

**SALT RIVER PIMA-MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY**

**Community Development Department**



**Environmental Protection & Natural Resources Division**

**Annual Report**

**Fiscal Year 2009**

**(October 1, 2008 – September 30, 2009)**

## Table of Contents

### **Administration**

Administrative Report	1
Organization Chart, FY 2009	5

### **Environmental Programs**

Air Quality Program (CAA§103)	6
Environmental Protection and Policy Development (EPPD)	10
Land Use Compliance	16
Range Management Program	19
Water Quality Program	22

### **Special Projects**

Va Shly'ay Akimel River Restoration Project	26
Feedlot Project- Brownfields Grant	28
Earth Day 2009	31

## Environmental Protection & Natural Resources



Photo: EPNR Staff

### **Executive Summary**

During 2009, EPNR has experienced a reduction in resources that includes staff and funding. Between FY2008-2009 EPNR lost 6 full time employees, more than 25% of it's full time staff. However, EPNR is diligently seeking additional grant funds to augment the shortages while continually working towards improving and enhancing our programs. We are moving forward with developing environmental ordinances locally for the betterment of the Community and expanding our enforcement and compliance activities throughout the Community. EPNR continues to review and make improvements to processes to make them more efficient and finds creative ways to do more with less. One example of this is by replacing labor intensive monitoring equipment with automated continuous monitoring equipment. EPNR has also made use of available human resources by creating multiple volunteer opportunities, has supported many student internship programs and most recently has been involved in work with Workforce Investment Act (WIA) interns. EPNR has many outstanding accomplishments to highlight and recognize, however it is important to note that EPNR is still in the infancy stages of developing a comprehensive environmental protection program which includes monitoring, public outreach and education, enforcement & compliance responsibilities, restoration & remediation activities, and permitting functions. Additional financial and human resources are needed in order to fully develop programs that adequately provide the level of protection and oversight needed in order

to ensure that the Community's natural resources and archaeological heritage are preserved and protected.

### **Accomplishments**

- Treatment as State (TAS) status achieved in the Air Quality Program
- Unanimous Council vote to establish EPNR as a stand-alone Department
- Completion of dredging activities at the Verde Water Treatment Facility
- Completion of a management plan for culturally significant vegetation within the APS power corridor
- 2.5 acres of Salt Cedar removed from Verde River area
- Presentations to Community Council and to Community Seniors regarding bison transfer project
- CIP project closeout for improvements to the Wild Horse Management Facility
- The Community and EPNR were recognized by the EPA Region IX for achieving the Treatment as A State (TAS) status for the Clean Air Act.
- An Air Quality Workshop was conducted on February 12<sup>th</sup> for the Early Childhood Education Center (ECEC) and concerned Community members.
- Submitted ozone designation recommendations concerning the applicability of the new National Ambient Air Quality 2008 Ozone standards.
- Completed and submitted an Environmental Regulatory Enhancement grant application to the Administration for Native Americans (ANA).
- Removed 495 tires from the Community under the Waste Tire Removal Project.
- Facilitated the participation of the Information Technology and Purchasing Department in the AZ Technology Recycling event, which saved the Community a significant amount of disposal costs.
- Multi-media inspection of the Cemex Beeline facility resulting in a Notice of Violation which addressed deficiencies observed.
- Inspection of Rogers Brothers Partnership farm yard resulting in a Notice of Violation which addressed deficiencies observed.
- Developed a proactive plan to preserve sensitive archaeological remains adjacent to the Two Waters stormwater retention basin.
- Developed a Cultural Sensitivity Training class with the Cultural Preservation Program for Community departments and contractors working on Community lands.
- Investigated a violation of the Community's Antiquities Ordinance, developed remedial steps, and completed an archaeological stabilization and protection plan.
- Implementation of the Nest Watch program for the Community's Desert Nesting Bald Eagles.
- Identified a new eagle nesting site along McKellips Road
- An RFP for the design and construction of the Verde River Bank Stabilization Project was finalized and submitted to Purchasing.
- RFP for the construction of groundwater monitoring wells that are most vulnerable to contamination from surface and subsurface sources was completed and submitted to Purchasing.
- Completion of a Fish Tissue study.
- Bi-annual surface water sampling along the Salt & Verde Rivers was completed for FY2009.
- Brownsfield Feedlot soil and groundwater sampling data uploaded into the EPNR database.
- Presentations to Community Council and to Community Seniors regarding Earth Day.
- All staff attended "Who Moved My Cheese?" training in preparation of the move to Two Waters.
- Grant managing staff/Project Managers completed LUCY budget training.

