

Lower Gila River Watershed Adjudication Under Way

The Arizona Department of Water Resources (DWR) mailed more than 570,000 certified letters to property owners in the Lower Gila River Watershed. The certified letters contained a court summons regarding the Gila River General Adjudication, a proceeding in the Superior Court in Maricopa County to establish the extent and priority of all claims to water of the Gila River. This was the largest certified mailing ever undertaken in Arizona.

Beginning July 1, 1986 approximately 200,000 property owners in the Upper Santa Cruz River Watershed will receive their certified letters regarding the adjudication.

An adjudication of water rights is a court determination of all rights to use water from a river system or watershed. The Arizona Department of Water Resources is the technical arm of the court in this proceeding.

The purpose of adjudicating water rights is to confirm all entitlements to divert or store water for beneficial use. This process includes water rights on Indian reservations and all federal reserved rights. While non-federal rights have been

established by state laws, the extent of most federal and Indian rights has never been determined. To allow for management of the limited water supplies available, a determination of the extent and priority of all federal and non-federal rights is necessary.

Individuals who claim water rights in the Lower Gila River Watershed must file a "Statement of Claimant" form with the Arizona Department of Water Resources by January 20, 1987.

Steve Erb, manager of DWR's Adjudication Division, stressed that it is very important for all individuals who have rights to use water to file in this adjudication, even if they previously filed under the state's 1974 Registration, 1977 Stockpond or 1980 Groundwater Management Acts.

Erb stated, "Individuals in these areas who have already applied for surface water rights, registered their wells or received a certificate of grandfathered right must also file in this adjudication."

Well owners must file because this surface water adjudication will bring into question whether some water obtained by wells is from

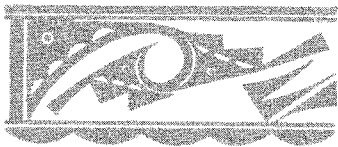


underground streams or subflows. If it is, it is treated like surface water under state law.

Failure to file a claim in this adjudication could seriously jeopardize a person's right to use water.

Residents in the Lower Gila River Watershed are urged to carefully read the notices they receive in the mail. If you have any questions, contact the DWR Adjudications Division at (602) 255-1520 or toll-free at 1-800-352-8488.

For more information on the adjudication, you may wish to obtain a copy of "Protect Your Water Rights" (see "Publications" listings). This booklet, published by the Arizona Water Information Center, University of Arizona, outlines the adjudication process.



Acoma Indian Design: Rainbird Variation.

Extensive Study Identifies Crucial Water Issues

"Project Agriculture's Future" (PAF) was an ambitious, collective effort. It began in March 1984 with eight technical, subject-matter committees each assigned an agricultural concern. Then people at the local level became involved as county meetings throughout the state were held to collect opinions about agricultural issues. Committee findings plus broad county input resulted in a final report that was discussed at a symposium attended by a cross section of Arizona citizenry—politicians, educators, researchers, farmers and ranchers. PAF was a stream with many tributaries.

Among other accomplishments, the PAF study identified crucial, agricultural public-policy issues. Following is a summary of PAF's prioritized list of important public-policy issues confronting water.

WATER QUALITY Arizona is at a critical point concerning water quality, one that requires scientifically sound and economically feasible decisions, or its water quality will negatively affect social and economic growth.

WATER RIGHTS ADJUDICATION Now under way, water rights adjudication, when completed, will affect the allocations and priorities of surface water for all of Arizona and will affect all water issues.

WATER USE BY INDIAN TRIBES Indian tribes with newly guaranteed and prioritized water supplies will be

deciding the management and use of their water resources. This will affect non-Indians also.

CENTRAL ARIZONA PROJECT Some of the issues related to CAP are the cost of CAP water, the sources of funding, the problems of secondary water allocations, the feasibility of constructing Buttes Dam, the implications of the Reclamation Reform Act, and long-range water quality.

GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT IMPLEMENTATION Issues accompanying this Act involve determination of per capita rates, service area extensions, well spacing, groundwater recharge, and other actions that impinge directly upon agriculture.

WATER DUTY SHIFTS The Groundwater Management Act specifies that the Arizona Department of Water Resources director may shift water duties after the year 2000.

WATER RIGHTS TRANSFER Exercise of the state's right of severance and transfer of water rights is expected to accelerate in the future as more demands develop for nonirrigation water use.

IRRIGATION AND CROP TECHNOLOGY More research is necessary to improve technology, management, and crop selection for irrigated agriculture in Arizona.

PREFERENCE ENERGY ALLOCATION FROM RECLAMATION PROJECTS The continued availability of this energy will be important in controlling the cost of moving water for irrigated agriculture.

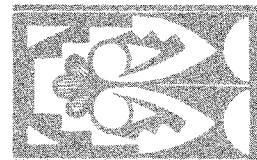
MUNICIPAL EFFLUENT AVAILABILITY The right of cities to sell effluent to users is in question. The Arizona Department of Water Resources would like to consider this water to be a state regulated resource, a position opposed by municipalities.

STATE VS FEDERAL WATER RIGHTS CLAIMS The federal agencies managing non-Indian lands also are asserting rights to water in the current adjudication process.

