



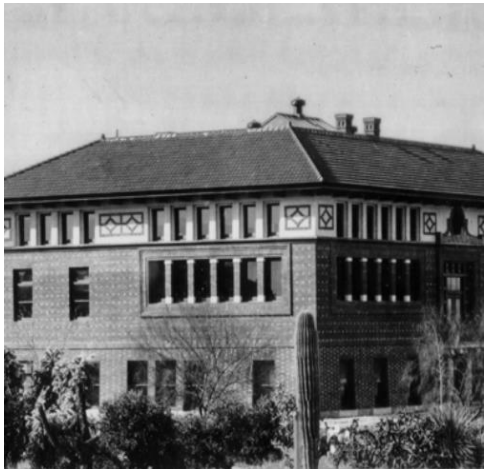
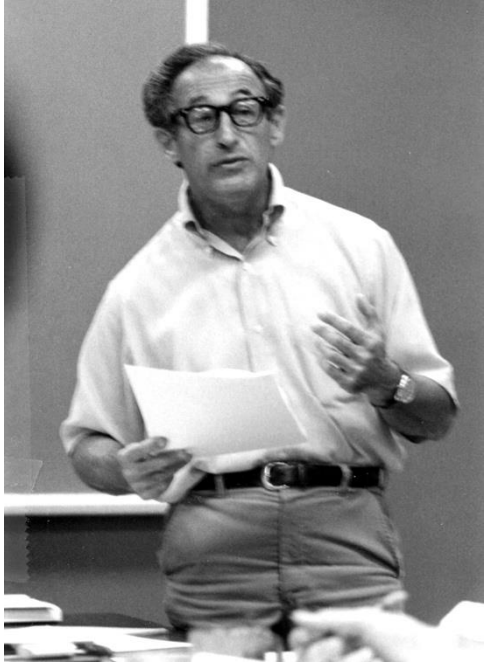
THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

**WATER RESOURCES
RESEARCH CENTER**



Water Resources Research Center History

Celebrating 60 Years



1957, *Institute of Water Utilization*, College of Agriculture

1957-1964, Sol Resnick founding director

1964, **Water Resources Research Act**, established one Water Resources Research Institute in each state and Puerto Rico (District of Columbia, U.S. Virgin Islands, and Guam added later)

- “The WRRRA “will enlist the intellectual power of universities and research institutes in a nationwide effort to conserve and utilize our water resources for the common benefit.” --LB Johnson
- Institute of Water Utilization renamed *Water Resources Research Center*, reporting to the Institute of Atmospheric Physics

1964-1972, Richard Kassander, physicist, first Director

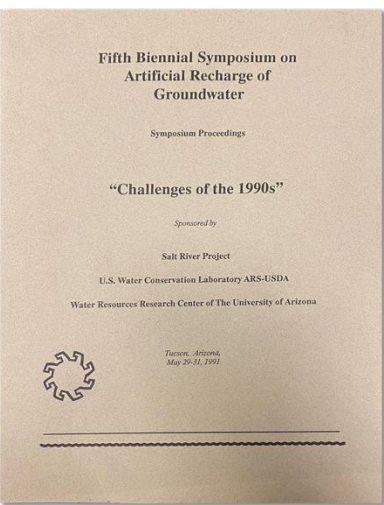
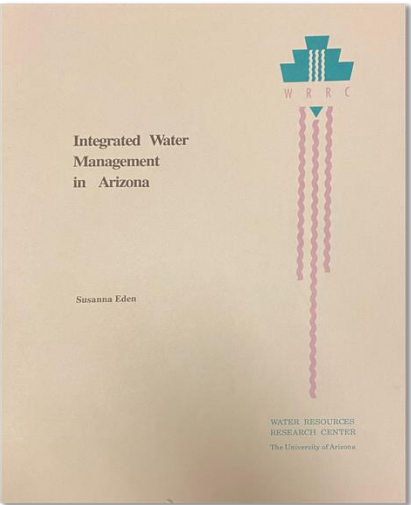