- More than 600 participants attend the Community's Earth Day 2009 "Preservation for Generations" event which included an environmental fair with multiple educational booths
- Over 2000 bags of solid waste were collected, more than 100 trees planted and several bird perches constructed as part of the Earth Day activities
- Presentations to Community Council and various Community groups regarding Earth Day
- EPNR Website developed with a special emphasis on the Air Quality Program (others programs to be developed over the next several months)
- Summer bacteria sampling by the Water Quality Program along the Salt & Verde Rivers was completed
- Completed construction of the new Lehi Wetland
- Ground surveys and underwater topography were conducted in the mined areas of Phase I of the Va Shly'ay Akimel Restoration Project
- The FY2009 Va Shly'ay cost-share payment from the Community was submitted
- Coordinated the characterization, transportation, and proper disposal of over 2000 gallons of Hazardous Waste from the Public Works Maintenance Yard
- Refined and provided the "Can You Dig It" Cultural Sensitivity Training class with the Cultural Preservation Programs to Community departments and contractors working on Community lands
- Received signed Donation Agreement from Comanche Nation in Lawton, OK, for 30 head of wild horses from SRPMIC to be transferred
- EPNR Project Managers completed LUCY budget training
- Open Burning, Fugitive Dust Control, and Agricultural Fugitive Dust Control Ordinances completed and provided to CDD Management and a Community Air Quality Focus Group was established to review the ordinances prior to the presentation to the Community Council
- Air Quality Index flag poles installed throughout the Community
- Air Quality Advisories for high pollution days are distributed to all email users
- Bank stabilization project initiated at the Verde River
- The FY2009 Va Shly'ay cost-share payment from the Community was submitted
- 5 inoperable vehicles and 579 tires were removed and properly disposed of from the Community
- Coordinated the characterization, transportation, and proper disposal of Hazardous Waste from various Community Departments aka "Hazardous Waste Roundup"
- Inspection completed for a winter 2009-2010 donation of 30 head of wild horses to the Comanche Nation in Lawton, OK
- Donation of the Bison to the Santee Sioux Tribe was evaluated and completed
- PZP (a mare contraception) was successfully planned for and will be implemented in FY2010
- Va Shly'ay habitat plans for Phase I were completed

### **Challenges and Recommendations**

- As draft ordinances are implemented, additional human resources will be needed to process permits. When the regulatory capabilities of programs are developed, there will be a need for more frequent compliance inspections. Additional positions are needed as soon as possible.
- Review of the draft Stormwater Ordinance, Surface Water Quality Standards and Aquifer Water Quality Standards, and Treatment as a State (TAS) document is still under review by OGC.
- OGC can only address and review one of EPNR's draft ordinances at a time, and each of these takes several months to complete. EPNR is in need of increased legal support to keep up with needs and has requested the support of outside legal assistance.
- The West Nile Virus Working Group has voiced their support for the construction of the Va Shly'ay Project, as it will assist them in their vector mitigation efforts in the Phase I area of the Salt River

- Delays in getting RFPs and bids advertised through Purchasing are impacting our ability to complete tasks in a timely manner
- Budget strains and staffing continue to be a challenge
- EPNR (and other departments) should place an increased emphasis on securing federal funds to supplement Community funding can help ease the financial challenges facing the Community

### Goals and Activities for FY2010

- Schedule an Executive Session with Tribal Council regarding air quality Community ordinances
- Complete the WQP Well Installation and Verde River Bank Stabilization Projects
- Analyze Fish Tissue Study results and draft a final report of the findings
- Complete macro invertebrate sampling training, development of a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) and implementation of the Macro Invertebrate Sampling Program
- Complete the Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan
- Inventory illegal dumpsites, inoperable vehicles, and white goods within the Community
- Provide oversight and review of relevant policy actions on a local and federal level
- Complete the Assessment Project at the Brownfields Feedlot and begin the clean-up phase
- Host a Community-wide Household Hazardous Waste Disposal event
- Assist Public Works with final closure of Victory Acres lagoons
- Assist and oversee the progress of the Phase I assessment of the CEMEX Beeline Facility and development of a Phase II investigation and clean-up plan
- Coordinate aerial survey of range for accurate horse population count

### Personnel

#### Vacancies

Position	Duration of Vacancy	Anticipated Fill Date
Senior Environmental Specialist- Enforcement & Compliance		Position frozen due to budget issues
Senior Environmental Specialist- CARP		Position frozen due to budget issues
Environmental Program Supervisor		Position frozen due to budget issues

