

SALT RIVER PIMA-MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY

Community Development Department



Environmental Protection & Natural Resources Division

Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2008

(October 1, 2007 – September 30, 2008)

Table of Contents

Administration

Administrative Report _____	1
Organization Chart, FY 2007 _____	7

Environmental Programs

Air Quality Program (CAA§103) _____	8
Environmental Protection and Policy Development (EPPD) _____	14
Land Use Compliance _____	22
Range Management Program _____	28
Water Quality Program _____	34

Special Projects

Va Shly 'ay Akimel River Restoration Project _____	41
Feedlot Project- Brownfields Grant _____	45

Environmental Protection & Natural Resources



Photo: EPNR Staff December 2007

Executive Summary

The Environmental Protection & Natural Resources Division (EPNR) consists of two main sections comprised of multiple environmental programs: the Environmental Protection & Compliance Section and the Natural Resources & Land Use Compliance Section. Currently, twenty-two (22) full-time employees manage five distinct programs with varied environmental and natural resource components. EPNR's programs include the Air Quality Program, Land Use Compliance Program, Range Management Program, Water Quality Program, and Environmental Policy and Program Development (EPPD). The Solid Waste, Hazardous Substances and Recycling Programs are within EPPD. Salaries and benefits for four of the twenty-two positions are funded by US Environmental Protection Agency Region IX (US EPA) grants.

EPNR administers environmental regulatory programs, addresses environmental issues, and monitors growth and development to reduce the impact to the Community's environmental and natural resources. EPNR performs site inspections and monitoring activities to ensure compliance with Community and Federal laws. The Division also manages and analyzes data, interprets consultative work, writes

technical reports, and enforces environmental regulations. In addition, EPNR staff provides environmental outreach and education to increase awareness about environmental issues that impact the Community. In an ongoing effort to strengthen the bond between the people of the Community and their land, presentations to the Community Council, schools, and the general public are made available on a variety of environmentally related topics.

The EPNR management team includes the EPNR Manager, Ms. Ondrea Barber, and two Environmental Programs Supervisors, Mr. Dan Daggett, and Ms. Kari Morehouse, who oversee a staff of twenty-two (22) environmental professionals responsible for executing and maintaining EPNR's mission, goals, and objectives.

Accomplishments

- Presented air quality information at the Collins/Largo joint District Meeting (11-26-07)
- Developed and submitted two competitive grant proposals to EPA - Brownfields Job Training Grant and the National Environmental Information Exchange Network (NEIEN) Grant
- Received award notification from EPA for the Hazardous Waste Grant for \$79,500
- Received continued funding from EPA under the Water Quality Performance Partnership Grant (PPG) for a combined amount of \$1.5 million (4 year period)
- Received 2nd multi-year GAP PPG in the amount of \$460,000 to include General Assistance, Solid Waste, NEIEN, and Pesticide Programs
- Closed out previous General Assistance Program (GAP) PPG for \$1.4 million
- Received continued EPA funding for Air Quality in the amount of \$265,000 for FY2008
- Completed & submitted the Sampling Analysis Plan and Health & Safety Plan for the Brownfields Project
- Attended ITCA Tribal Leader's Water Supply Roundtable Meeting
- Continued with the removal of waste tires from the Community
- Air Quality Program initiated a special PM₁₀ study within the Community to provide localized information on sources of emissions
- Established a dust complaint tracking system
- Requests for Environmental Reviews became the Community's first process to utilize the Electronic Document Management System (EDMS) using SharePoint software
- Constructed a barrier gate and fence along the AZ Canal (with SRP approval) at the Dobson Road alignment to prevent the wild horses from migrating to Pima Road and into Scottsdale
- Completion of a 3 year Strategic Plan (FY2008-2011)
- Obtained Council approval of the Clean Air Act Eligibility Determination application package on 2/20/2008.

- Submitted the approved Eligibility Determination application to US EPA for consideration on 3/20/2008.
- Presented water quality information at Collins/Largo joint District Meeting (1/28/2008).
- Air Quality Program completed a special PM₁₀ study within the Community, obtaining localized information on sources of emissions and visiting over fourteen (14) Community businesses.
- Water Quality Program closed two groundwater wells that posed a safety threat to the Community.
- Water Quality Program collaborated with Engineering and Construction Services to enforce stormwater requirements on the SRPMIC and on the Lehi Wetland construction.
- Technical assistance to SRPMIC Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs for the Goldfield Ranch Development and many supporting documents submitted.
- Purchased three (3) state of the art motion activated security cameras to prevent theft and vandalism at the Wild Horse Management Facility.
- Completion of annual Earth Day events, including a poster contests for youth and seniors (new for FY 2008), Earth Fair, annual Earth Day Team Up & Clean Up Challenge which included over 600 participants and resulted in several tons of waste collected and properly disposed of
- Completion of a Community-wide Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan
- Completion of a Community Watershed Management booklet utilizing Community youth artwork
- Finalization of plans for the Community's **Clean & Green** Campaign
- Submission of the Draft Agricultural Pesticide Management Ordinance and Draft Structural Pesticide Ordinance to OGC and USEPA for review
- Submission of the Draft Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) for Pesticides addressing review comments from USEPA-IX
- Submission of the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) Manuals for Inspection/Investigation and Compliance/Enforcement and Pesticide in Groundwater Project
- Completion and implementation of a Pesticide Use Database to track pesticide usage on the SRPMIC
- Expansion of Community recycling and availability of recycling containers, including outreach to all Community enterprises and businesses
- Commencement of water quality summer monthly sampling at the Verde and Salt Rivers for bacteria and other parameters
- Environmental enforcement activities – Ten (10) inspections resulting in four (4) Notice of Correction letters and one (1) Notice of Violation letter with follow up compliance assistance
- Technical assistance to SRPMIC Administration and Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs for the Goldfield Ranch Development, including the drafting of many supporting documents.

- Recycling Open House, informing over 80 Community Members and SRPMIC staff of SRPMIC's recycling program
- Measurable success and increased participation in the Community's **Clean & Green** Campaign
- Approval of the Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) for Pesticides from USEPA Region IX and a site visit held with USEPA Region IX Pesticide Project officers
- Construction commenced on the Lehi Wetland
- Completion of water quality summer monthly sampling at the Verde and Salt Rivers for bacteria and other parameters
- Air Quality Program Treatment As State application passed public comment
- Completion of CIP improvement project at the Wild Horse Management Facility
- Coordination and success of the American Bar Association Environmental Awareness Event at Salt River High School

Challenges and Recommendations

- Draw downs for federal grants is a continuing challenge that could impact future funding.
- Formal direction is needed regarding the Va Shly'ay Akimel Ecosystem Restoration project
- Expiration of several contracts has necessitated drafting new contracts and initiating the CRAS process

Goals and Activities for FY2009

- Complete Standard Operating Procedures for EPNR Division and each program;
- Approved Treatment-as-a-State applications for the Air and Water Quality Programs;
- Approved and finalized Water Quality Standards;
- Approved and finalized Aquifer Protection Standards;
- Approved and finalized Soil Remediation Standards;
- Approved and finalized Inspection, Compliance and Enforcement Policy;
- Standardized file management, naming and retention systems;
- Enhanced reporting format and procedures (weekly, quarterly, annual and accomplishment reports);

- Implement new technology to improve productivity (e.g. National Environmental Information Exchange Network, Electronic Document Management System, etc.);
- Internet & Intranet enhancements;
- Successful Community-wide Earth Day events;
- Conduct successful educational outreach events throughout each year;
- Enhance and expand environmental monitoring to measure impacts to the Community's natural resources (increase frequency and types of multi-media monitoring);
- Develop Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) sheets for each EPNR program, project and function;
- Develop and implement Community environmental ordinances (Pesticides, Stormwater, Environmental Protection, Air Quality, etc.);
- Continue to reduce the wild horse population to more manageable numbers
- Construct at least two new wetland sites;
- Develop and implement Community-wide recycling and solid waste programs (in coordination with applicable Community Departments).

Personnel

Vacancies

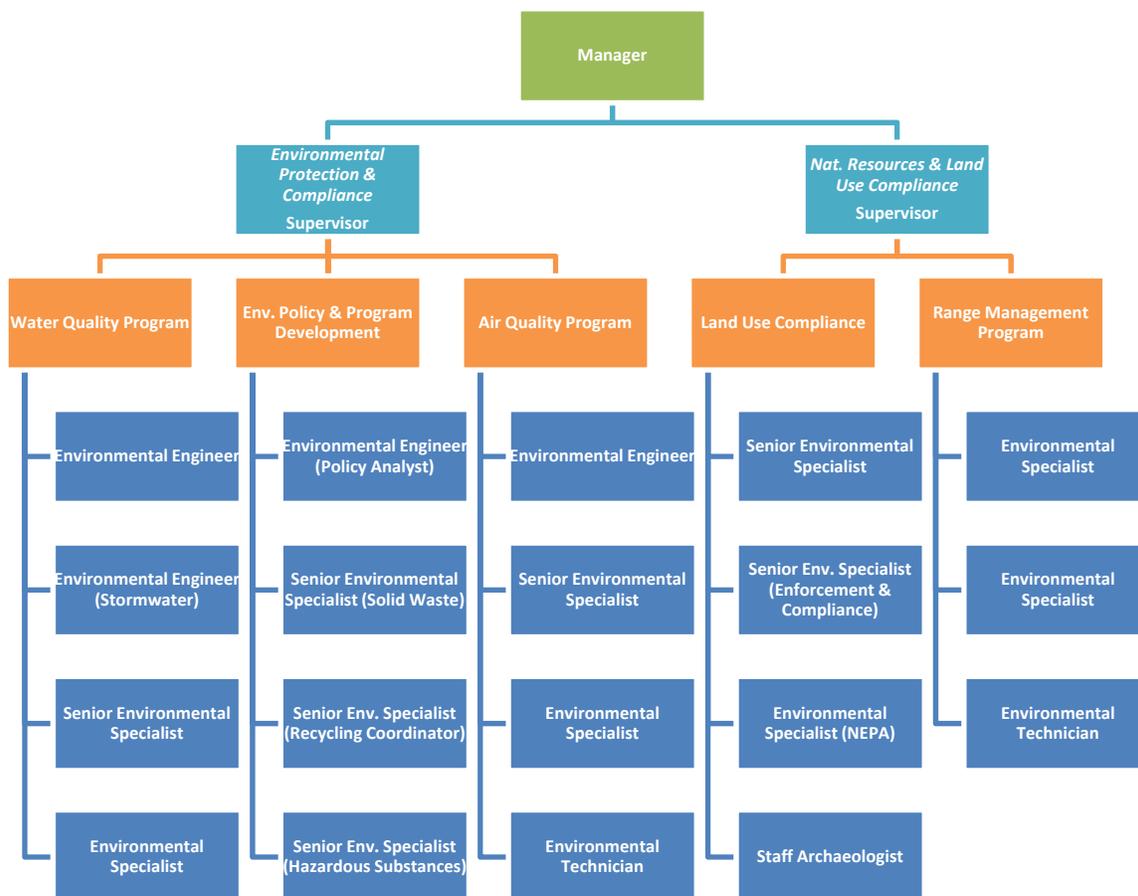
Position	Status	Duration of Vacancy	Anticipated Fill Date
Environmental Technician- Range & LUC	Under review by CDD Management	Less than 100 days	???????
Environmental Technician-Air & Water Quality	Screening (close 09-26-2008)	Less than 100 days	???????

EPARs

Position	Due Date	Justification/Information
Environmental Specialist- Range Management	08-11-2009	
Senior Environmental Specialist- Land Use Clearances	08-22-2009	
Environmental Program Supervisor- Natural Resources	09-03-2009	
Senior Environmental Specialist-Recycling Coordinator	09-30-2009	Probationary EPAR
Senior Environmental Specialist- Water Quality	01-23-2009	
Environmental Specialist-Air Quality	02-13-2009	
EPNR Manager	03-05-2009	
Senior Environmental Specialist- Solid Waste	N/A	Vacant
Environmental Engineer-Air Quality	05-13-2009	
Environmental Specialist- Range Management	05-14-2009	
Senior Environmental Specialist-Air Quality	05-21-2009	
Environmental Engineer- Water Quality	11-28-2009	
Senior Environmental Specialist- Enforcement & Compliance	11-27-2008	Probationary EPAR
Staff Archaeologist- Land Use Compliance	11-27-2008	Probationary EPAR
Environmental Program Supervisor-Environmental Protection	12-09-2009	Probationary EPAR
Senior Environmental Specialist- Hazardous Substances	04-13-2009	Probationary EPAR
Environmental Engineer- Stormwater	02-18-2009	Probationary EPAR
Environmental Specialist- NEPA/Land Use Compliance	02-17-2009	Probationary EPAR
Environmental Technician- Range Management/Land Use	N/A	Vacant
Environmental Specialist- Water Quality	N/A	Vacant
Environmental Engineer- Policy Analyst	02-18-2009	Probationary EPAR
Environmental Technician- Air & Water Quality	N/A	Vacant

*Green=Completed / Up-to-Date, Yellow=Due Next Quarter, Red=Overdue, No Color=Vacant

EPNR Organizational Chart



Air Quality Program (CAA§103)



Photo: Air Quality Staff explaining how the Differential Optical Absorption Spectroscopy (DOAS) air monitor site works to members of the Land Management Board.