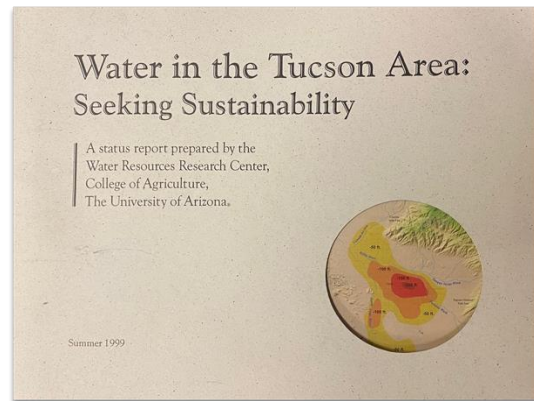
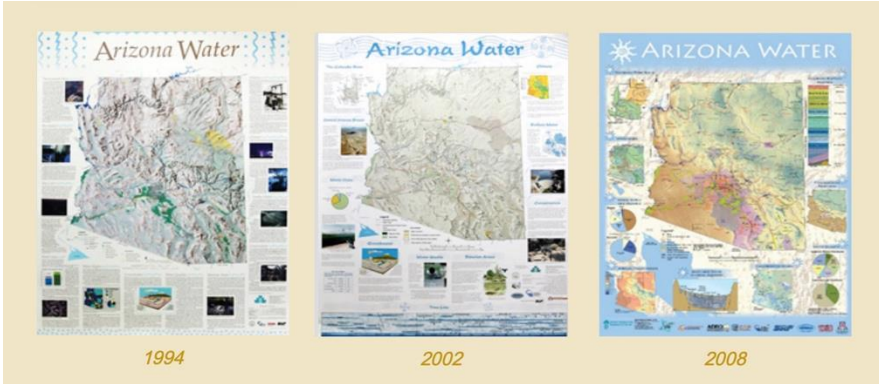
1972 to 1984, Sol Resnick, Director
2003, WRRRC conference room named in his honor.

1985 – 1990, William Lord, Agricultural Economist, Director

WRRRC within Hydrology and Water Resources, School of Engineering and Mines

- **1987, first Arroyo publication.**
- Joint sponsorship of *Biennial Groundwater Recharge Symposia* USDA-ARS, SRP and WRRRC
- *Issue Paper* series





1991, moved back to College of Agriculture
Moved into the old Boy Scout building & provided a home for new Arizona Project WET

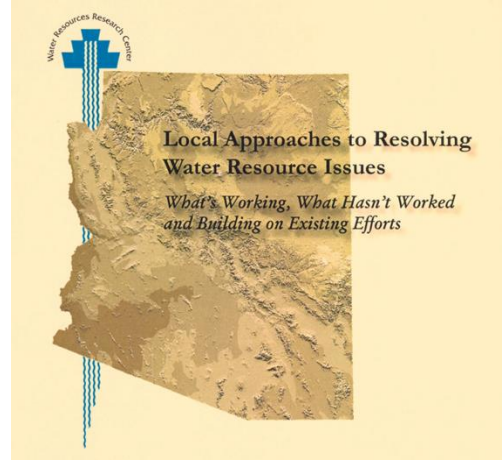
1991 – 1996, Hanna Cortner, Political Scientist, School of Renewable Natural Resources, Director

- *Arizona Water Resource* newsletter
- 1st *Arizona Water Map* poster
- *Desert Landscaping* CD
- WRRC website

1997 – 2004, Peter Wierenga, a Soil Physicist, Director

- *Water in the Tucson Area: Seeking Sustainability (1999)*
- 2nd edition of the Arizona Water Map
- 1st Annual Conference (**2003**)

2001-2002, Funding from the *Technology and Research Initiative Fund (TRIF)* negotiated



2004 – Present, Sharon B. Megdal, Economist, Director.

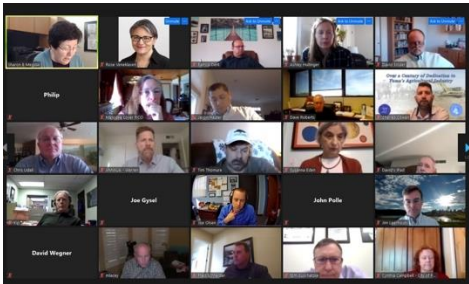
- Lunchtime *Seminar Series*
- *Annual Conferences*
- Water harvesting system and weather station

2020, COVID pandemic closed physical offices, put new focus on digital communications

- Seminar series became *Water Webinar* series
- AWR newsletter replaced by *Weekly Wave* e-new digest.

