



## NOVEMBER 2010 NEWSLETTER

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### VIEWPOINT: ELECTIONS – THIS TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2<sup>ND</sup>

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It looks like the flavor of fall this year will be electioneering. The country is moving towards an important mid-term election which undoubtedly will have impacts on Federal water-related programs.

At the State level, the budget remains an intractable problem. The impact of the growing budget deficit on State water programs will be major. While ADWR and ADEQ have promulgated new rules for fees to partially get around the crisis of the shrinking General Fund, it is clear that the

new fee structure will not produce enough revenue for each agency to keep the lights on. Significant changes—and cuts—must inevitably lie ahead.

In the water world, there is an important choice to be made for the Board of the Central Arizona Water Conservation District, which operates the CAP canal. Five members from Maricopa County must be chosen for this Board. CAWCD faces some critical decisions over the next few years, and that Board will need all the expertise it can muster. Issues such as the CAGRDR replenishment obligation, ADD Water, increasing power costs, and climate change will surely affect delivery of Colorado River supplies. Given the retreat of state government, CAWCD could be in a position to offer a vision for Arizona's water future. While I am not advocating for the election of any one candidate, I do urge everyone who can vote in this election to carefully evaluate the experience and expertise of the candidates and then cast your vote.

At your AHS Chapter level, elections are also coming up. Our officers and board members perform Herculean efforts on the Society's behalf and entirely on a volunteer basis. If you would like to be more involved—and your Society would definitely like you to be active—then contact your Chapter to see what you can do. It is because of the time and effort of such volunteers that our Society is healthy. Make a difference in AHS and thus in the profession of hydrology: volunteer for office!

Alan Dulaney,  
AHS Corporate Board President, 2010

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## GOVERNMENT GOINGS-ON

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Changes are occurring in state government that you should know about.

Ben Grumbles, Director of the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, announced his retirement on Friday, October 29. The ADEQ General Fund budget has been slashed back to about \$7 million since 2008, when it was \$33 million. While there is still Federal money to fund many programs, it is no fun to watch your agency get whittled back year after fiscal year. Rumor is that conservative business groups will be pleased with any replacement.

Sources at the Capitol have Herb Guenther, Director of the Arizona Department of Water Resources, set to retire some time after the elections. He is not confirming this rumor, however. ADWR has also been crippled by draconian budget cuts, and clearly more are to come; no Federal money there. The income from application fees has been far less than expected, certainly not sufficient to save the agency. It is disheartening to see the dismantling of ADWR, and everyone still there must surely feel it.

Another rumor circulating the Statehouse is that ADEQ and ADWR may be combined into one agency, perhaps with Land Department thrown in. This would require some significant legislation. Apparently the aim is to largely disassemble state government through downsizing several agencies. This could have a serious adverse impact on consultants working with regulators, as well as their clients. To lose the functionality and distinct identity of both ADEQ and ADWR in a semi-arid state would not be a good thing as we face a future in which water becomes ever more precious.

And the ADD Water process may be threatened too. If certain CAWCD candidates who know nothing of the water challenges facing the state and want only to cut staff are elected, ADD Water could be tossed as too expensive and too esoteric. And there would go hopes for the next bucket of water.

Alan Dulaney,  
AHS Corporate Board President, 2010

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## AHS CORPORATE BOARD OCTOBER MEETING AND NEW MAILING ADDRESS

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The AHS Corporate Board met for the third quarter meeting in Phoenix at the EEC offices near 16<sup>th</sup> Street and Northern on October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Many topics were discussed including a synopsis of the 2010 Symposium in Tucson, officer elections, budgets new and old, and to possibility of resurrecting the Southwest Hydrology magazine. Many thanks to Mike and EEC for hosting the meeting.

During the meeting it was decided to go with a (much) less expensive mail box service and as of November 1, 2010 the new AHS mailing address will be:

**Arizona Hydrological Society**  
**P.O. Box 1882**  
**Higley, AZ 85236**

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## PHOENIX CHAPTER NEWS

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Our next dinner meeting will be **November 9<sup>th</sup>**, 2010, at the SunUp Brewery near downtown Phoenix to have a beverage, share business cards, and talk water.

