reclaimed water. While all that water may meet our needs today, there is uncertainty about the future.

Today, Arizona's water resources already are strained by prolonged drought, changing climate, and chronic overuse. Drought conditions have persisted for two decades, making water in our desert environment all the more precious. Parts of the state rely entirely on a finite supply of groundwater, raising concerns about its long-term availability. In addition, the amount of water Arizona receives each year from the Colorado River is

subject to river conditions, which have been deteriorating for more than a decade.

Arizona needs water to thrive, but water supplies are limited. Until now, Arizona has been resilient in the face of water supply challenges. This *Arroyo* examines current water challenges and where Arizona might turn for more water. It begins with an overview of the challenges facing the state's water supplies. Subsequent pages explore how Arizona might add to its water portfolio by accessing "new" sources of water or expanding existing sources. Drawing from the WRRC 2024 Annual Conference, *Implementing Water Solutions Through Partnerships*, the *Arroyo* highlights opportunities and the collaborations needed to turn opportunities into reality.



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

**WATER RESOURCES
RESEARCH CENTER**

The *Arroyo* is published by the Water Resources Research Center
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Email: wrrc@arizona.edu; **Website:** wrrc.arizona.edu

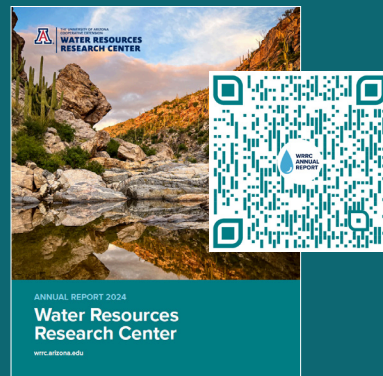


THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
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WATER RESOURCES RESEARCH CENTER

2024 HIGHLIGHTS

Photo: Shiloe Fontes – Desert Water, Tucson 2021.
2024 WRRC Photo Contest



ANNUAL REPORT

More information and metrics can be
found on our website.

<https://wrrc.arizona.edu/annual-report>

- **14,260** RECIPIENTS of the annual *Arroyo* publication
- **3,800** SUBSCRIBERS to the Weekly Wave e-News Digest
- **883** REGISTRANTS for the 2024 Annual Conference
- **61** PRESENTATIONS by WRRC personnel to diverse audiences
- **16** PUBLICATIONS by WRRC personnel
- **134** SUBMISSIONS to the annual WRRC photo contest
- **74** PUBLIC INQUIRIES submitted and answered via WRRC-Extension's online information request form
- **102** ATTENDEES (AVERAGE) participated in 11 Water Webinars



Arizona Governor Katie Hobbs and WRRC Director Sharon B. Megdal, WRRC 2024 Annual Conference.
Image: Brian Valencia

CONNECTING TO THE PUBLIC

In 2024, water remained an important issue in the Southwest, and the WRRC was once again called upon by various stakeholders and partners to be a trusted source of information. Throughout the year, the WRRC's role in helping to facilitate water resources discourse in Arizona and beyond has been reaffirmed through many research, outreach, and engagement efforts to expand water awareness and understanding of water resource issues.

Annual Conference

The 2024 Annual Conference, *Implementing Water Solutions Through Partnerships*, at the University of Arizona Student Union. There were **270** people registered in-person and more than **600** for the Zoom livestream. Attendees heard from more than **50** speakers, who shared their ideas for solutions to the pressing water resource challenges currently facing Arizona and the region. The full recorded program is available online.

WRRC Water Webinar Series

The WRRC's Water Webinar Series continues to attract diverse audiences for presentations and dialogues on a wide range of water topics.

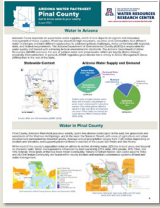
GREATER DEPTH, BROADER PERSPECTIVE FOR A CLEAR WATER FUTURE

We tackle key water policy and management issues, empower informed decision-making, and enrich understanding through engagement, education, and applied research.

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RESOURCES

Online and Print



Arizona Water Factsheets

The Pinal County Water Factsheet was released and was the final publication in the WRRC's Arizona Water Factsheet series. The factsheets offer an in-depth overview of the county's water resources and the vital roles of groundwater and surface water in supporting agriculture and population growth.

Factsheets:

<https://wrrc.arizona.edu/arizona-water-factsheets>

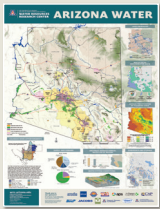


Arroyo

The 2024 Arroyo — *Solutions to Arizona's Water Challenges: What Can We Do?* — Water resources in Arizona are under stress from climate change, a two-decade megadrought, and chronic overuse. These combined stressors have created multiple complex and interconnected challenges that call out for solutions. This Arroyo proposes answers to the question: What can be done?