Program Summary

The Air Quality Program (AQP) mission is to assess the Salt River Pima- Maricopa Indian Community (SRPMIC) air-shed and develop and implement an innovative regulatory program to address air quality issues such as the non-attainment designation for Particulate Matter 10 microns or less in size (PM₁₀) and Ozone (O₃) under the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). With the federal funding assistance from US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region IX, the AQP has established a network of five (5) ambient air monitoring sites to identify and assess various air pollution sources impacting the Community. The AQP continues to develop a regulatory component whereby the Community can establish its jurisdictional authority for air pollution sources within the exterior reservation boundaries. The AQP emphasis is to protect the Community health and welfare by maintaining and enhancing the air quality.

Accomplishments

The accomplishments made by the Air Quality Program are detailed below.

Administration and Grant Management:

- Quarterly and annual reporting to the US EPA and Community Council as required

- Submission of the FY 2009 Air Quality CAA 103 Grant Proposal to EPA Region IX. Made revisions to budget upon Community Council's approval to fund the Environmental Engineer moving forward
- Fully expended the FY 2008 EPA CAA grant

Air Quality Management: The program took major steps towards managing the air quality program of the Community and planning for emission control strategies. The highlights are:

- The Environmental Engineer, a appointed member of the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) air quality technical committee, provided tribal input on PM₁₀ five percent (5%) dust reduction plan
- AQP staff received Tribal Emission Inventory Software Solution (TEISS) training from the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP) to be able to work on updating the Emission Inventory for the Community
- AQP staff met with six (6) gasoline stations on the Community, Salt River Materials Group, CEMEX and Rinker Materials, Vulcan Materials, Tri-Cities Generation station (SRP & DTE Biomass), Agate Steel, Arizona Propane, Salt River Landfill, Red Mountain Trap & Skeet, A & A Materials, North Center Street Landfill, Casino Arizona, and Scottsdale Community College to address Emissions Inventory issues
- AQP completed an update of the Emissions Inventory for the Community (EI)
- Participated in multimedia inspections at Rogers Bros. Farms, Associated Farms, and Rousseau Farms
- Participated in conference calls regarding new ozone standard briefing, Western Regional Air Partnership (WRAP), National Tribal Air Association (NTAA), Regional Tribal Operations Committee (RTOC), proposed national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) for lead, and new source review (NSR) tribal working group
- AQP staff tested EPA's new emission inventory software (EIS) Gateway that will be used in the future for updating the Emission Inventory for the Community
- PM₁₀ Assessment Project was completed and AQP staff met with VSI to discuss study results and implications for the Community. VSI provided the final summary document for the study to the AQP program
- Completed the Program Opportunity Document (POD) and Program Initiation Document (PID) with Steve Rohde of SRPMIC IT Department regarding the National Environmental Information Exchange Network (NEIEN) Air Quality Subsystem (AQS) node implementation
- Continuing the DOAS air toxics monitoring in joint effort with ADEQ and ASU
- AQP staff work with Fleet Management to implement the EPNR School Bus Idling policy in the Community
- AQP staff met with Senior Center representatives to get approval to put up an air quality communication flagpole at the facility which was granted
- Completed and updated the Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPP) and the Standard Operating Practices (SOPs) for the air monitoring sites

- Request to modify PM 2.5 Monitoring Sample Frequency granted by EPA Region IX
- Provided oversight over landfill gas flares
- Received and responded to air quality related complaints
- Developed a fugitive dust complaint tracking system for Community Members

Ambient Air Monitoring: The following is a summary of the ambient air monitoring activities performed by the program during FY 08:

- Ambient monitoring for Ozone, PM₁₀, and PM_{2.5} (particulate matter 2.5 micron or less), and air toxics (DOAS site) to assess the air quality of the Community
- Meteorological data obtained for correlating weather patterns and air quality
- Operated and maintained ambient air monitoring equipment at five (5) monitoring stations (for Ozone, PM₁₀, and PM_{2.5}) to include repairs and calibration
- Conducted quarterly equipment performance audits
- Submitted data to EPA Air Quality System (AQS) on a quarterly basis air monitoring
- Hourly ozone reporting to AIRNow
- Conducted Quality Assurance/Quality Control of monitoring equipment
- Conducted data verifications, precision flow checks, leak checks, calibrations, data downloading, and maintenance to the air monitors
- Analyzed and calculated ozone monitoring data
- Installed visibility cameras at two (2) locations. IT Department working on software communication issues
- Completed and updated the Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPP) and the Standard Operating Practices (SOPs) for the air monitoring sites

Regulatory Development - Tribal Clean Air Act (CAA) Development: The program has established a functional air monitoring network and during the current fiscal year special attention was devoted to commencing activities for the development of the Community's regulatory capabilities. In an effort to undertake air quality programs under the CAA the program initiated the Eligibility Determination by EPA. The process of the Eligibility Determination Application under Treatment as State (TAS) has been finalization, approved by the Council, and formally submitted to the EPA Region IX. The staff was involved in the following manner:

- Developed/finalized the Eligibility Determination Application in conjunction with Treatment as State (TAS) presented to and approved by Council. It was formally submitted to EPA Region IX in 2nd Quarter FY2008
- TAS package went through public comment from July 28, 2008 to August 28, 2008. It received no public comments and one support letter from the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ);
- Developed/finalized the draft of open burning, fugitive dust, Agriculture, nonmetallic mineral processing, and minor New Source Review (mNSR) ordinances and working with Office of General Council (OGC) to finalize

- Comment letter sent to EPA Region IX regarding the PM_{2.5} proposed designation for the SRPMIC Community
- Coordinated all Clean Air Act related regulatory activities
- Participated in EPA's Tribal Monitoring Development Guidance

Outreach Activities: The program recognizes the importance of the Community being an integral part of the success of the tasks being planned and undertaken by the program. Hence the staff undertook the following activities to educate the Community on air quality issues:

- CDD Awareness Day
- Council District B/E joint meeting
- Council District C meeting
- Presentation on air quality during the Tribal Council 2nd quarterly meeting, JATAP Forum, 8th Annual National Tribal Conference on Environmental Management and poster session at the 2008 EPA National Air Quality Conference, WRAP Workshop, and National Tribal Air Forum
- Earth Day Activities – April 26, 2008
- AQP staff met with Senior Center representatives to get approval to put up an air quality communication flagpole at the facility which was granted
- AQP staff met with Public Works representative to discuss the coordination of the Community wide air quality communication flagpole installations
- AQP staff met with 7th & 8th grade teachers at the Salt River Middle School to discuss the Junior Solar Sprint event
- AQP staff work with Fleet Management to implement the EPNR School Bus Idling policy in the Community

Other AQP staff Activities (Meetings and Trainings, Presentations Given, Outreach, etc.)

- Inter Tribal Council of Arizona Biannual Meeting – Tucson
- Air Toxics Workshop
- Air Dispersion Model Workshop
- Presented at a District C Meeting in the Community
- Advanced TIESS Training by ITEP
- CARE Grant training by EPA
- Certified by ASU/ADEQ in EPA Method 9 Visible Emission Training for Classroom and Field
- Managing Multiple Priorities Training
- DOAS Training provided by OPSIS
- CPR/AED Training
- Data Analysis and Interpretation Training provided by EPA/ITEP
- JATAP Risk Assessment meetings and Risk Communication workshop
- Participated in EPA/TAMS Monthly Teleconference Call and monthly EPA Tribal AQS Question & Answer Sessions
- One-on-One GIS/HYSPLIT Training provided by ITEP/TAMS
- Arizona Technical Workgroup Meeting

- Meeting with representatives from Maricopa County, Gila River, and ITCA to discuss overlapping air quality issues (i.e., ordinance development and dust control)
- Presentations on air quality to Tribal Council, JATAP Forum, and 8th Annual National Tribal Conference on Environmental Management;
- Received training for New Source Review (NSR) at EPA headquarters, Geographical Information Systems (GIS) Training for Air Quality Professionals, EPA Improve and Protect Air Quality Workshop, Arizona Technical Monitoring Workgroup, QA Measurement Systems Training
- SRPMIC HR Leadership training

Challenges and Recommendations:

Below is a list of challenges faced by the air quality staff, how they were addressed and recommendations for the future.

1. A problem with PM 2.5 filters: The AQP is working to resolve the issue with obtaining our PM 2.5 monitoring filters and analysis in a timely manner. There seems to be a breakdown in the supply chain system, specifically regarding TAMS. AQP staff is investigating obtaining the PM 2.5 filters and analysis from Maricopa County or a separate contractor. There were multiple PM_{2.5} sampling issues with labs and obtaining PM_{2.5} filters during this quarter. Also the AQP has requested and granted the modification to the monitoring of PM_{2.5} sampling frequency in fourth quarter. The issue relates to inconsistencies of PM_{2.5} filter distribution from the laboratory not meeting the agencies sample schedules. One of the PM monitor collection schedule was reduced to 1-in-6 Day sample frequency from the 1-in-3 Day sample event that will allow two samplers on the same schedule. In adjustment to less frequent monitoring will benefit our program in staff not coming in on every third weekend, less maintenance, less cost to tribe and laboratory and will eventually improve the data completeness report
2. Networking speed: Staff strongly feels that there is need for better networking speed and propose a solution of relational databases for a better functioning networking. The National Environmental Information Exchange Network (NEIEN) initiatives in progress with funding from the EPA should provide the needed support in the future. This means there is a need to customize the network. The staff finds that the software application used by the Pima County Air Program is user-friendly. The program plans to further research this and other networking applications and upgrade the existing network for better efficiency and task accomplishment. Software tool: GIS applications to enhance the data mapping and customize data reports would better support the data network development in utilizing the meteorological and ambient air quality data tool HYSPLIT application.

3. Need for an inspector: The EPA's Basic Inspector Training recommends that inspections are to be conducted by a pair of staff. Currently, this will involve taking two staff away from regular duties during an inspection – which will be stressful on the staff. Recommendation – add an inspector position as soon as possible. When the regulatory capability of the program is developed there will be need for more frequent compliance inspections and assistance from an added staff. Additional funds will be needed.

Goals and Activities for FY2009

- Complete/update Community Emission Inventory
- Provide the drafted Dust Control Ordinance and Open Burning Ordinance for Council consideration and approval
- Obtain approval from US EPA for the Eligibility Determination (treatment as a state) under the Clean Air Act (CAA)
- Install and monitor the air quality communication equipment

Personnel

The Air Quality Program is staffed by the following professional positions. The program operates under the direction of the EPNR Manager and in the next fiscal year the staff will be guided and directly supervised by the Environmental Programs Supervisor (EPS). Below is a summary of the staff and their respective functions under the Air Quality Program.

Chris Horan, Environmental Engineer – major role to undertake technical activities related to regulatory, monitoring, and compliance issues.

Stan Belone, Senior Environmental Specialist – mainly responsible for monitoring data management and submittal to EPA

Greg Little, Environmental Specialist – mainly responsible for the Community's emission inventory updates

Vacant, Environmental Technician – assist the other staff with sampling, data down loads, laboratory contacts, and other needed tasks.

Kari Morehouse, Environmental Program Supervisor, provides direct supervision, support, and overall management of the program.

Ondrea Barber, EPNR Manager – provide general direction, support, and overall supervision of the air program

Environmental Program and Policy Development



Photo: EPPD staff and Salt River Elementary School students during career fair

The purpose of the Environmental Program and Policy Development (EPPD) section is to assess, monitor and implement activities that prevent, minimize, remove or mitigate pollution within the Community. These activities are supported by the development of policy and ordinances that will ensure future compliance with environmental regulations that reduce the risks of exposure from contaminants to safeguard human health and the environment. The EPPD is comprised of the following components: Administrative and Grant Management, Solid and Hazardous Waste Program, Pesticide Program, Recycling Program, Environmental Regulation and Policy Development, and other special projects.

Accomplishments

The accomplishments made by the EPPD within six (6) major functional areas of the program are detailed below.

Administration and Grant Management:

- **Fiscal reports-** Met with auditor to review FY2006 Performance Partnership Grants (PPG) grants reporting and management and was able to provide information to auditor quickly and informed that established procedures for grant management were very good. Assisted Finance's Grants and Contracts

with information needed to complete financial status reports and closeout of grants.