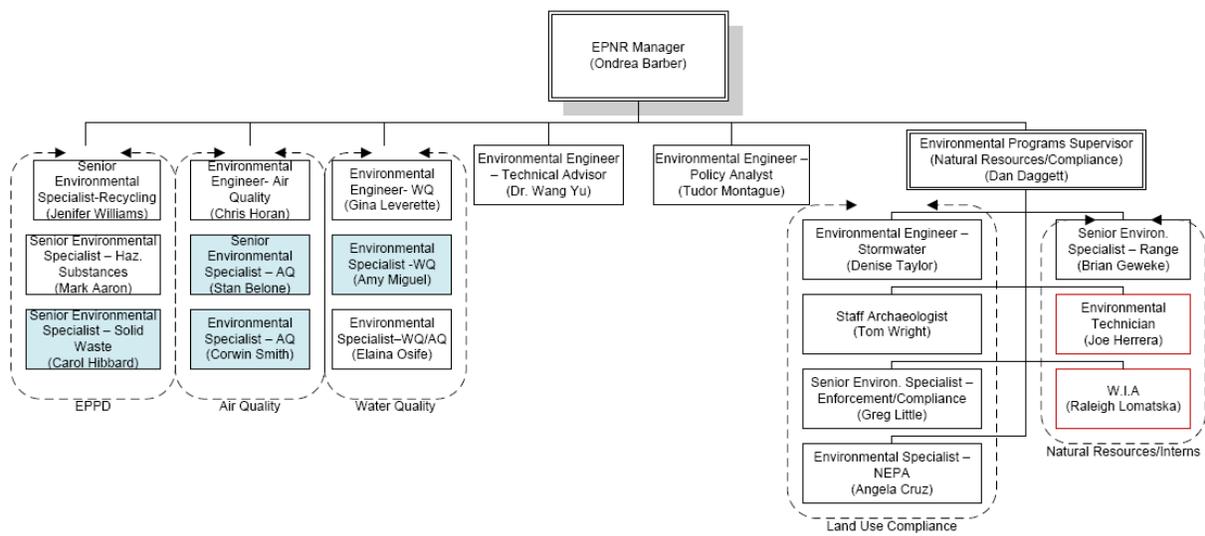
#### EPARs

Position	Due Date	Justification/Information
Senior Environmental Specialist- Enforcement and Compliance	N/A	Vacant
Senior Environmental Specialist-CARP	N/A	Vacant
Environmental Program Supervisor	N/A	Vacant
Environmental Specialist- NEPA/Land Use Compliance	02-17-2009	
Environmental Engineer- Stormwater	02-18-2009	
Senior Environmental Specialist- Solid Waste	02-28-2010	Probationary
Environmental Program Supervisor-Natural Resources	03-03-2009	
EPNR Manager	03-05-2009	
Senior Environmental Specialist-Recycling Coordinator	03-21-2009	
Senior Environmental Specialist- Hazardous Substances	04-13-2009	
Environmental Specialist- Water Quality	04-26-2009	
Environmental Engineer- Policy Analyst	05-10-2009	
Senior Environmental Specialist- Range Management	05-14-2009	
Senior Environmental Specialist-Air Quality	05-21-2009	
Environmental Technician- Air & Water Quality	05-24-2009	
Staff Archaeologist- Land Use Compliance	05-27-2009	
Environmental Engineer- Water Quality	09-13-2009	

Senior Environmental Specialist- Enforcement & Compliance	09-28-2010	
Environmental Specialist-Air Quality	09-28-2010	
Environmental Engineer-Air Quality	11-13-2009	
Environmental Engineer- Water Quality	11-28-2009	

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

## EPNR Organizational Chart



BLUE = Grant Funded  
 RED OUTLINE = Temp/Term Limited

## Air Quality Program (CAA§103)



Photo: SRPMIC staff attending the EPA Region IX Treatment As State (TAS) Recognition Ceremony

### Program Summary

The Air Quality Program's (AQP) mission is to assess the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community (SRPMIC) air-shed and implement a progressive regulatory program to address local air quality issues, such as the non-attainment designation for Particulate Matter 10 microns or less in size (PM<sub>10</sub>) and Ozone (O<sub>3</sub>) under the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). With 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. An active regulatory component is being developed whereby the Community can establish its jurisdictional authority for air pollution sources within the exterior reservation boundaries. The overarching goal of the program is to protect the health and welfare of Community Members by maintaining and enhancing the Community's air quality.

### Accomplishments

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

#### *Administration and Grant Management:*

- Completed quarterly and annual reporting to the US EPA and Community Council as required;
- Finalized VSI and IML CRAS Contract Addendums for FY10;
- Submitted and was awarded the FY 2010 Air Quality CAA 105 Grant Proposal from EPA Region IX; and
- Fully expended the FY 2009 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 include:

- Collaborated 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;
- Completed an update of the Emissions Inventory (EI) for the Community;
- Continued the DOAS air toxics monitoring in joint effort with ADEQ and ASU;
- Coordinated with Fleet Management to implement the EPNR School Bus Idling policy in the Community;
- Provided oversight for the Salt River Landfill gas flares;
- Received and responded to air quality related complaints; and
- Developed a fugitive dust complaint tracking system (below) for the Community.

Type of Dust Complaint	Number of Complaints
Canal Road	6
Haunted House	1
Public Works (weeding)	1
Agriculturally Related	8
Construction	3
Sand & Gravel	2
Open Burning	1

**Ambient Air Monitoring:** The following is a summary of the ambient air monitoring activities performed by the program during FY 09:

- Operated and maintained ambient air monitoring equipment at five (5) monitoring stations (for Ozone, PM<sub>10</sub>, and PM<sub>2.5</sub>), including repairs and calibration;
- Conducted quarterly equipment performance audits with VSI;
- Maintained the operation of meteorological instruments;
- Provided precision inspections of ambient air monitoring equipment;
- Collected and validated ambient air monitoring data;
- Conducted routine particulate matter (PM) sample collections, deliveries to laboratories, and data downloads;
- Provided oversight of all sample collections, laboratory deliverables, data validation, and archives;
- Installed and collected PM sample filters and meteorological data;
- Submitted air monitoring data to EPA Air Quality System (AQS);
- Undertook hourly ozone reporting to AIRNow;
- Collected Ozone samples from the seasonal monitors from the Lehi and High School sites, which operated from April 1 to October 31;
- Continued Tapered Element Oscillating Microbalance (TEOM) PM<sub>10</sub> continuous monitoring at the Senior Center;
- Conducted the Quality Assurance/Quality Control of monitoring equipment;
- Conducted data verifications, precision flow tests, leak inspections, calibrations, data downloading, and maintenance to the air monitors;

- Analyzed and calculated ozone monitoring figures and graphically determined the highest and lowest concentration values;
- Completed and publicly displayed the NEIEN software for AQS, FRS, and EIS;
- Revised and updated the monitoring guidance Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP); and
- Successfully passed an EPA Region 9 Ozone Audit of the AQP monitoring network at the Senior Center.

**Regulatory Development - Tribal Clean Air Act (CAA) Development:** The program has established a functional air monitoring network and during the fiscal year special attention was devoted to commencing activities for the development of the Community's regulatory capabilities. The staff was involved in the following activities:

- Administered the Treatment as State (TAS) application process, which received approval from the Office of General Counsel (OGC) for the TAS application Resolution. The TAS documents went through EPA Region IX public comment (July 28, 2008-August 28, 2008) and received no comments and one letter of support from the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ). The TAS application was approved by EPA Region IX on October 16, 2008 with a recognition ceremony February 4, 2009; and
- Developed and finalized the draft Air Quality Ordinances and worked with OGC to set up an Executive Session with Tribal Council. Both a technical and a more-informative PowerPoint presentation were developed. An Air Quality Focus group was organized which included representatives from Seniors, Salt River Materials Group, ECS, Public Works, Cultural Resources, Youth Council, Student Council, Community Residents living near farming operation, Community Members with land being leased for agriculture, and an additional Community Member. The first group meeting is scheduled for 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of FY10.