<b>Location:</b>	<a href="#">SunUp Brewery</a> 322 E. Camelback Road Phoenix, AZ 85012
<b>Event:</b>	<i>Heresy: Water Conservation may not be an unassailable societal good in the Valley of the Sun</i> , Jeff Trembly RG, Mogollon Environmental Services
<b>Chapter Board Meeting:</b>	4:30 PM – 5:30 PM
<b>Happy Hour &amp; Dinner:</b>	5:30 PM – 7:00 PM
<b>Presentation:</b>	7:00 PM – 8:00 PM
<b>Cost:</b>	\$15 member, \$20 non-member, \$5 student

RSVP with Kirk Creswick at [kcreswick@eecphx.com](mailto:kcreswick@eecphx.com) or 602-248-7702.

Hope to see you there!

**Heresy: Water Conservation may not be an unassailable societal good in the Valley of the Sun**

Since the Groundwater Management Act, water conservation has been encouraged as a tool to enable development and growth in the Valley of the Sun. We are learning that growth creates issues of its own including the urban heat island, dust concerns, increased incidences of valley fever, and more. With Arizona's growth engine currently out of gas, now is a good time to pull out the map to look at where we have been and freshly consider where we are going. Should we consider more conservation to promote further development, or should we think about using water to mitigate some of the impacts we are seeing from existing development? We cannot sustain growth forever, so maybe now is the time to consider when to say when.

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## Officer Elections

It's not too late to throw your hat in the ring for a Phoenix Chapter Board position! Please contact Mike Hulst if you are interested in running for a position.

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## Future Event Calendar (see also calendar on [www.azhydrosoc.org](http://www.azhydrosoc.org))

- Don't forget to vote on Tuesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>! Check out the CAP
- December Dinner meeting – Governor's Blue Ribbon Panel on Water, a Discussion, El Penasco in Tempe.
- January 2011 Kick-off meeting – Join the Phoenix chapter annual planning meeting and help shape the direction of your society! Date and location to be announced.
- February 2011 and beyond – Anyone with a suggestion for a monthly meeting topic please contact [Keith Ross](#), Phoenix Chapter Vice President.

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## TUCSON CHAPTER NEWS

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### November Meeting Announcement

The Tucson Chapter of AHS will be holding its November monthly meeting in conjunction with the regular monthly meeting of the [Pima Association of Governments' Watershed Planning Subcommittee](#). The meeting will be held on November 29 at 1:30 p.m., in PAG's main conference room (501), 177 N Church Ave in Tucson. The agenda is under development and will be e-mailed to all AHS members approximately one week prior to the meeting. For more information, contact [Greg Hess](#) at (520) 622-3222.

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## FLAGSTAFF CHAPTER NEWS

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Please check the [Flagstaff Chapter](#) web page or contact [Brad Hill](#) for up-coming meeting information.

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The Flagstaff Chapter is currently focusing on planning for the AHS 2011 Symposium. The symposium will be held again at the High Country Conference Resort at the north end the NAU campus. If anyone would like to participate in the planning stages, the “small but mighty” Flagstaff Chapter would love to hear from you. Please contact [Brad Hill](#) or [Erin Young](#).

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The Flagstaff Chapter of AHS is seeking nominations for the following officer positions: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and CB Member at Large. You may nominate yourself, whether a current officer or not. Please submit nominations by Friday October 29th. E-Mail nominations back to me at [bhill@flagstaffaz.gov](mailto:bhill@flagstaffaz.gov).

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## HYDRO-NEWS

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### ARIZONA GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY DINNER MEETING TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2

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#### **Discovery of the Silver-Rich Juanicipio-Valdecañas Vein Zone, Western Fresno District, Zacatecas, Mexico**

Peter K.M. Megaw

IMDEX Inc., and MAG Silver Corp.

Sheraton Four Points Hotel Conference Center

1900 East Speedway (SE corner of Campbell and Speedway)

Tucson

Lecture at 8:00 PM

**Tuesday, November 2, 2010**

Reservations are required for the dinner. Admission to the talk only is free. Please also note that although there is limited surface parking around the hotel, there is ample parking in the garage beneath the hotel.