- **New proposals**- Officially submitted the Household Hazardous Waste work plan and budget for funding. The Resource Conservation Grant-Solid Waste grant was submitted and selected for round 2 of competitive review which required the submittal of additional supporting documentation.
- **Budget management** – Significant time was spent with EPA Project Officers and staff to revise and change budgets and work plans for the two EPA PPGs. Considerable work was completed on establishing the PPG budget via LUCY, Va Shly'ay Project, and monitoring program/project budgets. Improvements in software support have made monitoring and accessibility easier. Implemented LUCY budget for Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Endangered Species Act (ESA) funds through Self Governance.
- **Contracts monitoring and development** – The Planning Impact Fee Fiscal Analyses (PIFFA) project contract and payments of invoices required much time. The GeoTrans contract was amended to include additional work to complete tasks related to groundwater wells and also to meet the cost obligation of the current Brownfields work plan. IML and VSI contracts funds were increased and KES contract was verified to have enough funds for remainder of year. Coordinated the annual nestwatch program Special Use permit and process. Met with JJ Tires and SCS Engineers to begin new contracts.

In addition to the above, two EPA grants were closed during the 4th quarter (Water Quality PPG [CWA 106 & 319] & Air Quality [CAA 103]).

As of the 4th quarter of FY08, the tasks and responsibilities outlined above have transitioned to the Project Managers of each of the grants and special projects. During the 4th quarter transitional period, much of the remaining work was completed by EPNR Management.

Solid and Hazardous Waste Program:

- A total of 1,929 waste tires were removed from the Community storage facility in FY08. Approximately 150 tires were also removed from the Department of Transportation facility. A new contract with J.J. Tires, Inc. is currently in process. No requests were received for the removal of inoperable vehicles.
- Two hazardous waste spills were responded to: one at JR's Convenience store on April 23, 2008; and one along McKellips Road east of Loop 101 on August 29, 2008. Kary Environmental Services, Inc., is responsible for clean-up at both sites.
- Previously drafted solid waste ordinances are being reviewed and updated.
- A new contract with SCS Engineers for Landfill Gas Monitoring is currently at OGC for review and approval.
- Eight illegal dumpsites originally identified in FY06 were targeted for cleanup, and appropriate actions were initiated.

- An inventory checklist of illegal dumpsites was completed, and all information was sent to EPA's Tribal Waste database system.
- The Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) discussed components of the Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan (ISWMP) and Integrated Hazardous Waste Management Plan (IHWMP). A resolution for acceptance of this EPA grant passed during the third quarter, and staff is now moving forward to implement the grant and work plan. SWAC members will assist with this project. Other tribes that have successfully implemented similar plans will be consulted, and their documents will be utilized as templates if/as appropriate.
- SWCA members met in May to assist in coordination of the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event scheduled for early 2009.
- Community Action and Revitalization Project (CARP): efforts continue to fund and implement this two-year, Community-wide project that is aimed at large and small structure cleanup and beautification. A RFP and Inquiry of Intent to Bid have been drafted. The next step is securing a budget (which was requested during the fourth quarter) along with cleanup locations, contractors, and coordination among Community departments. A timeline and action plan have been created to ensure that all cleanup locations are identified with a responsible department (person), due dates, tasks, and other necessary coordination. A removal criterion is being developed and will be based on a point scale for proper identification of structure removal.

Pesticide Program:

- Submission of the Draft Agricultural Pesticide Management Ordinance and the Draft Structural Pesticide Ordinance to OGC and USEPA for review was completed.
- The Draft Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) addressing review comments from USEPA-IX on the previously submitted draft was approved by EPA-IX on September 27, 2008.
- Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) Manuals for Inspection/Investigation and Compliance/Enforcement and Pesticide in Groundwater Project (abandonment of two Community wells in agricultural areas and associated outreach activities to prevent pesticide contamination of groundwater resources in the Community) were also completed and the associated reports were submitted to USEPA-IX.
- Pesticide application data has been loaded into the newly created Excel-based database for tracking pesticide use in the Community. A total of 132 applications have been entered since the database was created at the end of the second quarter.
- Agricultural Inspections: a follow-up inspection was conducted on September 11, 2008 at the Associated Farm to determine whether or not the deficiencies identified during an earlier multi-media inspection had been remedied.
- Non-agricultural inspections: two (2) monitoring/observations were conducted during the fourth quarter. The first one is a monitoring/observation conducted at the GRUSP site to monitor pesticide mixing/loading of herbicide by the Salt

River Project (SRP) for weed control along the right of way bordering the recharge basins, whereas the second one was conducted at the pond located at the 101/202 junction to monitor the application of herbicide to control cattails.

Recycling Program:

- Extensive collaboration and outreach is taking place within the SRPMIC government and to businesses to improve and expand recycling on the SRPMIC.
- Networking with the Salt River Landfill and Public Works to improve communication and coordinate efforts with respect to recycling in the SRPMIC.
- Began draft documents to develop short and long term recycling program goals and Community recycling plan.
- Staff coordinated with SRPMIC Public Works to obtain recycling containers for the Salt River High School cafeteria, SRPMIC Senior Center and Memorial Hall, and Talking Stick Golf Course.
- Met with Russell Phillips at Public Works about OPUS using Friedman recycling instead of the Community's contractor for recycling. Russell with follow up with OPUS about needing to comply with the Community's Collection and haulage of solid waste from commercial enterprises.
- Held a meeting with Stephanie Hinson to determine how to obtain monthly recycling statistics.
- Drafted a summary for the EPNR recycling program and submitted it to Lori Caulderon with the Housing Authority to be used in the conference program.
- Began the establishment of a recycling partnership network. Meetings were held with SRPMIC Public Works, Salt River Landfill and Casino Arizona staff.

Regulatory and Policy Development:

- Solid Waste Ordinance – Previously drafted ordinance documents were located and a recent version was identified. This version will be scanned into a Word document for review and updating.
- Pesticide Ordinances – The draft Agricultural and Non-agricultural Pesticide Management Ordinances have been submitted to OGC and USEPA-IX for review.
- Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP)/Sampling Analyses Plan (SAP)/Health & Safety Plan (HSP) – The Draft QAPP for the Pesticide Program previously submitted to EPA-IX for review was approved on September 27, 2008. At the same time, the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) of the Pesticide Program were also submitted to USEPA-IX for review. The Health and Safety Plan is an integrated component of the SAP.

Other Activities (Meetings, Trainings, Presentations, etc.):

- Tribal Project and Empowerment Meeting - Phoenix, AZ (April 14, 2008)
- Procurement and contracts training
- Overview Microsoft Office 2007 training

- Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc. (ITCA) – GAP Online Training
- Environmental Protection Agency's HAZWOPER Training in Richmond, CA. (May 5-9, 2008)
- Arizona Emergency Association Services, 35th Annual AESA Conference in Scottsdale, AZ (June 10-11, 2008)
- Environmental Protection Agency's Region 9 – Arizona Tribal Interagency Solid Waste Working Group Meeting in Phoenix, AZ
- National Tribal Conference on Environmental Management – Attended and presented at the 8th Annual Conference in Billings, MT
- Emission Inventory – Cornelius Antone with Tohono O'odham Nation met (May 27, 2008) with EPNR staff to discuss emissions inventory and the Tribal Emission Inventory Software Solution (TEISS)
- National Tribal Operations Committee Meeting – Attended budget meetings in Anchorage, Alaska (February 10-15, 2008)

Solid and Hazardous Waste Program:

- Community Council Meeting, February 27, 2008: presented resolution for the Household Hazardous Waste Project. Approved and submitted with final grant application.
- Participated in the West Coast Climate Change Webinar on Composting and Landfill Issues (July 16, 2008)
- Participated in the West Coast Webinar on Climate Change, Waste Prevention, Recovery and Disposal (August 5, 2008)
- Attended the Tribal Project and Empowerment Meeting - Phoenix, AZ (September 24, 2008)
- Attended the West Coast Green and participated in the tribal sessions - San Jose, CA (September 25-27, 2008)
- Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) meeting (May 27, 2008)
- Solid Waste Association of North America Arizona Chapter - 38th Annual Landfill Operation and Solid Waste Seminar in Scottsdale, AZ (May 28-30, 2008)
- Salt River Landfill Tour – Materials Recovery Facility and landfill tour with Stephanie Hinson.
- Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP) – Attended the Source Reduction Training for Solid Waste in Tempe, AZ (January 22-24, 2008)
- Mini TERC meeting on West Nile Virus at Health and Human Services – Discussed the successful efforts of the waste tire removal project and provided information on the number of tires removed; also provided information on the inoperable vehicle removal program. (March 19, 2008)

Pesticide Program:

- Audit meeting with the Pesticide Program staff from EPA-IX on program components auditing and discussion of various issues relating to the Pesticide Program such as the upcoming Pesticide Container rule, 24-C and Section 18 registration matters. (September 15, 2008)

Recycling Program:

- EPNR staff presented four concurrent sessions at the 4th Annual Salt River Community Housing Conference. The conference was held Saturday,

- September 13, 2008 at the Salt River High School. Workshop sessions were titled "Community Recycling Program: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle".
- Began the establishment of a recycling partnership network. Initial meetings were held with SRPMIC Public Works, Salt River Landfill, Casino Arizona, Allied Waste, De Rito Property Management, Kitchell Property Management, ACE Building Maintenance and Salt River Devco.
 - Career Day SRPMIC Elementary School (April 21, 2008) – presented on recycling and the EPNR Earth Day Celebration.

Outreach Activities:

- EPNR Earth Day Celebration (April 26, 2008) – EPPD assisted with planning and coordination, submittal of newspaper articles and outreach materials, and ensured that all allocated tasks were completed prior to the event on April 26. EPPD's main duty during the event itself was to promote recycling and provide appropriate outreach materials.
- The American Bar Association (ABA) public service project was held at Salt River High School on September 17th. This event was co-hosted by SRPMIC EPNR and the ABA. Approximately 130 people attended, including high school participants, EPNR staff, SRHS staff, ABA volunteers and tribal environmental staff from Tohono O'odham Nation, Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation and the Gila River Indian Community. The ABA's Section of Environment, Energy and Resources (SEER) meeting encouraged student participation in focus groups and mock public hearings to design plans of action against global warming and other environmental issues.
- ITEP climate change presentation at SRHS
- Claire Miller District Meeting (April 22, 2008) – attended meeting with EPNR staff at the Department of Corrections to promote Earth Day.
- Clean and Green Campaign – Planning and coordination took place for this campaign during the months of February, March and April. The 12-month program, designed to build healthy environmental habits among Community members, was launched at Earth Day 2008. Three articles were submitted to the Au-Authm Action Newspaper and a flier was posted on the intranet to advertize the campaign and seek participation.

Sold Waste Program:

- The *Inoperable Vehicle* brochure was reprinted.
- Provided an article on "how to handle broken and burned out CFLs" to the Au-Authm Newspaper.
- Developed information for the Clean and Green Campaign on CFLs, Alternative Household Cleaners, and Protecting Babies and Toddlers from Household Cleaners.
- Provided information on conducting a household waste audit during the recycling open house event.
- Interviewed for the Au-Authm newspaper on greening the Community.
- Provided assistance to Community members on how to properly dispose of e-waste, latex paint, propane cylinders, and drums of pesticides.

Pesticide Program

- The *Pesticide Safety at Home* brochure was updated and revised. Five hundred copies were printed and will be used for distribution to Community members, Community programs and for dissemination at outreach events.
- The brochures were handed out at the 4th Annual Community Housing Conference, EPNR/American Bar Association public service project event and are currently being displayed in suite 200 in the Community Development Department.

Recycling Program

- A cell phone recycling flier, which includes batteries, chargers, PDAs, IPODS and MP3 players, was completed and posted on the intranet. Once items are collected, they will be sent to Wireless Alliance, Boulder, Colorado for recycling.
- Distributed the Guide to Community Recycling brochures to twelve businesses located at the Pavilions and to SRPMIC Housing Authority offices, Department of Corrections, Fire Department, Diabetes Services, Health Clinic, Public Relations, Learning Center, Youth Services, Talking Stick, Administration (Chaparral), Casino Arizona, Community Building, Memorial Hall, Senior Center, Scottsdale Community College, JR's Convenience Store, Red Mountain Trap and Skeet, Saddleback Communications and Secured Vehicle Storage.
- Two (2) recycling articles were published in the Au Authm Action newspaper. An article on Community Curbside Bulk Waste Pick up was printed in the May 15th edition and an article on the SRPMIC Recycling Program was published in the June 19th edition of the Community newspaper.
- Letters were drafted and mailed to seven (7) Community enterprise businesses inviting them to participate in the SRPMIC Recycling Program and the EPNR Clean and Green Campaign.
- A letter was sent to the president of De Rito Property Management to encourage recycling efforts at the Pavilions. It was also requested that permission be granted to add recycling containers at various locations on the property.
- A Recycling Open House was held August 29, 2008 in the Xaxan training room; approximately 80 Community members and employees participated.
- Met with Jennifer Deaton at Pavilions Property Management and provided her with outreach information related to the Community recycling program. This material was subsequently distributed at the May Pavilion tenant meeting.
- Assisted EPNR staff with coordination of the Clean and Green Campaign. Reviewed and commented on the June newspaper article, provided input on the campaign tag line, worked with Pima Awards and Strategies on ordering incentive items for the campaign.
- Distributed desk-sized recycling containers to EPNR, CDD and MRPM staff.
- Designed Community recycling program magnet that was printed and distributed to Community residences, programs and enterprises businesses.