**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:

- Presented in the Poster Session at the 2009 National Tribal Forum;
- Submitted outreach articles and gave interviews for Au-Authm newspaper (4 articles);
- Developed and implemented an Advisory and Health Watch form to communicate air quality information to the Community;
- Completed the Air Quality Website ([www.srpmic-nsn.gov/government/epnr/aqhome.asp](http://www.srpmic-nsn.gov/government/epnr/aqhome.asp)) and made it available to Community Members and the public;
- Installed Air Quality Communication Flagpoles throughout the Community at the Senior Center, Salt River High School, Lehi Community Center, and Salt River Community Center. AQP will utilize the existing flag in front of the Museum for the communication flag for the Two Waters Complex; and
- Hosted an Air Quality Workshop for the Community's Early Childhood Education Center (ECEC) and concerned Community Members.

### **Challenges and Recommendations**

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

- Air Quality Positions: The AQP has a need for an additional Air Quality staff member. As the draft ordinances are implemented, additional resources will be needed to process the proposed Open Burning Permits (OBP) and Dust Control Plans (DCP). When the regulatory capability of the program is developed there will be a need for more frequent compliance

inspections. Our recommendation is to add an additional air quality position as soon as possible.

- National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) – Ozone: EPA recently proposed tightening the NAAQS for Ozone. It appears the EPA will be reducing it to between 0.065-0.068 parts per million (ppm) and plans to review the current area designations.
- MobileMini: AQP encountered unforeseen delays with transferring the MobileMini portable office shelter to the Red Mountain and Senior Center Air Monitoring Sites. The issues involved the ECS permit application and fee.
- Minor New Source Review (mNSR): The development of this ordinance has been suspended due to the current economic conditions, staff changes, and modifying priorities.

### **Goals and Activities for FY2010**

- Complete/update Community Emission Inventory including transferring data to the EIS Gateway format;
- Coordinate the Air Quality Focus Group Meetings;
- Provide the drafted Agricultural Fugitive Dust, Fugitive Dust ,and Open Burning Ordinances for Council consideration and approval;
- Install upgraded air quality monitoring equipment; and
- Complete the second Particulate Matter Special Study.

### **Personnel**

**Chris Horan**, Environmental Engineer – primarily oversees the technical activities related to regulatory, monitoring, and compliance issues.

**Stan Belone**, Senior Environmental Specialist – leads the monitoring data management and submittal to EPA.

**Greg Little**, Environmental Specialist – is responsible for the Community’s emission inventory updates.

**Corwin Smith**, Environmental Technician – assists and supports the other staff with sampling, data downloads, laboratory contacts, and other tasks as needed.

**Ondrea Barber**, EPNR Manager – provides general direction, support, and overall supervision of the Air Quality Program.

## Environmental Program and Policy Development (EPPD)



Abandoned vehicle removal before (left) and after (right).

### Program Summary

Environmental Program and Policy Development (EPPD) is responsible for assessing, monitoring and implementing 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 compliance with environmental regulations designed to reduce the risks of exposure from contaminants and to safeguard human health and the environment. EPPD consists of the following core programs: Solid Waste, Pesticides and Hazardous Substances, Recycling, and Environmental Regulation and Policy Development.

### Accomplishments

The accomplishments made by the EPPD are detailed below.

#### *Administration and Grant Management:*

- Provided fiscal information to the US EPA online ACRES program which tracks grant projects funded by the EPA;
- Provided quarterly updates and information to both the Community and US EPA regarding various projects conducted throughout the year;
- Completed in-house training on the LUCY budget and finance system and additional finance processes;
- Collaborated with the Air Quality Program to complete and submit an Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant application;
- Submitted a grant application to the Administration for Native Americans (ANA), which provides significant funding for environmental regulatory enhancement projects;
- Applied for and was awarded the FY2010 General Assistance Program (GAP) grant;
- Coordinated with the Finance department and a contractor in order to rectify contract budget disparities (ultimately, the budget discrepancy was on the contractor's part);
- Successfully coordinated with EPA project officers to finalize the GAP grant budgets for the new fiscal year;
- Coordinated with Purchasing and Finance the budget adjustments for the ongoing contracts for the next fiscal year;
- Finalized two addendums for the Gable Ink contract; and

- Approved an addendum for the GeoTrans, Inc. contract which allowed for additional funds to be allocated within the Brownfield assessment grant to the contract to complete final analytical work.

***Solid Waste Program:*** While challenged with staff vacancies and turn-over, this program was successfully able to complete the following activities in FY 2009:

- Removed 2,621 waste tires from the Community storage facility;
- Developed a new contract with J.J. Tires, Inc. which is currently in processing;
- Removed six (6) inoperable vehicles from Community residences and developed an incentive program for the upcoming fiscal year;
- Collaborated with ECS on the clean-up of an illegal dumpsite which included removing metal and steel debris and abandoned cars from Community range lands;
- Completed three (3) draft Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for white goods management, waste tire removal and inoperable vehicle removal; and
- Coordinated the signatory process for landowner consent for three (3) sites participating in the Community Action and Revitalization Program (CARP) (upon receipt of landowner consent, mobile homes at the sites will be demolished and disposed with the assistance of ECS).