Arroyo:

<https://wrrc.arizona.edu/publications/arroyo>



Arizona Water Map Poster

Order your water map using this **Order Form**:

<http://wrrc.arizona.edu/arizona-water-map-form>



Reflections

WRRC Director Sharon B. Megdal published eight Reflections essays via the *Weekly/Summer Wave*.

Reflections:

<https://wrrc.arizona.edu/publications/reflections>

Water Research and Planning Innovations for Dryland Systems

Through a flexible approach to water resources planning, the Water RAPIDS program seeks to strengthen local and regional economies while supporting the natural resources that contribute to quality of life.

- **Water RAPIDS:** <https://wrrc.arizona.edu/programs/water-rapids>

Transboundary Aquifer Assessment Program (TAAP)

TAAP is a federally funded program co-hosted by the USGS Arizona Water Science Center in Tucson, Arizona, and the Water Resources Research Center (WRRC) at the University of Arizona.

- **TAAP:** <https://wrrc.arizona.edu/taap>
- **TAAP Español:** <https://wrrc.arizona.edu/taap-spanish>

WRRC Website

The WRRC website highlights programs, activities, news, and events. Seminars and annual conference presentations are posted for easy access, along with publications and online resources.

wrrc.arizona.edu

- **WRRC Conference:** <http://wrrc.arizona.edu/conference>
- **Groundwater Governance:** <https://wrrc.arizona.edu/groundwater>
- **Middle East Water:** <https://wrrc.arizona.edu/middle-east-water>
- **Publications:** <https://wrrc.arizona.edu/publications>

Keep Up With Water News and Events

Subscribe to the **Weekly Wave** — the e-News Digest that offers the latest in water news, notices of upcoming events, and announcements from the WRRC and others. Subscribers also receive the *Arroyo* — an annual publication that examines a timely topic of importance to Arizona.

Subscribe:

<https://wrrc.arizona.edu/subscribe>

WEEKLY WAVE



WRRC Annual Photo Contest

Each year, the WRRC hosts a **Photo Contest** and uses the submitted photographs in various ways, including in this document, in the *Arroyo* and other publications, and on the website. The 2024 Photo Contest theme was *Water in Arizona*. Photo: Garry Forger — North Rim, Grand Canyon (2022)

Photo Contest: <https://wrrc.arizona.edu/photo>

Member of the National Institutes for Water Resources

The WRRC is Arizona's federally authorized Water Resources Research Institute (WRRI), and as such, is one of 54 members of the National Institutes for Water Resources.



60th Anniversary of the WRRC



2024 marked the **60th anniversary** of the Water Resources Research Center at the University of Arizona.



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

**WATER RESOURCES
RESEARCH CENTER**

The University of Arizona
Water Resources Research Center
A unit of Arizona Cooperative Extension
350 N. Campbell Ave.
Tucson, AZ 85719
(520) 621-9591

wrrc.arizona.edu



Support the Water Resources Research Center

Water touches every aspect of life in Arizona—from public health and the environment to our economy and long-term sustainability. At the **WRRC**, we are proud to be a trusted leader in developing practical, science-based solutions to water issues. We rely on help from Donors, who have a big impact on our ability to conduct in-depth research, top-level education, and purposeful engagement for improved water management for Arizona and beyond.

Please consider making a tax-deductible gift today!

<https://wrrc.arizona.edu/donate-wrrc>

Questions? Contact Nick Pierson, Director of Development
520-621-9018; npierson@arizona.edu





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WATER RESOURCES RESEARCH CENTER

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WRRRC 2025 Annual Conference
Participant Evaluation Form

Thank you for attending the WRRRC 2025 Annual Conference! We value your feedback.

Please complete this short survey to help guide future conference programming.

Q1. How did you attend?

- ☐ Both Days in Person
- ☐ Day 1 Only (Tue, May 20)
- ☐ Day 2 Only (Wed, May 21)
- ☐ Pre-Conference Workshop
- ☐ Zoom Livestream

Q2. How do you rate this year's conference?

- ☐ Excellent
- ☐ Very Good
- ☐ Good
- ☐ Fair
- ☐ Poor

Q3. Which session(s) or speaker(s) stood out to you?

Q4. What did you like most about this year's conference?

Q5. What did you like least about this year's conference?

Q6. Please list any topical themes you would like to see covered in future conferences.

Q7. Additional Comments/Feedback:



Take the survey online!