- Promotional items were selected and ordered for the recycling outreach event. Items ordered are made from recycled materials or are items that can be reused.
 - o Recycled cardboard field notebooks
 - o Recycled messenger bags
 - o Organic Spa tote bags
 - o Reusable coffee mugs
 - o Magnets
 - o Recycling program brochures

Challenges and Recommendations

Ms. Marilyn Ethelbah submitted her resignation as the Environmental Engineer at the end of the third quarter. As a result, grants and contracts management will be assumed by the project leads. Near the end of the fourth quarter, Ms. Cynthia Naha resigned her position as Senior Environmental Specialist, where she was mainly responsible for developing the Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Program. A replacement will be recruited and hired during the first quarter of FY09.

Personnel

Vacant, Senior Environmental Specialist – mainly responsible for developing the Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Program.

Jenifer Pond, Senior Environmental Specialist – mainly responsible for developing the Recycling Program.

Vacant, Environmental Specialist – Pesticide Program

Kari Morehouse, Environmental Program Supervisor – provide general direction, support and overall supervision of the EPPD Program

Ondrea Barber, EPNR Manager- provide general direction, support and overall supervision of the EPPD Program

Land Use Compliance Program



Photo: Red Mountain Preserve: a sacred and environmentally sensitive area to be protected from inappropriate land uses.

Program Summary

The Land Use Compliance (LUC) Program assists the SRPMIC in the review of, and compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA), the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (ARPA), and the SRPMIC Code of Ordinances. The program reviews home site and commercial leases for compliance with the various federal and tribal regulations. Initial review is conducted by the Staff Archaeologist and the NEPA Environmental Specialist completes the review process to determine no effects onto archaeological findings and that no detrimental harm is committed to the natural environment. A substantial amount of review is conducted on construction projects ranging from home site and commercial leases, renewal of business leases, and new building projects. The primary role of the Compliance and Enforcement section is to evaluate compliance by the regulated community with the Community's environmental ordinances, including rules and regulations. At the same time, it also provides an opportunity for the Community to promote pollution prevention

and compliance to the regulated community through direct personnel interactions and on-site technical assistance.

Accomplishments

Major projects undertaken by the LUC program have included the Pima Road Widening Design Concept Report, Dobson Road Bridge Design Concept Report, Arizona Department of Transportation Certification of the Salt River Materials Group Buckeye Facility, Inspection and Report on Farming-Related Maintenance Yards, the Brownfield Feedlot Project, and numerous archaeological and environmental inspections for home sites, rights-of-way projects, and construction of the Two Waters Administrative Complex.

Archaeology:

A new Staff Archaeologist, Mr. Thomas Wright, was hired during the 3rd quarter of FY08. His first priority was becoming familiar with the structure of the tribal government and operating procedures utilized by the program to achieve compliance for all ground disturbing construction activity on the Community. He was also able to immediately assume the duties of conducting and reporting archaeological surveys and monitoring projects (some of which have added important new information about the Community's cultural resources) as well as reviewing the work of outside consultants. Ongoing projects include consultation with ECS regarding projects at Two Waters and Lehi; review of consultant work for the proposed new Salt River bridges; assisting with contract renewal for the tribe's on-call archaeological consultant; working with the Cultural Preservation Program to represent Tribal interests in a new Master Plan for Papago Park; and conducting research on historic adobe structures throughout the Community and other special topics as requested. Cultural resource records in the GIS and SharePoint databases are also being continually maintained and updated.

A total of 43 home sites and four tribal projects were initiated and surveyed for historic properties. Class I and Class III cultural resource reports were completed for all and submitted to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Western Regional Archaeologist for concurrence and forwarded to the Arizona State Historic Preservation Office. In addition, archaeological surveys by outside consultants for four commercial projects have been reviewed and submitted to the BIA and SHPO. Final SHPO approval has been received for these projects.

NEPA:

The NEPA position was filled with the hiring of Angela Cruz. Angela attended NEPA training during the fourth quarter in anticipation of assuming her new challenges. Angela is tasked with performing home site environmental inspections, generating clearance memos, and addressing other compliance issues within the Community.

In addition, program staff provided guidance and recommendations to the Salt River housing division regarding remediation activities to a home site which will be built within the Community. Staff conducted sampling of the soil at the site and based on the analytical results provided subsequent recommendations for the remediation activities to occur. Angela also was introduced to and met with the HUD program staff (Housing Division) and provided the necessary NEPA documentation for the division's annual draw down of federal funding for the fiscal year.

Enforcement and Compliance:

Kevin Evanishyn has filled the position of Senior Environmental Specialist for Enforcement and Compliance. Several important actions have been completed, or were initiated, in FY08:

- Completed inspection of Talking Stick golf course, which resulted in recommendation of a Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures (SPCC) plan for the on-site above ground storage tanks. Talking Stick submitted an SPCC plan during the second quarter which is being kept on file;
- Provided information and recommendations on multi-media inspection forms that were being revised by Environmental Programs Supervisor;
- Coordinated with Salt River Police Department (SRPD) on cleanup of used oil and motor waste resulting from raid on illegal "chop shop" operation;
- Reports and corrective recommendations were issued to all of the farming maintenance yard operations that were found to have compliance issues. Operations inspected include Rousseau Farms (Salt River and Lehi [Organic farm], Associated Farms (Salt River), Rogers Brothers Farms (Salt River), and Singh Farms (Salt River). A Spill Prevention Controls and Countermeasures (SPCC) plan was developed for the Associated Farms on-site above- ground storage tanks, and guidance was also given regarding storage of agricultural chemicals and proper disposal of used containers. A joint follow-up site inspection of the Rousseau Farm yard was held with the Water Quality Program regarding new wash rack location and design.
- Three compliance-related inspections of commercial businesses were conducted jointly with water program staff which was a result of a US EPA recall on herbicide/pesticide products. These inspections are recorded in the Pesticide program report and copies of all site inspections and follow-up reports are on file with EPNR.
- Compliance and Enforcement staff also worked in conjunction with Economic Development Division (EDD) to determine potential environmental impacts of two businesses that will be located in the Pima Center Business Park. Advanced Providers of Breast Irradiation, LLC (APBI) and Fluidic Fuel Cells will conduct business that may involve processes and/or materials which may require special handling and permit consideration. Staff visited the Tempe location of Fluidic to receive an overview of their activities and to discuss any special permitting required for operation. LUC will continue to work with all

- Provided information on past Wal-Mart compliance inspection to consultant (Terracon) working on environmental assessment for Wal-Mart;
- Provided information to consultant (SWCA) regarding Phase I work being done for building project near Pima Rd.
- Responded to call regarding improper storage of transformer oil in 2-55 gallon drums at Shadow Mountain trailer park. Provided guidance and recommendation on proper characterization of materials and disposal processes for Shadow Mountain staff.
- During the final month of the fourth quarter, the City of Phoenix requested a Short Term Use Permit to dredge silt and other material from the inlet channel at the Verde Water Treatment Plant. The treatment plant, located west of the Verde River in the northeast corner of the Community, takes in and treats surface water from the river. Water intake was reduced due to blockage of the intake due to sedimentation. LUC assisted in reviewing the action plan created by treatment plant managers. Dredging took place early in the first quarter of 2009, with LUC oversight to ensure all permit terms were met.

Other LUC Activities: (Meetings and Trainings, Outreach, Presentations Given, Technical Support, etc.)

- Met several times with Office of General Counsel (OGC) staff regarding the US Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) proposed delisting of the Bald Eagle. LUC staff provided extensive review and comments which were subsequently submitted for OGC inclusion in the Community's official comments to the Service on the proposed action. Compliance program staff also provided review and comments on a related document which was prepared by the Service regarding an update to the Bald and Gold Eagle Protection Act.
- LUC Program staff attended trainings to enhance program expertise and to expand professional knowledge. Several training events provided program staff the opportunity to cross-train with other EPNR staff and programs. Program staff attended STORET/WQX Database Training to enhance knowledge of groundwater data storage and use. 'The Complete Groundwater Sampling Course,' which was hosted by EPNR in the fourth quarter, offered training to program staff as well as guests from Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation, Gila River Indian Community, and Yavapai-Apache Nation. Staff from SRPMIC Department of Public Works, Water Section also attended. Compliance and Enforcement staff attended 'Media-Specific Training: National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Inspections' and 'NIMS 300-400 Compliance Training.' Staff also participated in web-based NIMS prerequisite training. NEPA staff attended the SWCA Environmental Consultants sponsored course entitled "Comprehensive NEPA".
- Participated in pre-construction meetings with ECS to ensure that environmental and cultural issues were properly addressed, and conducted follow-up field checks to ensure continued compliance

- Presented an Archaeological Awareness Training program to ECS designed to increase their knowledge and respect for the Community's cultural resources
- Attended NAEP Annual Conference with an emphasis on NEPA documents;
- Participated in Cypress Golf Course demolition meeting;
- EDMS SharePoint training;
- Microsoft Word 2007 training;
- Attended Canalside subdivision phase III/IV meeting;
- Participated as Project Archaeologist for the Va Shly ay Akimel River Restoration Project
- Attended Council Meetings concerning Illegal Dumping, Structural Demolition, and Canalside Subdivision phase III/IV;
- Attended Tribal Emergency Response Committee meeting regarding updates and strategic planning for West Nile Virus season;
- Participated and assisted with training in Inter Tribal Council of Arizona (ITCA) Underground Storage Tank (UST) workshop;
- Met with owner of JR's convenience store to provide information and regulatory guidelines for installment of UST system at their store.
- Attended three meetings with professional staff from the cities of Tempe, Phoenix, and Scottsdale with regard to a new Master Plan for Papago Park.

Goals and Activities:

The Land Use Compliance Program will continue to perform site inspections, assist the Membership and Real Property Management division (MRPM) with general requests on home site review status and landowner collaboration, and maintain compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. LUC will also continue to work with the Planning Services division (PS) regarding review of Special Use Permits (SUPs). Review of SUPs ensure compliance with Community environmental ordinances and prohibit activities which may be environmentally harmful to the Community. LUC will work with other EPNR and PS program staff to create a standardized permit review process, to include specific language that is applicable to the activity.

The creation of Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for issuance of corrective action letters to Community businesses and proper protocol for follow-up continues to be a focus of the LUC Program. A main goal for the first quarter will be to continue review of policy in order to establish and refine existing SOPs, and to identify where new procedures are needed. LUC program staff will continue to research and receive training and certifications necessary to perform inspections with appropriate authority.

Additional goals and activities include:

- Conduct multi-media compliance inspections with various programs in EPNR. Inspections will cover the farm maintenance yards in order to ascertain level of compliance with Community and federal guidelines;

- Continue to manage EPA Brownfield grant project along with regular duties and responsibilities;
- Recruit for and fill the position of Senior Environmental Specialist;
- Pursue additional training and cross-training opportunities for LUC personnel

Personnel

The Land Use Compliance Program is staffed by the following professional positions. The Program operates under the general direction of the EPNR Manager and the staff is guided and directly supervised by the Environmental Program Supervisor. Below is a summary of the staff and their respective functions under the Land Use Compliance Program.

Angela Cruz, Environmental Specialist - responsible for compliance issues regarding the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) within the SRPMIC.

Kevin Evanishyn, Senior Environmental Specialist (Enforcement and Compliance) - provide compliance assistance through regular site inspections of commercial, agricultural and industrial businesses on the Community.

Tudor Montague, Senior Environmental Specialist - provide compliance assistance through regular site inspections of commercial, agricultural and industrial businesses on the Community. Tudor will be leaving this position early in the first quarter of FY09 to become EPNR Policy Analyst, and a replacement SES will be recruited and hired during the first or second quarter of FY09.

Thomas Wright, Staff Archaeologist - ensure compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) and Salt River Ordinance 102-86 (Antiquities)

Dan Daggett, Environmental Program Supervisor - provide general direction, support and overall supervision of the LUC Program.