***Pesticides & Hazardous Substances Program:*** The following is a summary of the Pesticide and Hazardous Substances Program activities performed during FY 09:

- Conducted eleven (11) agricultural pesticide inspections and eleven (11) non-agricultural pesticide inspections at pesticide use, storage and application sites throughout the Community;
- Provided on-going compliance assistance to two (2) leased farming operations in an effort to ensure compliance with Community and federal laws and regulations;
- Tracked the ninety-three (93) agricultural pesticide uses and 137 non-agricultural pesticide uses that were reported to EPNR;
- Continued to develop the pesticide notification database. Structural applicators were the first to come online and notify by e-mail through the new EPNR website portal;
- Hosted a pesticide safety training in June for twenty-eight (28) agricultural workers and handlers which covered the Worker Protection Standard (all attendees earned US EPA pesticide handler certification cards valid for three years);
- Hosted a pesticide safety training in September for thirty-eight (38) employees of Public Works and ECS (all attendees earned US EPA pesticide handler certification cards valid for three years);
- Conducted one (1) RCRA hazardous waste inspection at a commercial business, and continues to provide compliance assistance to ensure compliance with community and federal laws and regulations;
- Conducted a multi-media inspection in conjunction with the Air Quality and Water Quality programs;
- Conducted a hazardous waste compliance assistance inspection at a small quantity hazardous waste generator (as a result of the inspection, an unpermitted fluorescent bulb crusher was removed from use at the facility);
- Managed a cleanup event in June at Public Works to remove accumulated hazardous waste from the maintenance yard;
- Coordinated a four-day hazardous waste roundup in August to remove wastes from the ECS yard, Salt River Day School/BIA Complex, Salt River Community Center Pool, Public Works, Housing Division Maintenance Yard, Salt River High School, Early Childhood Education Center, Secured Vehicle Storage, Pavilion Lakes Golf Course, Cypress Golf

Course, and Red Mountain Trap and Skeet. Wastes removed during the cleanup events included:

- ◆ 147 cubic yards of drums, containers and lab pack waste;
  - ◆ 15 cubic yards of hazardous and non-hazardous paints;
  - ◆ 360 spent fluorescent and high-intensity discharge lamps;
  - ◆ Over 19,000 pounds of non-liquid hazardous waste; and
  - ◆ Over 2,100 gallons of liquid hazardous waste.
- Coordinated the remediation of two diesel spills with the contracted emergency on-call services provider;
  - Conducted confirmation soil sampling at one of the diesel spill sites; and
  - Participated in the following events/activities included as Work Plan Deliverables:
    - ◆ EPA Tribal Pesticide Inspector Residential Training hosted by Inner Tribal Council of Arizona (ITCA): October 20-22, 2008.
    - ◆ FIFRA Environmental Compliance (online) Inspector Training: December 1, 2008.
    - ◆ EPA Pesticide Regulatory Education Program (PREP) training for Tribes with Pesticide Issues: March 9-13, 2009.
    - ◆ Tribal Pesticide Program Council (TPPC) meeting for Strategic Plan 2009-2019 development: March 12-13, 2009.
    - ◆ EPA Region 9 Pesticide Inspector Workshop: April 7-9, 2009.
    - ◆ TPPC Executive Committee meeting: April 12, 2009.
    - ◆ Western Regions Pesticide Meeting: April 13-14, 2009.
    - ◆ EPA PREP training for Compliance Program Management: April 20-24, 2009.
    - ◆ WPS Pesticide Safety classes presented to employees of leased farms, and employees of SRPMIC Public Works-Grounds and ECS-Water Resources: June 5 and September 4, 2009.
    - ◆ EPA Asbestos Hazard and Emergency Response Act (AHERA) training for Building Inspector Certification: September 14-16, 2009.
    - ◆ EPA AHERA training for Contractor Supervisor Certification: September 21-25, 2009.

***Recycling Program:*** The following is a summary of activities performed by the Recycling Program during FY 09:

- Drafted and revised the CARP proposal which was finalized and presented to the Community Manager and received approval for implementation;
- Compiled and coordinated the printing and distribution of the FY08 EPNR Accomplishments Report;
- Compiled material for inclusion in the EPA Region 9 Tribal Accomplishments report which is widely distributed throughout Region 9 and will be featured at their annual environmental conference (topics that were highlighted include the Fish Tissue Study, Treatment as a State, Lehi Wetland construction, Brownfields Cypress and the Feedlot assessment and cleanup as well as hazardous waste removal activities);
- Coordinated efforts with facilities and cafeteria staff to implement a recycling program for the Two Waters government complex;
- Developed outreach materials that included brightly colored posters and decals to assist with efforts to increase recycling at the Two Waters government complex and throughout the Community (Administrative approval was gained to post the items in common areas which include break rooms and conference rooms);
- Updated, reprinted, and widely distributed the recycling program brochure to several Community departments and programs as well as posted the brochure on the SRPMIC intranet's Community Announcement page and emailed to Community Members who are on the Community Relations listserv;