CASH BAR @ 6:00 PM

DINNER @ 7.00 PM

TALK @ 8:00 PM

COST WITH RESERVATION:

MEMBER = \$24.00

GUEST = \$27.00

STUDENT = \$10.00

If you do not have a reservation, an extra \$3.00 will be charged. Also, without reservations you may not get dinner. To make dinner reservations please call the AGS answering machine at (520) 663-5295 or reserve online at <http://www.arizonageologicalsoc.org/meeting-information/dinner-reservations> by 5:00 P.M. on the Friday before the meeting. Leave name, number of attendees, and whether a vegetarian or low-salt meal is required. This number can also be used for field-trip reservations and leaving messages for Society officers. Please cancel your reservation via the answering machine if you find that you will be unable to attend.

#### **Abstract**

The 2003-2005 discovery of the important Juanicipio-Valdecañas vein zone in the western part of the

famous Fresno silver district was the result of ten years of research and geological fieldwork predicated on the idea that the Fresno district was much larger than conventionally believed. High levels of vein exposure, extensive cover, and weak surface geochemical signatures historically hampered exploration in the district and arguably resulted in a limited perception of the overall system. Nevertheless, new exploration success was the consequence of a continuation of discovery history in the district, just with a wider application of established concepts and broader scope of vision.

Information from published studies and reconnaissance field observations from the district were combined with improved academic understanding of the importance of variations in boiling levels in low sulfidation epithermal vein systems to generate the concept that the extensive alteration zone, five kilometers west of the Fresno mine, concealed additional veins. However, detailed geologic mapping, geochemical sampling, and geophysical surveys were required to convince investors that the concept was worth pursuing. The spectacular successes validate the work and demonstrate that several mineralization centers, with different boiling depths, were active in different places at various times in the district. This creates new exploration possibilities for the Fresno district and suggests that seeking vertically and laterally shifting mineralization centers in any large epithermal vein camp may be fruitful, particularly where mining and exploration have been confined to relatively limited areas or within vertically restricted zones.

Dr. Megaw can be reached at [pmegaw@imdex.com](mailto:pmegaw@imdex.com)

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## SCOTTSDALE CITY COUNCIL GIVES OK TO ADDRESS WATER-RELATED ISSUES

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by **Beth Duckett** - Oct. 21, 2010 03:29 PM

The Arizona Republic

Scottsdale will move forward on an agreement with Arizona American Water Co. to treat the company's surface water and tackle issues related to groundwater and water rates.

In a 5-2 vote, the City Council on Tuesday gave the green light to treat Arizona American Water's raw allocation of Central Arizona Project water, overlooking condemnation as an alternative.

"This is the best thing we're going to be able to pull off," said Councilman Bob Littlefield, chairman of the council's subcommittee on water issues. "We spent endless hours on this."

The dissenters, council members Ron McCullagh and Lisa Borowsky, pushed for condemnation, which failed on a 2-5 vote. Supporters of condemnation said acquiring Arizona American Water's service area through eminent domain would allow Scottsdale to gain control of the city's water supply and address customers' complaints about service and water rates.

Opponents criticized condemnation as costly and likely to result in rate increases for all Scottsdale water customers.

Arizona American Water has maintained its service area is not for sale.

"This is no time to consider taking over a private water company through eminent domain," said Paul Townsley, president of Arizona American Water.

Read more: <http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2010/10/21/20101021scottsdale-approves-address-water-related-issues.html#ixzz13MzGPnMF>

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## UA GIVEN US ROLE ON CHANGE OF CLIMATE

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**Interior Dept. grant to fund SW region research center**

The University of Arizona will head the Southwest Climate Science Center, one of eight regional centers being set up by the U.S. Interior Department to assess the impact of climate change on natural and cultural resources.

The UA will set up the center with a five-year, \$3.1 million grant.

The effort will bring together university and federal researchers and will involve five other institutions in the Southwest.

Jonathan Overpeck, co-director of the UA's Institute of the Environment, will be the principal investigator for the center.

He is joined by colleagues at UCLA, the University of Colorado-Boulder, the University of California-Davis, the Desert Research Institute in Reno, Nev., and the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at UC San Diego.

Overpeck said Wednesday that selection of the UA cements its reputation as the "go-to place around the world" for climate science.

The center will bring federal researchers to campus, beginning with four from the U.S. Geological Survey. Interior will also provide a research fund, Overpeck said.

Read more at [http://azstarnet.com/news/local/education/college/article\\_bc1b5758-cada-56b2-a618-06ac263ba237.html](http://azstarnet.com/news/local/education/college/article_bc1b5758-cada-56b2-a618-06ac263ba237.html)

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## **EPA TO DISCUSS PLUME THREATENING DRINKING-WATER WELLS**

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by **David Madrid** - Oct. 20, 2010 10:00 AM

The Arizona Republic

A growing plume of contamination that threatens drinking-water wells in the Southwest Valley will be addressed by environment experts Thursday during an open house.

