

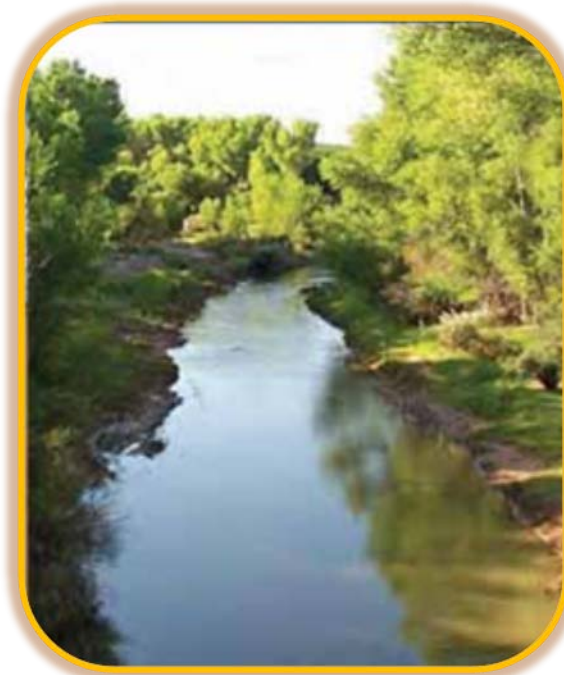


NOVEMBER 2009 REPORT



FUNDING

FY10 U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, ARIZONA WATER SCIENCE CENTER



Congresswoman Giffords and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) staff worked tirelessly to secure funding for the USGS to continue its leadership role in the preparation of the Section 321 Report in fiscal year 2010. Just this month, \$248,000 was allocated for this important work within the USGS budget. Congresswoman Giffords' efforts included urging Chairman Dicks and Ranking Member Simpson of the U.S. House of Representatives' Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies, to fund USGS's vital work in the Sierra Vista Subwatershed. She also personally briefed Congressman Pastor, Member of the Energy and Water Appropriations Committee, regarding this important funding need. At the same time, Matthew Larsen and John Hoffman, from the USGS, worked within their agency to ensure this funding was secured. Congresswoman Giffords' staff including Ron Barber, Wyatt King, and Shay Saucedo were also instrumental in this funding effort. In addition, Carlos Sierra of Senator McCain's office provided valuable insights into the federal funding process that assisted this request. During a year with severe budgetary constraints, our organization is fortunate to have such strong support from these individuals who truly made a difference.





PROJECTS

CITY OF BISBEE/TURQUOISE VALLEY EFFLUENT REUSE PROJECT

The City of Bisbee/Turquoise Valley Effluent Reuse Project is now operational! Treated effluent from the City’s Wastewater Treatment Facility is being pumped to the Turquoise Valley Golf Course where the treated effluent is used for turf irrigation. This outstanding project will reduce groundwater pumping by at least 441.5 acre feet annually. A special thanks to Russell McConnell, Public Works Director for the City of Bisbee, for his excellent management of this project over the past few years.



EDUCATION

TRANSBOUNDARY AQUIFER ASSESSMENT PROGRAM CONFERENCE



Upper San Pedro Partnership members including Holly Richter and Jim Leenhouts gave presentations at the recent Transboundary Aquifer Assessment Program (TAAP) Conference held in Tucson, Arizona. The goal of the TAAP conference was to “review progress of the Arizona-Sonora component of the United States-Mexico Transboundary Aquifer Assessment Program and to confirm or modify priorities in the draft work plan that will guide assessment of the Santa Cruz and San Pedro aquifers”. Topics of discussion included ‘Geological, Hydrologic and Water Quality Modeling’, ‘Binational Institutions, Management and Policy’, ‘Perspectives on the Internationally Shared Aquifer Resource Management Program’ and ‘the Role of the International Boundary and Water Commission’.



COMMITTEES & WORKGROUPS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

This fall, the Border Environmental Cooperation Commission (BECC) presented information to the Executive Committee on a proposed water conservation project in Naco, Sonora, Mexico. The overall goal of the project would be to decrease groundwater pumping and to recharge treated wastewater into the regional aquifer. The estimated water savings of this project are 400-900 acre feet of water annually which would directly benefit the Sierra Vista Subwatershed. The water conservation project would consist of water metering, imposing a tiered rate fee, repairing water leaks in the water infrastructure, installing low flow toilets, showers and faucets, and infiltrating treated wastewater. The Executive Committee will continue to explore project feasibility and funding opportunities associated with this proposal.