- Published three recycling-related articles in the Community newspaper (the article topics included type of materials that are accepted at the electronic waste container now located at the Salt River Landfill, EPNR's collaboration with ECS at the illegal dumpsite cleanup, and the success of the AZ Tech Recycle event);
- Coordinated the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual SRPMIC Employee Fall Overhaul clean-up event held Friday, October 30, 2009;
- Hosted several planning meetings, designated committees and assignments, ordered equipment and supplies, and commenced interdepartmental collaboration for the up-coming elder home cleanup;
- Completed the Integrated Waste Management Plan (IWMP) for EPNR's hazardous waste, solid waste and recycling programs in order to holistically address the Community's waste management issues;
- Conducted a Community Recyclable and Hazardous Waste Inventory which examined waste and recycling activities in the Community and identified potential hazardous waste generators as well as provided an opportunity for education and outreach (waste inventory surveys were conducted at government buildings, departments, facilities and schools);
- Continued the *Clean and Green Campaign* which is a 12-month project designed to build healthy environmental habits in the Community. Each month, a new habit was introduced for participants to implement at home and work to save energy and money, reduce waste, and create a better overall environment for the Community (twelve articles were published in the Au Authm Action newspaper documenting the *Clean and Green Campaign* and monthly healthy habits); and
- Coordinated and hosted two (2) meetings (on June 11, 2009 and September 16, 2009) for the Community's Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) which includes representatives from EPNR's Solid Waste, Hazardous Waste and Recycling Programs, as well as SRPMIC IT, Purchasing, Public Works, and facilities staff from Salt River Landfill, Salt River High School, Salt River Elementary, and Casino Arizona.

***Regulatory and Policy Development:*** The following is a summary of activities performed by the EPPD Environmental Policy Program during FY 09:

- Reviewed and provided formal comments on US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) species listing status review documents for the Black-Tailed Prairie Dog and the Northern Mexican Garter Snake;
- Reviewed and provided formal comments on proposed federal legislation changes, the proposed delisting of the Bald Eagle, and EPA's Strategic Plan;
- Provided review and comments into the development of a site reclamation plan for the CEMEX facility located off of Beeline highway, which is in the process of vacating its lease held with SRPMIC since 1959;
- Began the process of coordinating and overseeing the final tasks for the clean-up of the Feedlot Project site under the US EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant;
- Reviewed the Talley Defense Industries work plan and coordinated and monitored soil sampling and analysis of Community lands located adjacent to the propellant manufacturing facility;
- Provided review and comments on the Sampling and Analysis Plan prepared for the Pavilion Lakes Golf Course development project;
- Performed a Programmatic Assessment for the Pavilion Lakes Golf Course development project pursuant to National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements;
- Monitored the installation of a 10,000-gallon underground storage tank at JR's Convenience store;
- Reviewed and provided comments on SOPs drafted for the Solid Waste Program;

- Drafted an SOP for EPNR staff to follow when working to obtain landowner consent for projects occurring on allotted lands; and
- Provided guidance and feedback on the Brownfields Program portion of the Integrated Waste Management Plan.

**Outreach Activities:** EPPD, recognizing that public education and outreach is the main activity that can result in improved waste management, carried out the following activities in 2009:

- Hosted EPNR's Earth Day Celebration on April 18, 2009 which included the following activities:
  - ◆ Native tree and shrub planting at the Lehi and Cottonwood wetlands;
  - ◆ Earth Day poster contest for Community elders and grades K through 12;
  - ◆ Environmental Fair with fifteen booths highlighting Community programs, environmentally friendly products, sustainable building materials and native wildlife;
  - ◆ Roadway cleanup and senior homesite cleanup;
  - ◆ Children's activities including face painting and a petting zoo;
  - ◆ An eco-friendly craft project for Community elders; and
  - ◆ Viewing of the Planet Earth video for those unable to participate in cleanup activities.

- During the cleanup activities, 29 teams collected approximately 10 tons of waste from more than 25 acres of land, including four senior homesites and an estimated 36 miles of roadway;
- Attended the monthly senior breakfast at the Lehi Community Building and distributed outreach material on the Community's air quality, water quality, pesticide use, recycling and its watershed;
  - Participated at the Salt River Elementary School Fall Career Day where approximately 250 children attended the event;
  - Developed a business outreach packet that includes a newly created tri-fold detailing waste reduction and recycling in the workplace, a new outreach brochure entitled Universal Waste in the Workplace, an EPNR hotline magnet, a pesticide safety brochure, a guide to Community recycling, and a brochure detailing how to recycle household compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) (these outreach materials were distributed to 86 Community departments, enterprises and businesses located along the Pima Corridor);
  - Provided approximately 150 inoperable vehicle program brochures to the Salt River Police Department and Legal Services for distribution to Community members;
  - Participated in the Community's Veterans and Fathers Day celebrations which included a booth to provide outreach materials and information on EPNR programs;
  - Presented at the Housing Authority's Resident and Homeowner Conference held Saturday, September 19, 2009 at the Salt River High School and distributed outreach materials which included recycling program brochures, recycling decals, posters, inoperable vehicle, EPNR Accomplishments booklet, and Waste Reduction and Recycling in the Workplace packets;
  - Provided outreach to a pesticide applicator required to comply with the new EPA pesticide container and containment regulations and with federal containment standards;
  - Held one-on-one meetings with three (3) of the Community's lease farming operations to provide guidance and compliance assistance with regard to pesticide storage and use (a copy of US EPA's *How to Comply with the Worker Protection Standard for Agricultural Pesticides – What Employers Need to Know* manual was provided to the operators during the meetings);
  - Printed informational postcards announcing the Community's First Annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection event on November 7, 2009 and distributed throughout the government complex and to residential blue boxes by Public Works;
  - Provided chemistry lab safety information to Salt River High School; and

- Distributed more than three hundred pesticide safety brochures to the Community Housing Division's rental subdivision residents prior to an outdoor herbicide application.

### **Challenges and Recommendations**

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

- Continue to develop and debug the pesticide notification system database, and look forward to all agricultural application notifications coming in by e-mail through the EPNR website portal.