Ondrea Barber, EPNR Manager - provide general direction, support, and overall supervision of the LUC Program.

Future Plans for Staff in FY09:

- Training and certifications will be heavily prioritized for all LUC staff. Upcoming training opportunities for First Quarter 2009 include '40 Hour Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HazWOpER)', 'Tribal Environmental Regulations and Code Development,' and 'National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106.' LUC staff has also ordered and received CD-ROM-based training pertaining to environmental inspections. These training modules are available for use by all EPNR staff.
- Development of standard operating procedures for issuing notices of violation/ correction as well as familiarization of the Sharepoint and NEIEN databases.
- Participate in development of standard multi-media inspection forms and reports for EPNR if applicable.
- Recruit and hire a new Senior Environmental Specialist to replace Tudor Montague, who is moving into a Policy Analyst position.

Range Management Program



Photo: SRPMIC Bison Herd in Niobrara, Nebraska

Program Summary

The Range Management Program (RMP) was created in order to provide management and protection of the mustangs and the environment they inhabit within the Community.

Specifically, as a result of the passing of Salt River Ordinance (SRO) 187-95, the horses were placed under strict protection by the Community. The population is currently above the natural carrying capacity of the land they roam on. Efforts are continuing to reduce the population according to the rules set forth in SRO 187-95. Efforts consist of an ongoing adoption program that finds homes for some of the herd as well as the periodical sterilization of some of the male studs that are either older or not adequate for breeding. The wild horse facility accommodates horses awaiting adoption.

Until recently, RMP has maintained a herd of bison in Clarkdale, Arizona. The bison herd was donated to the Santee Sioux tribe in Niobrara, Nebraska to place them in a more natural environment.

Additionally, the RMP provides support and guidance to projects affecting other valuable resources within the Community such as the Verde River and Salt River riparian areas. The RMP has collaborated with the Salt River Police Department's Ranger Division and others in order to conduct forage and vegetation health management activities along the riparian corridor

of the Verde and Salt Rivers, including all other open rangeland where the wild horses may roam and find forage.

Accomplishments

RMP staff participated in Earth Day 2008 as lead for determining Community Clean-Up sites and organizing volunteers. Over 400 clean-up volunteers cleaned the yards of 2 senior residences and over 20 miles of roadway producing over 450 bags of trash plus 2 full dumpsters during a 2 hour clean-up period.

RMP staff with National Resource Conservation Service determined Animal Unit Month (AUM) for wild horses on SRPMIC rangelands. Each plant species, dry weight and forage worthiness on varied rangeland was correlated to find how many acres are needed to support one horse for one month. Results show that during normal rainfall the range can support 50-60 horses.

RMP staff researched mare contraception options to decrease herd population. RMP received several scientific reports on the two available options: Porcine Zona Pellucida (PZP) and Gonadotropin Releasing Hormone (GnRH). Currently PZP and GnRH are considered experimental and cost prohibitive. The Food and Drug Administration required 3 year contraception research project would cost over \$100,000. When PZP or GnRH is approved the total cost will be 300 to 400 dollars. RMP staff attended annual Morris Animal Foundation Conference to receive unbiased data of contraception progress.

RMP, with donation document assistance from the SRPMIC Office of General Council (OGC) donated 20 wild horses to the Jicarilla Apache tribe in Dulce, New Mexico in December 2007. Inspection of these horses in February 2008 found unfavorable conditions and the horses were returned to SRPMIC.

RMP staff organized a disease pathogen identification and containment program. Submission forms and procedures for the University of Arizona Diagnostic Laboratory with Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) Bradley are prepared and ready to diagnose and treat lethal diseases. RMP in-house DVM Lieurance provided procedures for bio-containment in response to non-lethal, contagious bacterial infection at wild horse facility. All infected horses recovered one hundred percent which typically infers immunity to this particular bacterium.

RMP staff completed Chemical Immobilization and Large Animal Rescue training to improve success rate of treating drastically injured wild horses and rescuing horses that have gotten into the canal.

RMP staff followed a Community Council directive and with assistance from InterTribal Bison Cooperative (ITBC) donated the entire SRPMIC bison herd of 20 head to the Santee Sioux tribe in Niobrara, Nebraska on August 16, 2008. On August 23, 2008 the donated bison herd was inspected in their new home on the prairie plains. The inspection showed the bison in their natural environment and healthy. Additional inspections will be performed to ensure the bison's health and well being. RMP staff gave a presentation to Community Council showing the comparison of living conditions in Clarkdale and Niobrara in addition to an Au Authm newspaper article to inform the entire Community of the donation.

RMP completed the Wild Horse Facility Capital Improvement Project. The project includes 7 main items: install rain gutters on horse stalls, change round pen fencing from temporary panels to permanent fencing, change fencing at squeeze chute so horses can exit chute easier, install dusk to dawn light on pole in storage area, construct hay barn to protect and stop double handling of horse hay, install water line on south side of stalls and pour concrete footers under bucking chutes to protect metal from rust. All work was done to match existing materials. Project started 8/11/08 and completed 10/03/08.

RMP staff facilitated adoptions of 3 wild horses this year. All three adopted horses were found to be in favorable condition when inspected at their new homes. Individuals that have

adopted horses must pass at least three inspections during the initial 12 month Trial Membership period before receiving Certificate of Ownership documents for the horses. RMP staff reviewed adoption documents and after final inspection presented Certificates of Ownership for 2 horses adopted in 2005. RMP staff developed the Wild Horse Donation Agreement documents that were reviewed and approved by the SRPMIC OGC. The Comanche Nation in Oklahoma and the Crow Nation in Montana are both interested in receiving 50 of the SRPMIC wild horses. Comanche Nation has received photos of wild horse herds with Wild Horse Donation documents for review and signatures.

RMP staff updated adoption/donation forms: Tips for New Horse Owners, Procedures for Wild Horse Donations and Wild Horse Donation Maintenance Agreement.

RMP staff worked with Arizona Invasive Species Advisory Council to identify and determine possible action plan for invasive species on SRPMIC rangeland.

RMP staff requested additional security in response to 3 break-ins of the mobile storage unit at the facility, weekly horse hay thefts and at least 6 wild horse shootings. Q-Star motion sensor cameras were installed at the facility on Mesa Drive and the water tanks at Stapley and Lincoln to provide 24 hours-7 days a week surveillance. SRPMIC Information Technology (IT) Security was instrumental in installing the Q-Star technology. IT also encrypted the motion sensor camera pictures to prove unbroken "chain of evidence" and activity. No further break-ins or hay thefts occurred at the facility after camera installation. Photo evidence of shooting into the horse herds and open range resulted in arrests in one case and a continuing investigation in the other. In another incident, the Salt River Rangers were assisted in making a felony arrest from Q-Star camera photo evidence.

RMP assisted Engineering Construction Services (ECS), Health and Human Services (HHS) and Cultural Resources Department (CRD) with drainage of ponds on the recently closed Cypress Golf Course. Fish in ponds were determined to be invasive species and best utilized as fertilizer for the CRD organic farm fields.

RMP staff with assistance from Salt River Rangers and other EPNR staff completed scheduled veterinarian and farrier visits at the wild horse facility. RMP performed chute training with the facility horses to habituate them to the hydraulic chute noise and motion. In summer months, due to thermo-regulatory issues with immobilizing tranquilizers, the horses were treated only in the cooler mornings. A stud colt scheduled for gelding was postponed due to being a cryptorchid (testicular irregularity).

RMP staff completed purchase list for 2008 including Chemical Immobilization and Large Animal Rescue equipment. RMP received four large wild horse water tanks to replace 12 year old existing tanks that are worn out, rusty and leaking.

RMP staff submits articles to Au Authm newspaper, e.g. Horse Physiology, West Nile Update (With HHS), Horses Available for Adoption, Horse Health and Equine Vaccination Diseases in a continuing effort to keep community members with equines updated on health issues and new development in equine sciences.

RMP continued with monthly horse head counts and monthly photographs for chronological record of horses' body condition and available forage. First quarter head count averaged 250 head. Second quarter head count averaged 200 head. Third quarter head count averaged 195 head. Fourth quarter head count averaged 175 head. The fluctuation in quarterly head counts is possibly due to horses foraging in inaccessible areas.

RMP staff completed Support Staff training at Department of Corrections (DOC). DOC will notify RMP when inmates are available to work at horse facility. Focus shifted from juvenile to adult inmates by DOC.

RMP staff assisted CRD in order to transplant 600 plants at Lehi garden.

RMP received approval from Salt River Project (SRP), Engineering and Construction Services (ECS) and Community Development Department (CDD) to build barrier fence on canal

road to stop wild horses from leaving open range. Wayward stallions leaving the open range were captured and relocated to more secure areas.

RMP staff received approval from EPNR to instruct West Coast Turf to discontinue feeding sod grass clippings to wild horses when other natural forage is available.

RMP staff compared hay prices with 19 local horse feed suppliers to determine best horse feed supplier to offer and complete SRPMIC Business License.

RMP staff requested and received work orders from Public Works (PW) for water tanks at Stapley and Lincoln: scrape and clean grass clippings feeding area around water tanks to reduce parasite/worm population-completed, paint over the graffiti on the water tank-completed (water tanks are now under motion sensor camera surveillance), put material in a low spot at the water tanks gate-completed. RMP staff requested and received work order from Public Works to have a lift truck install the Q-Star cameras on a pole, 20 feet in the air.

RMP staff and Water Quality Program (WQP) staff met with AZ Department of Transportation (ADOT) Environmentalist and Biologist regarding 28 dead or dying mesquite trees in an immediate area south of Highway 87 and east of Gilbert road. Cause of death was determined to be man-made from Salt River Project (SRP) doing road work. Problem is self limiting and not an epidemic contagion that will affect other trees away from the roadway.

RMP in-house Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) William Lieurance has retired from his practice. New in-house DVM Gregory Byrnes has been selected and completed SRPMIC Business License.

RMP staff assisted Salt River Rangers document with photos possible road encroachment by Central Arizona Project (CAP). Encroachment photos and report forwarded to Land Use Compliance Program for investigation. Salt River Rangers assisted RMP with euthanizing old crippled mare to stop her suffering. RMP staff and Salt River Rangers regularly perform fence repair on boundary and interior fences to protect wild horses.

RMP staff attended 3 day Native American Fish and Wildlife Society (NAFWS) 23rd Annual Regional Conference in Flagstaff, AZ. RMP staff attended Equine Vaccination and Nutrition Clinic with DVM Pugh of Ft. Dodge. RMP staff received CPR-AED training completion certificate from SRPMIC Workplace Safety Specialist Stu Kemppainen.

RMP staff responded to call from Talking Stick Golf Course regarding injured Red-Tailed Hawk. Injured hawk transported by staff to Liberty Wildlife in Scottsdale for rehabilitation.

RMP staff began compiling list of all plants and animals found in the SRPMIC rangeland. In addition, staff attended endangered species training on the Yellow Billed Cuckoo, a recent candidate for inclusion on the Threatened and Endangered Species list. RMP staff received from Az Game and Fish Department (AZGFD), color prints to identify native fish, snakes and raptors. AZGFD with RMP and Salt River Rangers reported a death of baby eagle by unknown causes at the river. RMP staff documented 23 saguaro cacti injured or killed by illegal shooting. Police report made with follow-up investigation done by Rangers.

RMP staff has requested an aerial survey proposal, including total costs and time frame with an experienced aerial survey pilot from AZGFD.

Duties

RMP staff, Monday through Friday clean horse stalls at facility. Twice daily, every day, facility horses are fed and watered. Wild horse water tanks are checked, cleaned or filled twice daily every day. At least three times each week, pictures from the Q-Star surveillance cameras are downloaded to a secure laptop computer for screening.

RMP staff monthly, if not more often, survey the range land for suitable forage amounts and horse counts. Digital pictures and horse counts show herd number and physical condition of wild horses plus available forage amounts.

RMP staff maintains horses at the facility for adoption availability. Facility horses have their feet trimmed, de-wormed and vaccinated in preparation for adoption. Facility horses also have an exercise routine to maximize their health and physiology.

RMP staff as needed replace facility items that have depleted or are not repairable, (salt blocks manure pickers, shovels, rakes, brushes, water tanks).

Outreach Projects

RMP staff assisted with Career Day at Salt River Elementary School. RMP staff assisted with Cowboy Camp at horse facility sponsored by Tribal Rodeo Association. RMP staff conducted Arizona Agribusiness and Equine Center (AAEC) field trip and tour with Special Use Permit (SUP) approval. RMP staff met with Ak-Chin Indian Community range personnel seeking to improve their Range Program. RMP staff assisted the Water Quality Program (WQP) with wetlands clean-up project. RMP staff assisted with preparing Va Shly'ay Akimel outreach meeting. RMP staff assisted Community juvenile perform court ordered community service hours by cleaning stalls at horse facility. RMP staff attended meeting at Senior Center for question and answer session regarding eagles and horses. RMP staff assisted EPNR staff with American Bar Association (ABA) event at the Salt River High School.