FLOOD CONTROL The rising costs of flood control and the reduction in federal participation in flood-control projects will demand more innovative and multiple purpose water resource planning and development at the state and county levels.

WATER RIGHTS FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE Claims to water rights for fish and wildlife purposes by various federal, state, public, and private interests are expected to remain issues, particularly during drought periods.

The executive report of the PAF document, "Arizona Agriculture—Now and a Vision of the Future," is available from the University of Arizona, Office of Arid Lands Studies. (See "Publications" listing)



Acoma Indian Design: Rainbird Variation.

Publications

Protect Your Water Rights

The Arizona Water Information Center, a cooperative effort of the Water Resources Research Center (WRRC), the Office of Arid Lands Studies, and the Arizona Department of Water Resources, has released its first publication titled "Protect Your Water Rights." The booklet is

being distributed by the Cooperative Extension Service to interested parties. The publication provides the state's water users with information about the adjudication process. Copies are available from your county extension office; the Water Resources Research Center, 102 Douglass Building, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ 85721; or by calling Mary Wallace, at WRRRC, telephone (602) 621-1648



Irrigation with Reclaimed Municipal Wastewater—A Guidance Manual

This handbook is useful in the planning, design, and operation of agricultural and landscape irrigation systems using reclaimed municipal wastewater. Written for civil and sanitary engineers, agricultural engineers, and agricultural extension workers and consultants, the manual is also useful as a reference for public works officials, municipal wastewater treatment plant operators, and colleges and universities. Several chapters were written specifically for California readers, but much of the guidance manual is applicable to arid and semi-arid environments outside of California. The emphasis in this manual is on the beneficial use of reclaimed wastewater for agricultural and landscape irrigation.

Irrigation with Reclaimed Municipal Wastewater—A Guidance Manual is available from Lewis Publishers, Inc., 121 South Main Street, P.O. Box 519, Chelsea, MI 48118 for \$34.95 per copy.



Arizona Agriculture—Now and a Vision of the Future, Executive Report

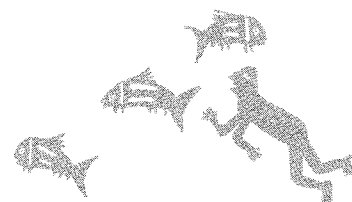
A symposium titled "Arizona Agriculture—Now and a Vision of the Future" was held February 25-26 in Phoenix, Arizona. The symposium culminated a two-year study that collected information from more than 250 people from government, education, agribusiness and rural communities. Limited copies of the symposium reference document have been published, and the volume is available at state government agencies, extension offices and public libraries for review and use. The executive report is a more concise statement of its main themes. Copies of the executive report are available from the Office of Arid Lands Studies, College of Agriculture, University of Arizona, 845 North Park Avenue, Tucson, Arizona 85719; telephone (602) 621-1955.



Conjunctive Management of Water Resources, Proceedings

This volume contains papers presented at the Symposium on Conjunctive Management of Water Resources, October 18, 1985, Tucson, Arizona. The symposium was organized by the Arizona Section of the American Water Resources Association (AWRA) and cosponsored by the Arizona Hydrological Society.

For information on ordering this volume and other AWRA publications contact: Ms. Dale Wright, Office of Arid Lands Studies, College of Agriculture, University of Arizona, 845 North Park Avenue, Tucson, AZ 85719; telephone (602) 621-1955.



Mimbres Indian Design: Swimming Man and Fish.

Conferences

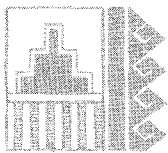
Water Research Conference Planned

A 1986 Arizona Water Research Conference is being planned. Anticipated as an annual event, this conference is to better focus water research efforts on applied problem solving. The conference will also encourage the coordination of intrastate water research among research units, including individuals engaged in water research.

The one to one-and-a-half day conference is scheduled for the week of Oct. 6-10. The exact date and location will be announced later.

Conference planners seek ideas and suggestions about the conference as well as future efforts at information transfer. You may have received a survey asking for your input. Your prompt reply will allow planning to continue through the summer. Details will be finalized at the beginning of the fall semester.

For more information contact: Mary Wallace, Arizona Water Information Center, Water Resources Research Center, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona 85721; phone (602) 621-1648.



Hopi Indian Design: Raincloud.

Rocky Mountain Groundwater Conference and Symposium

The Rocky Mountain Groundwater Conference will be held in Scottsdale, Arizona September 15 and 16, 1986. The conference, "Today's Groundwater Issues—a Pragmatic Approach," includes the following first-day sessions: "Perspective on Groundwater Quality Data from Data Generators and Data Users," "Hydrology: From Horseback to Cookbook," and "Evolution of Groundwater Hydrology in the Intermountain West." The second-day sessions include: "Groundwater Contamination/Aquifer Restoration," "Transport of Groundwater Across Legal Boundaries," "Occurrence and Development of Mountain Aquifers," and "Untapped Potential Groundwater Supplies."

The first day will include panel discussions and invited speakers; speakers for the second day are being sought and abstracts are being accepted.

An "Arizona Water Symposium" will follow the conference on September 17.

For more information or to submit abstracts write to the general chairman, Phil Briggs, Arizona Department of Water Resources, 99 East Virginia, Phoenix, Arizona 85004 or call (602) 255-1554.

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