### **Goals and Activities for FY2010**

- Evaluate generator status of all hazardous waste generators within the Community, and target one inspection.
- Create a neutral inspection scheme and schedule for pesticide applicators (agricultural and non-agricultural) operating within the Community.
- Complete the demo and removal of three homes through the CARP program and initiate additional projects as necessary.
- Continue with the review and revision of the Solid Waste Ordinance.
- Promote and increase participation with the inoperable vehicle program.
- Efforts will be made to finalize the JJ Tires contract.
- Coordinate with Public Works and the Housing Authority to distribute recycling program decals to Community residents for their recycling containers.
- Continue work on the Reducing Community's Wastes outreach booklet.

### **Personnel**

**Jenifer Williams**, Senior Environmental Specialist (Recycling Program) - coordinates and manages the Community's recycling program

**Carol Hibbard**, Senior Environmental Specialist (Solid Waste Program) – coordinates and manages solid waste program activities within the Community.

**Mark Aaron**, Senior Environmental Specialist (Pesticides & Hazardous Substances) – oversees all inspection, compliance, and enforcement program activities for pesticides and hazardous waste within the Community.

**Tudor Montague**, Environmental Engineer (Policy Analyst) - identifies environmental needs and gaps in the Community and develops strategic approaches for policy implementation.

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

## Land Use Compliance Program



Tres Pueblos Stabilization Project before (left) and after (right).

### 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 sites and commercial leases, renewal of business leases, and new building projects. The primary role of the Compliance and Enforcement section is to evaluate compliance 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 through direct personnel interactions and on-site technical assistance.

### Accomplishments

The accomplishments made by the LUC are detailed below.

- Obtained final archaeological clearances for thirty-eight (38) home sites from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), and signed fifty (50) Categorical Exclusions for home sites and title transfers;
- Conducted archaeological studies at four (4) additional homesites and identified nine (9) prehistoric Huhugam canals and one (1) associated pit house;
- Collaborated with the Cultural Preservation Program to develop a Cultural Sensitivity Training class for Community employees and outside contractors working on Community lands (so far the class has taught an estimated 1,200 Community employees and contractors how to recognize and protect important cultural and archaeological resources);
- Conducted extensive archaeological monitoring at the Two Waters project area, which resulted in the discovery of two human burials (after extensive consultation with the Cultural

- Resources Department (CRD), the deceased individuals were exhumed in a sensitive and respectful manner and their remains will be reburied in accordance with CRD guidelines);
- Awarded a Bureau of Indian Affairs Noxious Weed Grant and LUC successfully treated areas along the Verde River; and
  - Enhanced and improved the Request for Environmental Review “RER” process and associated SharePoint site which is widely communicated for all SRPMIC Intranet users.

***Archaeology:***

- Conducted extensive field surveys, monitoring, site evaluations, project reviews, and damage assessments;
- Provided technical support to other programs within EPNR (including Air Quality, Water Quality, NEPA Compliance, Environmental reviews, and Range Management) and further support was provided to CDD, MRPM, Public Works, ECS, the Cultural Preservation Program, and the Hoo-hoogam Ki Museum;
- Coordinated the Community’s response to inadvertent but serious damage to three (3) major archaeological sites;
- Co-authored an Executive Report to Council and participated in a special Council work session regarding the damage to these sites, along with selecting and overseeing a contractor to stabilize and protect these sites;
- Served on the Papago Park Master Plan Staff Committee; and
- Reviewed plans, wrote contracts, and/or issued permits for the following projects: Alma School Road and McKellips Road improvement project, Dobson Heights sewer line, the proposed new Indian Health Service facility, repository building, the Talley burn area, the Salt River Cemetery, McDowell Road in Lehi, the Dobson Heights Neighborhood Center, Salt River Cemetery, Hoo-hoogam Ki Museum, and Red Mountain Trap and Skeet. Similar input was provided for an interpretive plan at Mesa Grande, an ancestral Huhugam site in Mesa.

***NEPA:***

- Received final clearances for 52 home sites from BIA and SHPO;
- Completed twelve (12) Categorical Exclusions (CEs) and twelve (12) Programmatic Environmental Assessments (PEAs) which were submitted to Membership and Real Property Management Division (MRPM);
- Completed twenty-five (25) Land Sales, five (5) land conveyances, and six (6) lease renewals from Economic Development;
- Collaborated with Realty on requests for gift conveyances; and
- Processed thirty-seven (37) Environmental Review Requests from departments within Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community.

***Enforcement and Compliance:***

- Conducted major inspections at CEMEX – Beeline Facility and the Will Rousseau Farms, Inc.;
- Assisted with asbestos surveys;
- Reviewed and inspected (3) three proposed home demolitions;
- Assisted and provided information for the removal of sulfuric acid from SRPMIC;
- Assisted in the clean up and the re-closure of a septage lagoon system;
- Completed a BIA salt cedar project which resulted in the treatment of three (3) acres on the Verde River;
- Reviewed Special Use Permits (SUPs);

- Prepared a draft PowerPoint presentation in order to better illustrate EPNR's regulatory authority and activities; and
- Reviewed the 128(a) Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) grant, which was awarded for FY2009.