Challenges and Recommendations

- Continue researching the fast changing field of mare contraception so SRPMIC is aware and ready for the best solution to slowing horse reproduction rates.
- Continue investigating and testing any disease and health issues affecting the wild horses.
- Implement capture guns so animals that are severely injured or lost can be tranquilized for capture and appropriate treatment.
- Continue inspections of adopted/donated horses and bison.
- Continue herd population reduction until target number of approximately 60 horses is reached. Cull horse herd to horses that have the best conformation, athletic ability and rarest color, in that order of priority. At that time, initiate Wild Horse Identification Management System (WHIMS) allowing each of the 60 remaining wild horses to be tracked genetically and visually.
- Continue training on new range management advancements so the wild horses can have the best possible management and protection.
- Continue with rangeland flora documentation.
- Receive approval for more durable and permanent northern boundary fencing.

Personnel

Joe Herrera- Environmental Technician- responsible for daily management of the wild horse herd and monitoring general health of rangeland ecosystem, also a Wildlife Biology student.

Garfield King- Environmental Specialist- responsible for daily management of the wild horse herd and monitoring general health of rangeland ecosystem.

Brian Gewecke- Environmental Specialist- responsible for daily management of the wild horse herd and monitoring general health of range ecosystem with RMP research and development projects.

Dan Daggett- Environmental Protection and Natural Resources Supervisor- provide general direction, support and direct supervision of the Range Management Program.

Ondrea Barber- Environmental Protection and Natural Resources Manager- provide general direction, support and overall supervision of the Range Management Program.

Future Plans for Staff

RMP staff looks forward to utilizing the Chemical Immobilization and Large Animal Rescue equipment and tools with the wild horses to increase the success rate of rescues and horses with serious injuries.

RMP staff looks forward to utilizing a Wild Horse Identification Management System (WHIMS) to identify each horse with a profile and photos, so each herd member can be traced by herd, sire and dam.

RMP staff looks forward to assisting the Salt River Rangers with the wood cutting permits, specifically in identifying the areas that need tree thinning, areas that have already had too much tree thinning and areas that have indigenous trees that should be left alone.

RMP staff looks forward to more participation in the Desert Bald Eagle Nestwatch program.

Water Quality Program



Photo: WQP staff checking depth to water at a monitoring well, August 2008.

Program Summary

The Water Quality program focuses on monitoring, assessing, and reporting on the quality of groundwater and surface water in the Community. The program is responsible for developing standards for the protection of the Community's surface and groundwater through the guidelines set forth in the Community Ordinances and the Environmental Protection Agency under the Clean Water Act. Water quality monitoring is critical to the health and welfare of Community residents. Surface water quality assessments address streams, wetlands, rivers, and other surface water bodies. Ground water quality assessments focus on data from wells, which supply drinking and irrigation water for the Community. The Water Quality Program establishes and enforces guidelines for wellhead protection, point source control, non-point source control, sole source aquifer designation, and surface water quality monitoring. This program conducts outreach with other departments, Community schools, and Community members on a regular basis in order to increase environmental stewardship to further protect the surface and groundwater.

Accomplishments

- Surface water sampling completed along the Verde & Salt Rivers
- Bacterial exceedances at the Verde River dealt with successfully; report completed and submitted to management and Community Council
- Agricultural Canal investigation completed and report management and Community Council
- Watershed Management Plan being implemented
- Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan completed

- Policy paper drafts completed with reference to underground stormwater storage and the Arizona Canal Discharge Channel (north of AZ Canal)
- Watershed Outreach Booklet completed – collaboration with Salt River High School.
- Extensive Goldfield Ranch document review and technical support
- Water Quality Program Presentation given at District Meeting
- Completed Wellhead Protection Project: two agricultural wells (BIA 6 and BIA 7) successfully abandoned
- EPA Clean Water Act Section 319 Competitive Grant Proposal “Verde River Bank Stabilization Demonstration Project” submitted & received funding from USEPA
- Improved stormwater education and enforcement in collaboration with ECS Compliance
- Earth Day activities
- Sampling at a new site, “VR-2” located along the Verde River, commenced in May. It is located south of the Community border with Fort McDowell and will increase knowledge of river water quality entering the Community;
- Bi-annual surface water sampling requirements were satisfied
- Staff presented the 319 (h) Demonstration Wetland Project (Cottonwood Wetland) at the EPA Tribal Water Quality Results and Watershed-Based Planning Workshop in San Francisco
- Hosted groundwater training course for tribes
- Held first environmental meeting with Fort McDowell as an “upstream neighbor” to discuss current and future projects, issues, and outreach efforts
- Planned and assisted with the American Bar Association Public Service Project Mock Hearing held at the Salt River High School
- Proposal to assess perchlorate in groundwater resources in the Community was approved by WQP staff and EPNR management and was implemented
- Proposal to assess various human toxins in tissue of fish from the Community’s surface water resources has been completed and approved by WQP staff and EPNR management and will be implemented in FY09
- Potential wells and testing parameters identified by WQP for groundwater sampling have been implemented
- Coordinated the abandonment of the Gilbert/Virginia Well and the capping of BIA Well #8 in September 2008. The abandonment of the Gilbert/Virginia Well is not complete. WQP staff hopes to have this completed during the first quarter of FY09.

Work Plan Activities

To achieve goals set for the functional areas outlined above, the staff undertook the following tasks during FY2008:

Database Management:

Continued updating and managing of the Groundwater Monitoring Database, Surface Water Quality Database, and Soil Contamination Database. The Summer Bacteria Sampling Database was developed this quarter to house data related to the summer sampling events only. All WQP staff participated in training for SYSTAT. This statistical

analysis software will assist the Program with graphing and storage of data as well as outreach (surveys).

File Management and Document Updates:

Hardcopy and electronic documents filed according to proper file management system. Updating of documents continued and updated versions organized appropriately.

Equipment Inventory & Determine Needs:

Many equipment purchases were necessary for normal program activities. In addition, new equipment was purchased to advance the capabilities of the WQP. Next quarter the WQP will seek purchase of a low flow monitoring device for use at the Community's wetlands. Cameras were ordered and received for placement at the Cottonwood Wetland to deter wood-cutting and harvesting, and any illegal activity.

Water Quality Standards and QAPP Amendments for Water Quality Monitoring:

Staff continues updating the Surface Water Quality Standards, Aquifer Water Quality Standards, and Soil Remediation Standards to reflect the most current federal and state criteria. QAPP has been revised by WQP staff. The revised QAPP will be submitted to EPA following internal review.

Authority to Administer Treatment as a State (TAS):

The TAS document is under internal review by management and will be submitted to OGC during the first quarter of FY09.

Sampling and Monitoring for Surface Water, Groundwater, and Wetlands:

Completed scheduled fall surface water sampling along the Verde River and Salt River. Exceedances of *E. coli* and fecal coliform bacteria standards established by federal and state regulatory agencies found, health advisory posted, and report pertaining to these exceedances completed and submitted to management and the Community Council. Report on the assessment of the agricultural runoff on the environment of the Community completed and submitted to management and the Community Council.

The final round of summer sampling along the Verde and Salt Rivers for bacteria was completed in September. Sampling was conducted at all four sites (VR-1, VR-2, SR-1, and SR-2). Monthly monitoring took place at the Cottonwood Wetland and bi-annual samples were collected for analysis this quarter. Baseline monitoring at the site of the proposed Lehi Wetland could not be performed due to very dry conditions.

Groundwater sampling was conducted at four (4) wells within the Community. The objective was to establish an index for monitoring purposes.

Pesticide and Groundwater Contract Deliverables:

The abandonment of two (2) Community irrigation wells and associated outreach activities were completed per contract deliverables. Video logs of the three wells were completed. A newspaper article was written for submission to the Au-Authmn Action

News, which addressed well abandonment activities. A PowerPoint presentation to give an overview of the project was also developed as a deliverable.

SRPMIC Wetlands:

A permit was obtained for the removal of the burrowing owls from the Lehi Wetland site. Two (2) owls were removed by a state and federally licensed wildlife rehabilitator.

Coordination was made with the Cultural Resources Department to form a wetland design team to discuss possible cultural uses for the Lehi Wetland and the viability of the proposed plants for the project. The construction of this wetland was completed.

A contractor was hired to complete several necessary changes at the Cottonwood Wetland including trail repair, tamarisk removal, sediment gauge relocation, and the addition of cobble to the upper channel.

Stormwater Program Documents:

The Stormwater Ordinance and associated documents are currently under review by the Office of General Counsel (OGC).

Stormwater Program Building:

Stormwater inspections on construction sites and comments on design review plans continue to take place as necessary. Outreach to construction site managers and SRPMIC departments is ongoing. One (1) Notice of Correction and one (1) Notice of Violation were issued, with a focus on compliance assistance. Inspections reports are written for each inspection conducted. These inspections are becoming more multi-media in nature, strengthening EPNR's Inspection/Compliance/Enforcement goals. Outreach continues to be an integral part of stormwater program building capacity, with education occurring at the contractor/business level as well as internally with Engineering and Construction Services – Compliance staff.

Bank Stabilization Project:

US EPA elected to fund the WQP's grant proposal for this project. Funding should be awarded during the first quarter of FY09.

Environmental Education and Outreach:

WQP Presentation was given at a District Meeting for Council Members Largo and Collins on various projects (current and future), goals, roles/responsibilities, reports, and water quality issues. Also, a tremendous amount of effort was put in by staff in preparation for Earth Day 2008 events.

WQP staff coordinated the annual American Bar Association's Public Service Project within the Community. This year the Public Service Project was a mock public hearing held at the Salt River High School on global warming. Staff coordinated efforts with several SRPMIC entities, state organizations, private law practices, and several tribal communities.

More than ten (10) tours were given this FY at the Cottonwood Wetland.

WQP staff attended and gave a presentation on the 319 (h) Demonstration Wetland Project (Cottonwood Wetland) at the EPA Tribal Water Quality Results and Watershed-Based Planning Workshop in San Francisco. The presentation was on nonpoint source activities.

Staff participated in the Recycling Open House held in August to promote recycling and teach attendees about the types of recyclables accepted at the SRPMIC Landfill.

WQP staff cross-trained several EPNR staffers from other programs on surface water sampling techniques. Cross training took place with different individuals during the summer bacteria sampling events held in July, August, and September. During the September cross-training WQP staff shot video to help the educate Community Members and employees on the activities performed by the WQP during sampling events.

Other Activities (Meetings and Trainings, etc.):

Description	Purpose	Dates	Cost	Total Cost
Round Table for Tribal Leaders on Impacts of Growth on Tribal Water Resources	Discussion of Tribal Water Resource Management and impacts caused by growth in AZ.	November 29-30, 2007	\$0	\$0
CPR/Automated Electronic Defibrillator Certification Training (SRPMIC at Chaparral)	Presented updated American Heart Association CPR/AED training and/or recertification for employee volunteers.	January 30	\$0.00	\$0.00
Arizona State Laboratory Availability Meeting	Met with laboratory officials to discuss availability of the lab as the WQP primary service provider.	January 24	\$0.00	\$0.00
Arizona Water Quality - 2008 Update (Mesa, Arizona)	Forum to update Tribal and State water quality professionals on state and federal water quality laws.	February 7	\$225.00	\$450.00
Surface and Groundwater Sampling & Analysis Workshop (Phoenix, Arizona)	Introduction to various sampling protocols, associated regulatory methods, and laboratory testing for ground water and surface water.	March 18-20	\$200.00	\$600.00
Clean Water Compliance Bootcamp (Scottsdale, Arizona)	Gives comprehensive breakdown of Clean Water Act and water quality compliance and permits	March 26-28	\$1599.00	\$1599.00
AHS Technical Seminar	Presentation of groundwater and surface water resource issues of interest to Arizona water professionals.	May 15th	\$75.00	\$225.00
2008 National Water Quality Monitoring Conference	This conference covered a plethora of water quality related topics.	May 18 th - May 22 nd	\$1681.50	\$3,363.00
Environmental Engineering Technical Luncheon	This seminar presented various topics pertaining to environmental engineering issues in Arizona.	June 6 th	\$0.00	\$0.00

Description	Purpose	Dates	Cost	Total Cost
EPA Tribal Water Quality Results and Watershed-Based Planning Workshop	Staff was presenting and STORET training was provided.	July 9 th -11 th	\$857.04	\$3,428.16
Salt River Valley Groundwater Basin Modeling Conference sponsored by Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR)	Conference presented information on groundwater recharge modeling in the Salt River Groundwater Basin developed by ADWR.	August 26th	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
The Complete Groundwater Sampling Field Course	To train staff of WQP, relevant SRPMIC Programs and other Native American Community pertaining to groundwater sampling operation and technique.	August 11th-13th	\$17,890.00	\$17,890.00
Ft McDowell/SRPMIC environmental forum-Water Quality	To build better relationship with upstream neighbor and discuss current and future projects, issues, and outreach efforts.	September 22nd	\$47.00	\$47.00
SYSTAT 12	Training to learn how to use software purchased.	September 30 th	\$3,050.00	\$3,050.00
Arizona Department of Transportation	View and discuss possibility of diseased mesquite trees within SRPMIC.	September 16th	\$0.00	\$0.00
Arizona Women's Envirolink Luncheon	Discuss current environmental issues.	August 29th	\$0.00	\$0.00
			Total	\$24,415.16

Challenges and Recommendations:

The submission of the TAS application package to EPA (IX) for review and approval is a major goal of the WQWP for FY09 which will require coordination with OGC and approval by the Community Council. WQP staff compiled all required materials including legal, organization and process related documentation, and draft Surface Water Quality Standards which will be submitted to OGC during the first quarter of FY09. Adoption of the draft Stormwater Management Ordinance, Draft Surface Water Quality Standards, and Draft Aquifer Water Quality Standards by OGC and the Community Council are also important regulatory steps that need to be taken in order to ensure the water quality is protected within the Community.