The Phoenix Goodyear Airport superfund site contains two contaminated plumes, divided into north and south, and the north plume is growing.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is hosting an open house from 4 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday at Estrella Mountain Community College's Center for Teaching and Learning, 3000 N. Dysart Road, Avondale.

The EPA and the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality are inviting residents, businesses and community organizations to learn more about the threatening plume.

Officials in Litchfield Park, Avondale and Goodyear say the growth of the plume doesn't bode well for the cities, and cleanup efforts haven't been adequate.

Also attending the open house will be a toxicologist, a hydrologist, experts on the contamination and city representatives. Those who attend can learn about the Superfund process, the history of the plume, what environmental sampling has shown and results of a five-year review of the site. They can view a three-dimensional model of the site.

The source of the pollution in the north plume was Unidynamics Phoenix Inc., which was established in 1963 as a research, development and manufacturing plant for defense and aerospace equipment.

Read more: <http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2010/10/20/20101020swv-residents-plume->

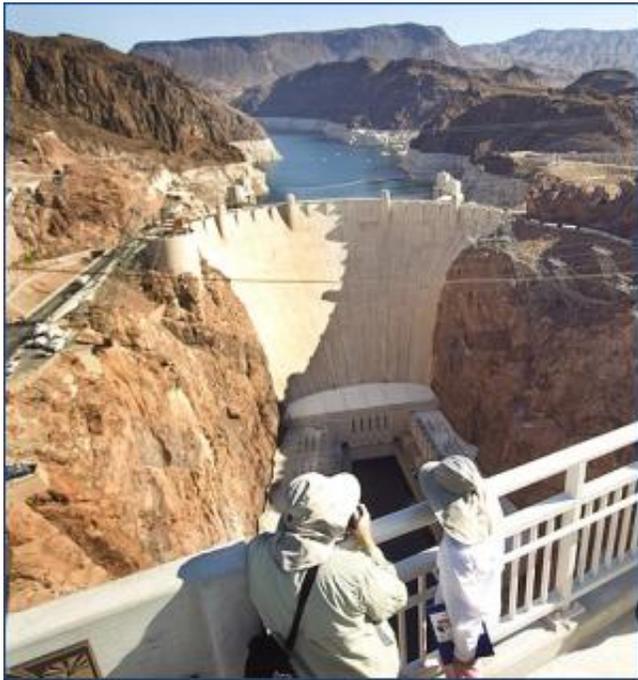
## LAKE MEAD SINKS TO A NEW HISTORIC LOW

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by **Shaun McKinnon** - Oct. 19, 2010 12:00 AM  
The Arizona Republic

Lake Mead sank to its lowest level in nearly 75 years on Sunday, a stark reminder of how drought and growing water demands have sapped the Colorado River and its huge reservoirs.

Not since it was first filling in 1937 has Lake Mead held so little water. The reservoir's level fell to the historic low shortly before noon on Sunday, eclipsing a previous record from the drought-stricken 1950s.



The lake is now just 8 feet above the level that would trigger the first drought restrictions, which would reduce water supplies for Arizona and Nevada. That gap could close by next year - the reservoir fell 10 feet from October 2009 to 2010 - but there are measures in place that would likely delay rationing for one or two years or even longer if a wet winter increased runoff into the river.

Most homes and businesses in Arizona likely would not feel the direct effects of the restrictions, which would divert water first from farmers.

But conservation groups say the reservoir's low levels underscore the risk to the Colorado River.

"Everyone needs to know when we turn on the tap, it drains water out of the river and it has ecological consequences," said Gary Wockner, campaign coordinator for Save the Colorado, a non-profit education group based in Fort Collins, Colo. "We need to try to keep some water in the river and keep it alive."

Read more: <http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/news/articles/2010/10/19/20101019lake-mead-water-level-new-historic-low.html#ixzz13T12og00>

## USE RECYCLED WATER TO KEEP PLANTS GREEN

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by **Rosie Romero** - Oct. 19, 2010 10:49 AM  
The Arizona Republic

With so little rain falling in the desert, it seems fruitless to collect it. But it turns out that just one-quarter inch of rain can fill three 50-gallon barrels, enough to maintain your gardens and lawn for a while.