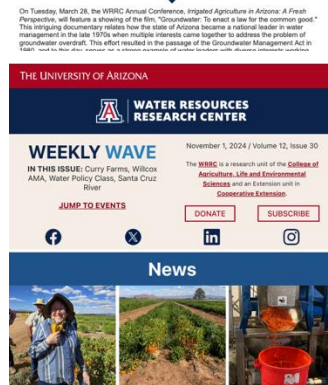
New research and engagement programs

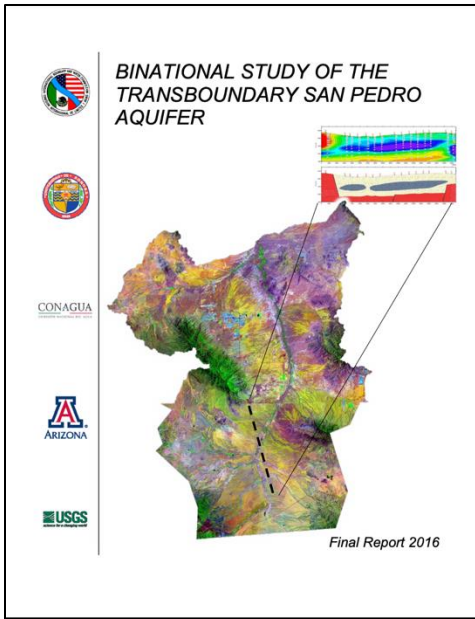
- Transboundary Aquifer Assessment Program (TAAP)
- Water RAPIDS program
- Other programs



SAVE the DATE

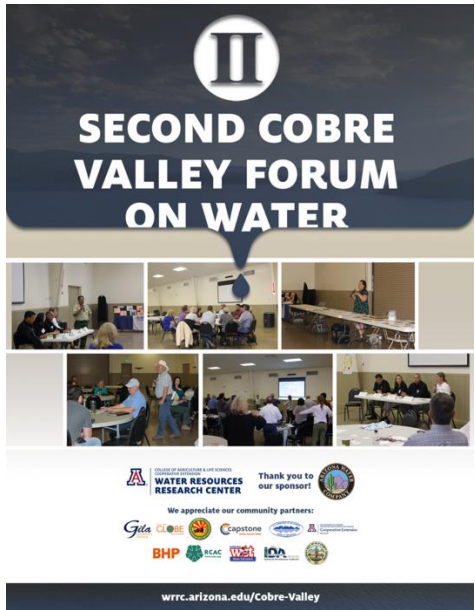
WRRC 2025 Annual Conference
May 20–21
SHARED BORDERS, SHARED WATERS:
Working Together in Times of Scarcity





TAAP

2016, *Binational Study of the Transboundary San Pedro Aquifer*, approved by the U.S. and Mexican sections of International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC)



Water RAPIDS

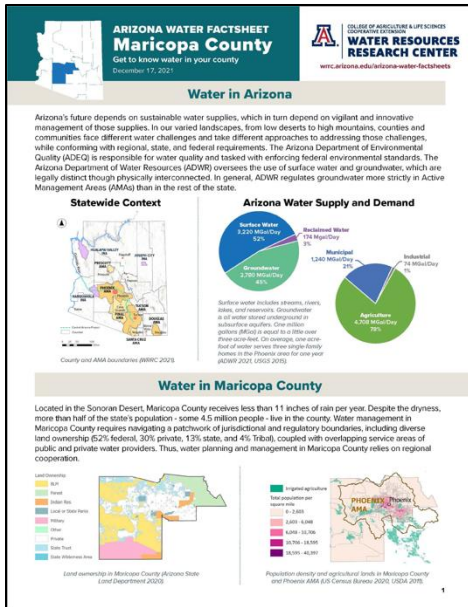
2015, geospatial *Desert Flows Database* of environmental flow needs and responses for the deserts of the U.S. and Mexico

2017 - 2024 *Community Forums* on local water resources issues



2014 - 2018, *Beyond the Mirage*, interactive online repository of video clips and documentary on water in the West.

- **2015**, won the first-ever New Arizona Prize Water Consciousness Challenge
- **2016**, won a Crescordia Award from Arizona Forward
- **2017**, “Beyond the Mirage: The Future of Water in the West,” broadcast nationwide on 80 public television stations
- **2018**, won a Rocky Mountain Emmy



2009 – present, Annual Photo Contest

2018 – 2024, Arizona Water Factsheets

- Survey of needs
- Maricopa County
- Community engagement process
- Factsheet template
- Engagement of counties
- Factsheet development

2020 - present, Diversifying Voices in Water Resources (DViWR) and Indigenous Water Dialogues (IWD) initiative

- **2021**, WRRC Annual Conference: Tribal Water Resilience in a Changing Environment.
- **2022**, Outstanding paper of the year in *Journal of Contemporary Water Research and Education*.