Scheduled water quality monitoring on the Verde River and Salt River was disrupted by elevated flows due to winter storms, making it impossible to safely access the rivers and perform essential monitoring tasks.

At the Cottonwood Wetland during this quarter, staff discovered three (3) cottonwood tops and twenty-five (25) willows were cut and removed. Apparently, unknown persons entered the wetland on the east side, away from view from the freeway or access roads. The trees were cut, skidded up the incline, and hauled away. The SRPD Rangers were notified, but the culprits were not caught. Continued over-harvesting has occurred resulting in the installation of security cameras in the area.

Lack of discharge into the proposed site for the Lehi Wetland has prevented staff from making baseline assessments and collecting data necessary for wetland development. Also, during one visit to the site program, staff spotted burrowing owls within the development area and confirmed two nest sites there. A local wildlife professional was contacted and the owls will be temporarily moved prior to construction. The owls will be returned to constructed burrows upon completion of wetland construction.

Goals and Activities for FY 2009:

- Attend 16th Annual Region 9 Tribal EPA Conference in San Francisco.
- Attend Getting in Step with Phase II - An MS4 Workshop for Stormwater Programs in Albuquerque, New Mexico.
- Attend STORET/WQX Workshop in San Francisco, California.
- Complete of well abandonment at the Gilbert/Virgina Well.
- QAPP review and submittal to USEPA.
- Complete the first surface water sampling event at the Salt & Verde Rivers for FY09.
- Complete the fish tissue study by the end of the first quarter of FY09.
- Continue training EPNR staff in Water Quality Program monitoring techniques.
- Participate in cross-training activities for Programs outside of Water Quality.
- Stormwater Ordinance review and approval by the SRPMIC Office of General Counsel.
- TAS packet reviewed by EPNR management and taken forward for a Council Resolution.
- Begin phase I efforts for the Bank Stabilization Project.
- Fill the vacant Environmental Specialist position.

Personnel

Wang Yu, Environmental Engineer – Technical support of both Water Quality and Pesticide Programs; including document review, amendment, and development.

Denise Taylor, Environmental Engineer – Manage CWA 104 (b)(3) program goals and tasks.

Gina Leverette, Senior Environmental Specialist – Manage CWA 319 and CWA 106 goals and tasks, including wetlands management and outreach.

Vacant, Environmental Specialist – SRPMIC water quality compliance implementation and support of all CWA 319 and CWA 106 goals and tasks.

Kari Morehouse, Environmental Programs Supervisor – provide general direction, support, and overall supervision of the WQP.

Ondrea Barber, EPNR Manager – provide general direction, support, and overall supervision of the WQP.

Va Shly'ay Akimel Ecosystem Restoration Project

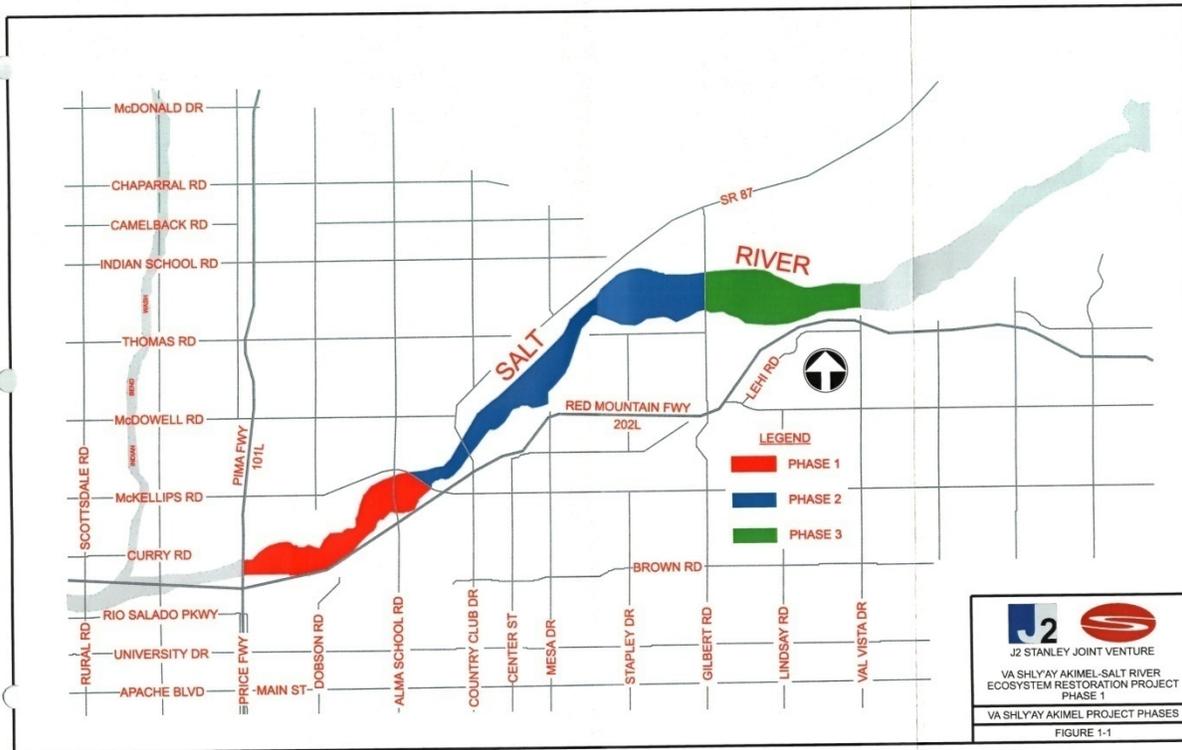


Photo: Project phase outlines for the Va Shly'ay Akimel Restoration Project. Phase I is in red from Loop 101 to McKellips Road.

Program Summary

The Va Shly'ay Akimel Ecosystem Restoration Project is an ongoing, collaborative project being executed by the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community (Community), the US Army Corp of Engineers (Corps) and the City of Mesa. During this fiscal year, the project progressed into the Design Phase, which officially began in June of 2006. The Design Phase focuses on developing the conceptual design and cost of construction for each component of the project based on the plan selected during the Feasibility Phase. The Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) (PL 110-114) authorizes a federal share of \$150 million for the entire Va Shly'ay Akimel project, with the Community and the City of Mesa acting as project sponsors and contributing a cost-share at a specified percentage rate per phase.

The consultant selected for this project is a joint venture between J2 Design and Stanley Consultants. The Project Team is coordinated by Jeff Engelmann from the J2/Stanley consulting team and is comprised of staff from several different agencies. Meetings are scheduled to take place once a month. Invited SRPMIC staff include Administration, Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs (OCLA), Office of General Counsel (OGC), Engineering and Construction Services (ECS), and Public Works; the Salt River Materials Group (SRMG), the Army Corps of Engineers representatives from the Phoenix and Los Angeles offices (Corps), the City of Mesa,

and the Salt River Project and the Maricopa County Flood Control District are also usually in attendance.

Following the discovery that the SRMG had begun mining in Phase I of the project area, the project has essentially come to a standstill. No updates to the partners have been made by the SRPMIC.

Accomplishments

In October of 2007, EPNR presented a project update and status report to the Community Council, which officially began the Design Phase of the Va Shl'ay Akimel (VSL) Project. The Project Team Kick-Off Meeting was held on November 1, 2007. The Project Team is scheduled to meet the 2nd Thursday of each month. This schedule was consistently kept until July 2008 due to the issues encountered with SRMG and their mining activities in Phase I (Loop 101-McKellips) of the Design Phase. This is discussed in more detail below.

Meetings

Ten (10) monthly meetings were held during FY2008. In addition to the regularly scheduled monthly meetings with the Project Team, two (2) additional meetings related to water resources and outreach planning were completed.

On January 22, 2008 an outreach project meeting was held, and on January 29, 2008 a special project water needs meeting was held. Participants at the outreach meeting included Community Relations, CDD/EPNR, contractors and subcontractor Bahozhoni Development. Participants at the water needs meeting included Administration, OCLA, ECS, and CDD/EPNR.

On Thursday, August 4th, a Council Work session was attended by the Assistant CDD Director, the EPNR Manager, and both EPNR Supervisors. Ms. Morehouse presented an overview to the Council, and the Community Manager presented the current conflict of interest between the VSL Project and SRMG mining in Phase I. SRMG was also present and gave a short presentation on their position. CDD/EPNR staff requested clear guidance from Council about how to proceed and requested that communication from Administration be issued to the partners in the project.

Although technically taking place in FY2009, the most recent development is reported here. After multiple delays and debates about whether this issue should be heard in open Council session or closed Council worksession, the VSL Project was again presented during a Council worksession on October 30th. Again, information was presented both from SRMG and CDD/EPNR representatives from the Project Team (including the CDD Director, CDD Assistant Director, EPNR Manager, and EPNR Supervisor (K. Morehouse)). The sole action item of this meeting was a directive from the President that OGC provide Council with an analysis of the pros and cons of moving forward with the project or abandoning the project, taking into account SRMG and various Intergovernmental Agreements. To date, no update from Administration has been provided to the CDD/EPNR representatives of the Project Team regarding future discussion or decisions.

50% Draft Design Documentation Report & Hydrologic and Hydraulic Analysis Appendix

A major accomplishment during FY2008 was the 50% submittal of the Draft Design Documentation Report (DDR) and Hydrologic and Hydraulic Analysis (HHA) Reports of Phase I of the project area. A Project Team meeting was held on Thursday, September 11th to review and close comments made on the 50% DDR. During this meeting, it was noted that SRMG comments were not reviewed as they were received late. These comments were immediately forwarded to the group for review. All other progress on the Draft DDR and HHA Reports 50% submittal in Phase I of the project area are on hold until information from the SRPMIC Council regarding the mining conflict in Phase I of the project area is provided to the Project Team.

Finances

This fiscal year the correction of the Project budget was completed, which was overdrawn during the change over to the PeopleSoft/LUCY software. In addition, the addition of funds to the budget was also completed in order to cover SRPMIC's cost share obligations. The SRPMIC's FY2008 cost share was paid on June 4, 2008.

Va Shly'ay Akimel Restoration Project – Phase I Design Phase Project Cost Share Total		
Entity	Cost Share Percentage Per Role in Project	Amount
SRPMIC*	@ 12.5% Sponsor Cost Share of total project cost	346,000
City of Mesa	@ 12.5% Sponsor Cost Share of total project cost	346,000
Sponsors	@ 25% of Sponsor Cost Share of Total Project Cost	692,000
USACOE	@ 75% of Federal Cost Share of Total Project Cost	2,076,000
	Phase I Design Phase Total Project Cost To Date	2,768,000

*SRPMIC cost share contributions by Fiscal Year (FY):

- FY2006-\$116,000; FY2007-\$120,000; FY2008-\$110,000; Total: \$346,000

Outreach

Two (2) outreach events were completed in the spring of 2008 which targeted Community Members. These events were requested by the Community Council to spread awareness of the project and provide a forum for questions and concerns to be voiced. Staff organized an "open house" style event, with representatives from EPNR and the J2/Stanley Project Team on hand. There was a buffet-style dinner served and the Project video was also on display.

The first event was held at the Lehi Community Center on February 26, 2008 from 5-8pm and at the Salt River Community Center on March 4, 2008 from 5-8pm. Despite being advertised on the intranet and flyers posted around the area, Community participation at Lehi was very low, with only six (6) people attending, three (3) of which were children. The second event was held at the Salt River Community Building on March 18, 2008 from 5-8pm. The Salt River location had fifteen (15) participants.