At a test house in Tucson, rain supplied about 8 percent of the water used by residents, reducing their water bill.

It rarely rains, but consider how much runoff there is during storms. It pours from the roof and sends waves along street gutters. Some estimate we lose 90 percent of our rainwater that way. Even if some of

that is channeled to where it is needed, it could make a difference.

Harvested rainfall can be used in evaporative coolers, your chlorinated swimming pool, surface irrigation and even for washing your car.

Rainwater-harvesting systems range from simple to complex. The easiest way is to place a large plastic trash can at the bottom of a downspout to catch water from the roof. You likely can collect enough water for plants. Or invest in a system that will direct water toward underground steel tanks.

Read more:

<http://www.azcentral.com/style/hfe/outdoors/articles/2010/10/19/20101019rosie1016.html#ixzz13Syj1XXO>

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## **VOTE FOR PEOPLE WHO CARE ABOUT OUR FUTURE WATER**

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Oct. 17, 2010 12:00 AM

The Arizona Republic

If you care about Arizona's future water supplies, this election is **Code Red**.

A slate of shortsighted candidates is putting our long-range supply of water in danger.

Five activists are running for the Central Arizona Water Conservation District's governing board under the banner of "stop the spending." Four of them have little or no background in water issues.

They aim to join like-minded incumbents to form a limited-government majority on the 15-member board.

The goal is simple and drastic: Reduce the water-conservation district to a delivery service and micromanage daily operations.

Long-range planning be damned.

This is insanely risky.

The board oversees the Central Arizona Project, the state's largest single source of water. But the Colorado River, which it taps, is drought-stressed and over-allocated. Lake Mead is shrinking alarmingly low. Arizona has junior priority on the river, so if a shortage is declared, we're the first to lose water.

If any state should be looking ahead, it's Arizona. The CAP must do most of the job because the state Department of Water Resources has taken such severe budget hits.

**Please Read more:** <http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/opinions/articles/2010/10/17/20101017vote-water-editorial.html#ixzz13TEWNIMx>

For additional information on candidates check out:

### ***Long-term vision on water needed***

Sept. 28, 2010 12:00 AM

Read more: <http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/opinions/articles/2010/09/28/20100928tue1-28.html#ixzz13TLWjNWj>

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## **TEA-PARTY ACTIVISTS CHARGE INTO ARIZONA WATER PANEL RACE**

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by **Shaun McKinnon** - Oct. 10, 2010 12:00 AM

The Arizona Republic

No one runs for a seat on the Central Arizona Water Conservation District board for the glory. The

position is unpaid. Meetings are long, the discussions often mundane. Many voters barely know the job exists until it shows up on the ballot.

Yet this year, the board appears to have become a "tea party" battleground.

In a reflection of how far political ideology has burrowed into elections, tea-party activists are gunning for a majority on the nonpartisan board that manages the Central Arizona Project, the state's largest single source of water.

Most of the tea-party-backed candidates lack experience in managing natural resources. They are campaigning almost solely on fiscal issues, arguing that the district needs to cut costs, rein in spending and reduce the property taxes levied in Maricopa, Pima and Pinal counties to support water deliveries in the CAP Canal.

The activists say they can take control of the board if their "good government" slate of five candidates is elected on Nov. 2. The five, including one incumbent, would join an existing "Stop the Spending" coalition on the 15-member panel, which oversees the district's \$248 million budget.

The political drama is rare for what has been one of the state's least-ideological elected bodies.

Several current and former CAP board members worry about the partisan tone of the race and say the coalition is too narrowly focused on micromanaging the district instead of setting broader policies.

Read more: <http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2010/10/10/20101010tea-party-arizona-water-panel-race.html#ixzz13N0Ygr8p>

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## GILBERT WATER SUPPLY EMERGING AS CRITICAL ISSUE FOR TOWN COUNCIL

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by **Parker Leavitt** - Oct. 5, 2010 10:02 AM

The Arizona Republic

With about a decade left before Gilbert's demand for water eclipses its annual output, the Town Council on Monday discussed its options for securing enough of the precious resource to allow for projected population growth.

Gilbert currently gets most of its water from the Salt River and Central Arizona projects. Other sources include the Roosevelt Western Canal District and well pumping.

