



SEPTEMBER 2009 REPORT

GO WILDCATS!
GO SUN DEVILS!



CONSERVATION & EDUCATION **CAS CHARTER SCHOOL: RAINWATER HARVESTING SYSTEM**



The Upper San Pedro Partnership funded a rainwater harvesting system project at the Center for Academic Success (CAS) Charter School. Science students from CAS installed two rain water harvesting tanks that will store and divert rainwater for use on an organic vegetable garden and a plant experiment area. Science teacher, Jeff Ofstedahl, taught students how to conserve water and why conserving water is important. Water Wise's Cado Daily, as a guest speaker on rainwater harvesting systems, ignited the students' enthusiasm for this project. Next, the school's art department will organize a mural design contest for which the students will create conservation-themed designs that will be painted onto the rainwater tanks.

WATER PANEL: LEAGUE OF ARIZONA CITIES & TOWNS CONFERENCE

Bob Strain, Advisory Commission Chair, moderated and served as a panelist at the 'Arizona's Emerging Water Issues' session at the Arizona League of Cities and Towns 2009 Conference. Questions for the panelists included, 'What is the biggest water related challenge in your region of the state?', 'Why are studies important?', 'How do communities plan and pay for infrastructure?', and 'Discuss the tension between rural versus urban regions around the state. Are there opportunities for cooperation and collaboration between them?' The panelists concluded that 1) every effort must be made to educate the public and steer behavior toward water conservation, 2) studies and new technologies must be pursued to ensure that an adequate supply of quality water is generated and secured for the future and 3) the cost of securing new water resources and financing water infrastructure must be a priority of government.



PROJECTS

FORT HUACHUCA-HUACHUCA CITY EFFLUENT TRANSFER PROJECT

The Environmental Information Document for the Fort Huachuca-Huachuca City Effluent Transfer Project was completed and submitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). After the environmental review is completed by EPA, construction of the Huachuca City sewage lagoons can commence. Upon completion, each year up to 400 acre feet of Huachuca City sewage can be pumped to Fort Huachuca's wastewater treatment plant for treatment and recharge/reuse. The Upper San Pedro Partnership secured a grant that partially funds this project.



MONITORING & REPORTING

2009 321 REPORT

The Partnership Advisory Commission approved the release of the 'Water Management of the Regional Aquifer in the Sierra Vista Subwatershed, Arizona-2009 Report to Congress' to the U.S. Department of the Interior. This report, principally authored by the U.S. Geological Survey, represents months of effort by Bruce Gungle, USGS, and the collaboration of the 321 Report Work Group, the Technical Committee, BLM, ARS, and the Partnership Advisory Commission. The report highlights the efforts that are being made to achieve sustainability of the Sierra Vista Subwatershed. In large part, because of water conservation efforts, the report reflects a reduction of 780 acre feet in total groundwater pumping from the previous year.



COMMITTEES & WORKGROUPS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE and ADVISORY COMMISSION

Holly Richter, Executive Committee Chair, and Bob Strain, Advisory Commission Chair, worked with the Arizona Congressional Delegation to attempt to obtain critical funding for the USGS. Funding cuts will interrupt USGS' vital work in the Sierra Vista Subwatershed. Without funding, the USGS will be unable to prepare the annual 321 Report to Congress, will decommission the monitoring of two important streamflow gages, will discontinue monitoring aquifer storage, and cease water quality measurements at relevant springs.