Challenges and Recommendations

At the Project Team meeting held on June 12, 2008, it was announced that during a site visit which took place the previous day that SRMG had begun mining in Phase I of the project area. This was an unanticipated activity, since previous

communication from SRMG indicated that mining in Phase I was complete. The 50% Draft DDR and HHA were complete and distributed during this June 12th meeting.

This has proved to be a major setback to the VSL Project. The Project Team continues to question the feasibility of continuing the project, and the partners in this project, the US Army Corps of Engineers and the City of Mesa, continue to question the reason behind the lack of action from the SRPMIC government to resolve this conflict. The Project Team has suspended all further activity until direction is received from SRPMIC leadership.

It is strongly recommended that information regarding lease boundaries and mining plans be obtained and openly shared from the SRMG.

It is imperative that SRMIC leadership provide information to the Project Team regarding their decision on conflict of interest in Phase I between two Community endeavors – the VSL Project and SRMG mining. The project was stalled in June 2008, and to date no guidance or official communication from SRPMIC leadership has been issued to partners and others with a stake in the outcome.

Personnel

- Kari Morehouse, Environmental Programs Supervisor
 - Serves as the Project Manager and main point of contact for the Community
- Ondrea Barber, EPNR Manager
 - Provides guidance and oversees project activities.
- Dan Daggett, Environmental Program Supervisor
 - Project Archaeologist
- Selena Espinoza, Assistant CDD Director
 - Oversees project activities and serves as Administrative liaison
- Stacey Gubser, CDD Director
 - Oversees project activities and serves as Administrative liaison
- Kent Andrews, Assistant Community Manager
 - Provides guidance and serves as Council Liaison

Feedlot Project Brownfields Assessment and Clean-Up



Photo: Abandoned structure at the feedlot site, 2008

Project Summary

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfields Assessment grant was awarded to the Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community (Community) in order to revitalize the 160 acre Feedlot Project site (Site). The Site, once home to a large-scale cattle feeding operation has been dormant for approximately 27 years due to various safety and environmental concerns resulting from the former operations. This project will attempt to fully assess and characterize the remaining contaminants and their impact to the soils and groundwater on this site. Also, the work that will be completed during this phase of the project will include development of a clean-up and mitigation plan which will be used for the second “Clean-Up” phase of the project. Ultimately, the goal of the assessment will be to have a complete picture of the site’s issues and scope of work needed to effectively complete the second phase.

During FY 2008, the project has made considerable progress evident through the completion of the Phase I Site Assessment activities and the near completion of all Phase II Site Assessment activities. During FY 08 the project team encountered several obstacles that could not have been planned for. Obstacles encountered included site specific issues uncovered by the Phase I and II site assessments and also included

personnel issues that could have had an impact on the project team but ultimately did not. All of the required reporting and procedural goals have been met by the project team with regard to the EPA expectations outlined in the grant. The following information outlines the activities, accomplishments and relevant issues addressed during this fiscal year.

Accomplishments

Accomplishments listed are summarized for the year and more detailed information on specific quarters can be found in the quarterly reports which are on file with Environmental Protection and Natural Resources.

- During FY 08 the project team completed review and submitted comments on the draft Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP); The SAP was officially approved by the US EPA during the third quarter;
- A contract addendum to include the redevelopment of the two existing wells was completed and signed;
- EPA project officers Glen Kistner and Carolyn Douglas conducted a site visit and met with project staff to familiarize the new EPA Project officer (G. Kistner) with the site and project goals and status;
- Completed the removal of the pump shafts and associated other wastes as result of rebuilding/reengineering/redevelopment activities of the two (2) existing wells within the project area. Subsequently, completed redevelopment of existing production wells into active monitoring wells;
- Completion of geophysical survey of southeast and northwest quadrants of the site. Site selection was based on investigational results of the Phase I Site Assessment. Results of the survey indicated high potential for buried materials in the northwest quadrant;
- Renewal of the 365 day permit to allow continued work on the 160 acre site was secured during the third quarter. Activity involved several presentations, meetings and public outreach to satisfy the required process for permit renewal;
- Soil samples completed; the project site was divided into separate sections for the sampling which are dependent on the needs of the investigational activities and general uses of the land. As an example, the large cattle “pen” areas and other large use areas were divided into sections that were sampled and then composited. As a result, the entire 160 acre site was able to be effectively sampled at one ft. (1’) and five ft (5”) depths for the composite samples;

- Two specific areas within the project site were collected as discrete soil samples. These areas were identified during the Phase I site assessment as potential for high contamination due to past use. Additionally, a discrete sample was collected near an Above Ground Storage Tank (AST) for investigational purposes. These sites were sampled at one ft. (1') and ten ft. (10')
- Finally, the two rehabilitated wells located on site were sampled at depth-specific intervals for various parameters of which the results are still pending and will be available during FY 09. The wells will continue to be sampled on a quarterly basis throughout the life of the project.

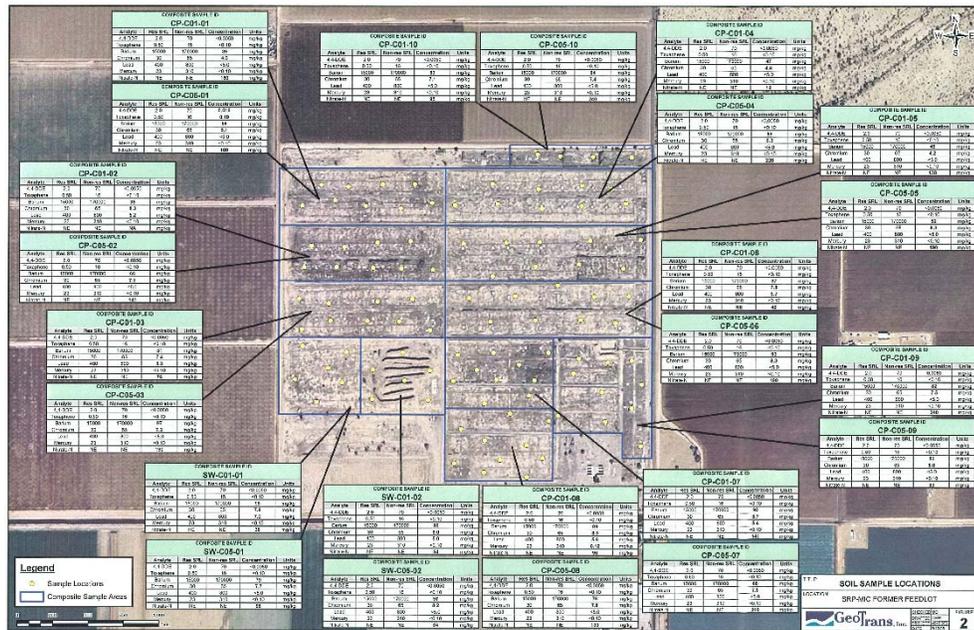


Figure 1. Composite sample locations and results

Work Plan Activities

The activities completed during FY08 have been consistent with the completion of the Phase I and Phase II Site Assessment activities set forth in the assessment grant. Activities completed to facilitate this are as follows:

Phase II Site Assessment/Quality Assurance:

Project management activities for this portion of the assessment included review and processing of all invoices and reports (GeoTrans' monthly summary reports) submitted during FY 08. Review and coordination of project files and reports which resulted in re-

submission of 1st, 2nd and 3rd quarter reports to the EPA project officer. Completing all required reports (tribal and federal) during the fiscal year.

Soils and groundwater sampling completed during the fourth quarter of FY 08, PM is currently awaiting results and final reports for discrete soil and groundwater samples. Draft results and report for the composited samples taken within the large operational areas (figure 1.) are on file with EPNR

- Finalization of the Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP) which required extensive review and comments by all parties involved (EPA, EPNR and contractors);
- Completion of contract Addendum # 1 to include well redevelopment activities;
- Completion of well redevelopment activities
- Soil and groundwater sampling completed

Planning: Staff also participated in the National Brownfields Conference held in Detroit Michigan. The conference highlighted various Brownfield projects being undertaken by cities, state agencies and tribal governments. Staff participated in discussion panels and additional trainings that are essential to the continual development of staff capacities. Staff also met with the Region IX EPA personnel to discuss the project and updates.

Community Outreach: The 365 day permit renewal process was initiated and completed during the third quarter of FY 08 as the original permit was due to expire in June, 2008. The process involved developing an updated project outline and description in order to properly explain the purpose and need for the continuation of this important project. After a two week comment period a meeting was scheduled with the Land Management Board to present an update on the project and request for an additional permit. The Land Management Board met and scheduled a public meeting for all landowners and interested parties. The project manager then presented a project update for those present. The board then submitted their official letter of support for the project which resulted in the subsequent approval by the president.

During the fourth quarter a brochure was developed that detailed the phases of the Brownfields Project. Five hundred copies of the brochure were disseminated to various Community programs and at several Community-wide events. Finally, an outreach article was submitted for publication in the Au Authm Action newsletter which will be published during the second quarter of FY 08

Other Activities (Meetings and Trainings, Presentations Given, Outreach, etc.) During FY 08

- EPA staff meeting and site visit. (November 7, 2007)
- National Brownfields Conference, Detroit MI. (May 4-8 2008)
- Land Management Board Presentation. (June 3, 2008)
- Public hearing. (June 17, 2008)
- Project team meeting with Geotrans new Project Manager. Due to resignation of contractor PM. Project team discussed current status and introduction to new PM. (August 13, 2008)
- Project team staff participated and assisted with the American Bar Association (ABA) outreach event and also handed out informational brochures to event attendants. (September 17, 2008)
- Project brochures were developed and circulated among various Community enterprises, departments and other locations. (fourth quarter)

The project team was able to save some funding by utilizing the Salt River Landfill (SRLF) for disposal of wastewater generated as a part of the well purging. The SRLF was contacted to see if they would be able to accept the purged water into their leachate pond. The SRLF requested analytical information on the water that would be disposed of at the site in order to make a determination to accept or not accept the material. Upon review the SRLF approved the activity which resulted in significant savings of disposal and transportation costs. A report of the actual cost-savings is on file with EPNR.

Challenges and Recommendations

During FY 08 there have been several operational challenges but all of which were overcome by the project team. The most significant was regarding an issue with the northwestern corner of the site. As noted in the 3rd quarter report this area had been identified as a potential site where various drums of chemicals were disposed of during the operational period of the feedlot. This site was identified during the Phase I site review and evidence of buried materials was confirmed during a ground scanning survey that was conducted during the Phase II site assessment. Originally, in the scope of work proposed for this specific area the next step was to further explore by implementing excavation trenches to confirm the presence of materials. The issue arising from this was in the event that there is actual product present in the drums an immediate response is needed to remove and remediate the materials and area. This assessment phase can only utilize monies for assessment-related activities. A decision

was made by the project team to postpone the excavation trenches and initiate that activity during the actual cleanup phase of the project in the event product is found in this area during the excavation work. This task will be included in the cleanup.

As noted in the third quarter report another member of the project team resigned which resulted in the third person of the original project team leaving during the project life. This position was critical as it was the main point of contact with the EPA for submission of reports (completed by the project team) and budgetary issues. After discussions were initiated by the Project Manager it was found that the staff member did not submit several of the EPA reports that were completed by the project team to the EPA's Project Officer (PO). The completed reports which are kept on file with EPNR were subsequently submitted to the PO and the issue was resolved.



Photo: Old grain silo and AST on the property, 2008

Goals and Activities for 1st Quarter FY 2009

For the first quarter of FY 09, the project team will continue to work with the contractor to determine the location of the third monitoring well and initiate the planning stages for drilling. The project team hopes to also initiate the development of the cleanup plan as the results of all initial testing (soil and groundwater) have been completed and available for review. This will then direct the planning efforts for the clean-up activities. Additionally, continued outreach activities will be conducted throughout the Community with a presentation to council included as an update on the project.

Personnel

Tudor Montague - Senior Environmental Specialist- Project Manager
Wang Yu – Environmental Engineer- Technical and analytical oversight
Dan Daggett- Environmental Program Supervisor- provide general direction, support, and overall supervision

Ondrea Barber- EPNR Manager – provide general direction, support, and overall supervision

Future Plans for Staff:

- Staff will continue to manage and oversee the progress of the project during the installation of the new groundwater monitoring well.
- A Power Point presentation to the Community council will be held in order to provide an update on the progress of the project during the first quarter of FY 09.
- A draft clean-up plan will be completed during the next quarter with a finalized version to be completed shortly thereafter.
- Any additional training or outreach efforts needed or found during the coming quarter will be pursued.
- Staff will begin planning for the clean-up efforts as needed.