Although water use has dipped recently - now running 10 to 12 percent below projected demand - Water Resources Administrator Kathy Rall doesn't expect that trend to last.

By the time Gilbert reaches build out, the town will need about 81,000 acre feet of water per year, Rall said. One acre foot can serve two families for a year, she said.

Residential usage puts the largest strain on the municipal water supply, and Gilbert's population is expected to grow by at least 100,000 people over the next couple decades.

To prepare for the expansion, officials earlier this year secured a one-year lease for water rights from the San Carlos Apache Tribe for 20,000 acre feet of Central Arizona Project water per year.

Read more: <http://www.azcentral.com/community/gilbert/articles/2010/10/05/20101005gilbert-water-supply-council-meeting.html#ixzz13SzlyMJs>

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## CONTAMINATED WATER HAS SOUTHWEST VALLEY CITIES ON EDGE

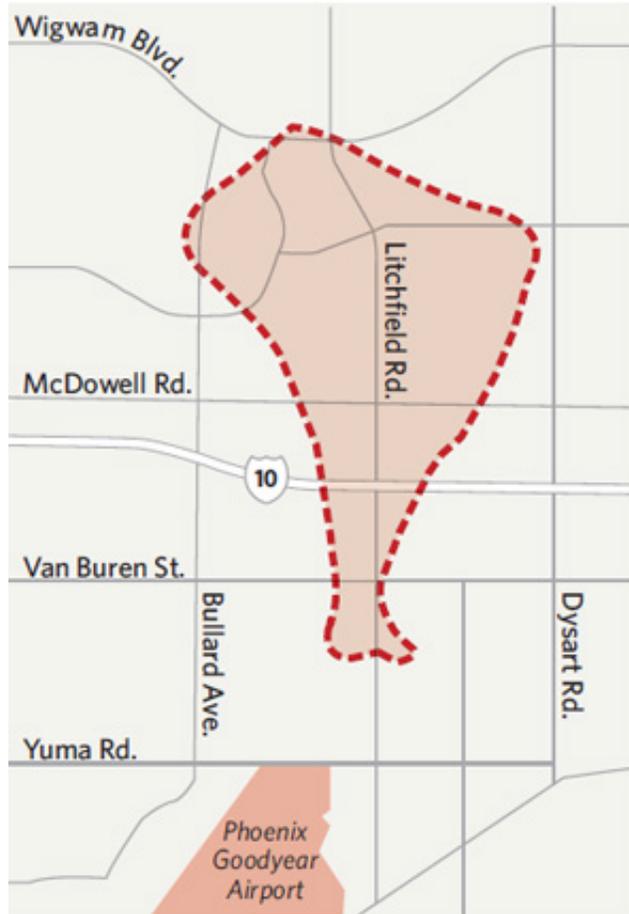
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by **David Madrid** - Sept. 29, 2010 11:03 AM

The Arizona Republic

## Phoenix Goodyear Airport north plume

Litchfield Park fears that a growing plume of contaminated groundwater will migrate into the city and impact a lake and drinking water.



Source: Clear Creek Associates

THE REPUBLIC

<http://www.azcentral.com/community/swvalley/articles/2010/09/29/20100929southwest-valley-cities-contaminated-water.html#ixzz13N2nZ0cA>

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## NAVAJO LAWMAKERS WATER VOTE TO DETERMINE TRIBE'S, STATE'S FUTURE

by **Shaun McKinnon** - Sept. 29, 2010 12:00 AM  
The Arizona Republic

Navajo lawmakers will consider a landmark agreement today that would secure the tribe's claims to a share of water from the lower Colorado River and promise relief to thousands of people who now haul drinking water to their homes on the reservation.

The agreement goes before the Navajo Tribal Council amid questions about its cost and scope but would represent a significant milestone for the tribe as well as Arizona, whose own water supplies are at risk as long as tribal claims remain unsettled.

The Navajo claims, outlined in a 2003 lawsuit, are the largest of the tribal water cases awaiting resolution. Arizona has agreed to give up water from the Colorado and Little Colorado rivers, but in amounts likely far

In the Southwest Valley, there is a growing plume of contamination that moves with groundwater flows and threatens drinking-water wells critical to three cities.

Officials in Litchfield Park, Avondale and Goodyear say the growth of the plume doesn't bode well for the cities and that cleanup efforts haven't been adequate.

The Phoenix Goodyear Airport superfund site contains two contaminated plumes, divided into north and south.

The north plume is growing.

While Litchfield Park is afraid the plume may impact its Tierra Verde Lake, a popular fishing area, Mayor Thomas Schoaf also worries about the city's drinking water.

"That's the big concern, because it (plume) is moving toward drinking-water wells that are run by Liberty Water and moving toward drinking-water wells that are the main drinking-water wells in Avondale," Schoaf said. "So it's a very serious problem."

Liberty Water provides water to Litchfield Park, Goodyear north of Interstate 10 and some unincorporated areas.

If the plume reaches the Avondale wells, it could become a very expensive problem, said Wayne Janis, Avondale's water resources manager.

Read more:

less than what a court could have awarded. With a clearly defined water source, the Navajos have agreed to drop the lawsuit, avoiding years of costly litigation.

The water-sharing deal among the Navajo, cities and the state would also resolve claims by the Hopi tribe, and it proposes a distribution pipeline that could eventually deliver water to off-reservation communities, such as Flagstaff, Winslow or Williams, if they can secure their own supplies.

But the deal's fate is far from certain. Opponents on the Navajo Reservation say it cheats the tribe by settling for too little water and accepting conditions on groundwater use in some areas of the reservation. They are pressuring the council to reject the settlement or postpone a vote until 2011, when a new council is seated.

Read more: <http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2010/09/29/20100929arizona-navajo-council-water-deal-vote.html#ixzz13SxyGi93>

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## WATERBLOGGED BY SHAUN MCKINNON, ARIZONA REPUBLIC

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### [Colorado River in for one-two-three punch?](#)

This winter could turn into an ocean of trouble for the **Colorado River**, or, more precisely, two oceans of trouble, according to a [study](#) released today by **UCLA**.

Researchers say the convergence of a strong [La Niña](#) with two other oceanic cycles could produce a dry winter on the upper Colorado that would worsen drought conditions downstream, especially in the ever-shrinking **Lake Mead**.

"If I were concocting a recipe for a perfect drought, this would be it," said **Glen MacDonald**, co-author of the study and director of UCLA's [Institute of the Environment and Sustainability](#).

The timing is not good. Lake Mead ended the 2009-10 water year Thursday at its lowest September level since 1937, at an elevation less than nine feet above the first drought reduction trigger. The **U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's** 2011 [operating plan](#) says the reservoir could hit that trigger -- elevation 1,075 feet above sea level -- by next summer if conditions are unusually dry.



Researchers on the UCLA study warned that the upcoming winter may be just that dry, which is particularly bad news for **Arizona** and **Nevada**, the states that absorb any drought-related cutbacks.

Read more at <http://www.azcentral.com/members/Blog/ShawnMcKinnon/100290>.

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### [Interior to fund river study, create climate center](#)

Wednesday, October 20, 2010 at 03:05 PM

The University of Arizona will host one of eight regional climate science centers to help the federal government study the potential effects of climate change on natural resources and the environment.

The Southwest Climate Center will bring together scientists from six universities to study a range of issues and offer guidance to federal resource managers through the Department of Interior, which will oversee the regional center.

Jonathan Overpeck, co-director of the UA's Institute of the Environment, will be the center's principal investigator.

"The Southwest is a bull's-eye for climate change in the United States, and the impacts of this climate change are already clear," said Overpeck, who has worked on international climate change studies. "The goal of the center is to help our region deal with climate change due to both natural and human causes."

Interior Secretary Ken Salazar announced the selection of the UA to host the center, which will receive an initial five-year, \$3.1 million grant.

Salazar also announced that the Interior Department would launch a three-year, \$1.5 million assessment of water resources on the Colorado River, which is already feeling the effects of a persistent drought.

The study, the first of its kind since 1978, will attempt to better quantify how much water the Colorado can deliver and the potential effects of drought, climate change and growing demand over the next 100 years.

Read more at <http://www.azcentral.com/members/Blog/ShawnMcKinnon/102290>.

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For associated links and other timely water blogs on Shaun McKinnon's Arizona Republic site – **Waterblogged** visit <http://www.azcentral.com/members/Blog/ShawnMcKinnon>.

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## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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*For more information about the Arizona Hydrological Society, or to view current job listings and announcements, please visit our regularly updated web site at:*

<http://www.azhydrosoc.org/>

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