### **Challenges and Recommendations**

- Follow up on the acquisition of ArcGIS for all LUC staff
- Research alternative training opportunities in light of Community funded training freeze
- Obtain support from other EPNR programs to assist Staff Archaeologist conduct monitoring activities

### **Goals and Activities for the FY 2010**

- Continue performing consultation, site assessments, and project reviews;
- Further develop the Cultural Sensitivity Training and the "Can You Dig It?" campaign as construction begins on the Spring Training facility;
- Partner with CRD to maintain and improve archaeological collections and storage facilities;
- Work with on-call archaeological contractor to complete a number of compliance-related projects;
- Re-initiate inspections of the regulated community to ensure compliance with applicable federal and tribal law and policy;
- Continue Enforcement and Compliance activities, including inspections, program assistance, and compliance documentation;
- Continue performing Programmatic Environmental Assessments and homesite reviews;
- Implement the 128(a) CERCLA Brownfields program; and
- Identify free or low-cost training opportunities to enhance LUC staff professional skills.

### **Personnel**

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

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

**Greg Little**, Senior Environmental Specialist (Enforcement and Compliance) - provides compliance assistance through regular site inspections of commercial, agricultural and industrial businesses on the Community.

**Denise Taylor**, Environmental Engineer - provides compliance assistance with stormwater regulations and stormwater pollution prevention plans within the SRPMIC, and manages CERCLA 128(a) goals and tasks.

**Dan Daggett**, Environmental Program Supervisor - provides general direction, support and direct supervision of the LUC Program.

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

## Range Management Program



SRPMIC Bison Herd in Niobrara, Nebraska

### Program Summary

The Range Management Program (RMP) was created in order to provide management and protection of the wild horses and their environment 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 inhabit. Efforts to reduce the population consist of ongoing adoption and donation programs that find homes for some of the herd as well as the chemical contraception of the females. The wild horse facility accommodates horses awaiting adoption and donation. 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. The bison herd in Nebraska has been periodically inspected over the last year to ensure the donation has been favorable for the bison.

Additionally, the RMP provides support and guidance to projects affecting other valuable resources within the Community such as the Verde 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

The accomplishments made by the RMP are detailed below.

- Performed final inspection of donated bison to the Santee Sioux Tribe in Niobrara, Nebraska (the bison are healthy and doing better in their natural environment on the prairie plains);
- Presented bison updates at a Council meeting and Senior's breakfast;
- Awarded, under Council directive, recognition plaques to the two (2) employees that maintained the bison herd in Clarkdale, Arizona;
- With assistance from the OGC, completed a new Donation Agreement with the Comanche Tribe in Lawton, Oklahoma for 50 to 70 head of SRPMIC wild horses (transport is scheduled for the spring of 2010);
- Performed final inspections of five (5) wild horses that were adopted in New Mexico during FY 2008;
- Completed mare contraception training to decrease herd population;
- Assisted with drafting the SRPMIC Animal Welfare Ordinance which passed through OGC and is now pending Council approval;
- Renewed State and National Certified Veterinarian Technician License;
- Submitted Tribal Wildlife Grant to US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and Natural Resource Conservation Center (NRCS) for financial assistance to fund RMP goals; and
- Continued to provide care for and oversee the safety of the Community's numerous wild horses and the range land.

## Challenges and Recommendations

- The boundary fence lines require continual repair due to intentional cuts in the fence by unknown persons. Some wild horses have escaped on roadways presenting a safety hazard. Arizona Dept. of Public Safety (DPS), Maricopa County Sheriff's Office (MCSO), Salt River Police Dept. (SRPD), Salt River Rangers and others have assisted in returning the wild horses to the range. More durable and permanent boundary fencing is recommended and will be sought for approval.

## Goals and Activities for FY2010.

- Continue herd population reduction until target number of approximately 60 horses is reached, at which time the Wild Horse Identification Management System (WHIMS) will be initiated 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 to preserve or replenish native plants;
- Complete aerial survey of rangelands; and
- Make wild horses more adoptable.

## Personnel

**Raleigh Lomatska**, Environmental Technician - provides assistance with the day to day facility management and monitoring general health of the wild horse herd.

**Joe Herrera**, Environmental Specialist - is responsible for daily management of the wild horse herd and monitoring general health of rangeland ecosystem.

**Brian Gewecke**, Senior Environmental Specialist - provides daily management of the wild horse herd and monitors the general health of range ecosystem of flora and fauna with RMP research and development projects.

**Dan Daggett**, Environmental Program Supervisor - provides general direction, support and direct supervision of the Range Management Program.

**Ondrea Barber**, EPNR Manager - provides general direction, support and overall supervision of the Range Management Program.

## Water Quality Program



Processing of fish for the Fish Tissue Study.

### Program Summary

The Water Quality Program (WQP) 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 EPA under the Clean Water Act. Water quality monitoring is critical to the health and welfare of Community residents. Surface water quality assessments address water quality in streams, wetlands, rivers, and other surface water bodies. Groundwater quality assessments focus on water quality data from wells which supply drinking water for domestic consumption, irrigation water for agricultural production, and water sources for wildlife in the Community. The Water Quality Program establishes and enforces guidelines for wellhead protection, point source control, nonpoint source control, sole source aquifer designation, and surface water and groundwater quality monitoring. The WQP also conducts outreach activities with other departments, Community schools, and Community members on a regular basis in order to increase environmental stewardship to further protect the quality of the surface and groundwater.

### Accomplishments

The accomplishments made by the WQP are detailed below.

- Conducted the final phase of a fish harvest associated with the fish tissue study to assess various human toxins in tissue of fish from Community's surface water resources (the first draft report of the study is anticipated to be completed during the first quarter of FY 2010);
- Installed and developed a solar powered wildlife well at a site located at the west bank of the Salt River to provide drinking water for wildlife as a component of the nonpoint source pollution prevention program;

- Planned the installation and development of a monitoring well at a site located east of the Verde River to assess the impact of surface water on the groundwater quality (installation, development, and baseline sampling of the well in planned for the first quarter of FY 2010);
- Participated in the multi-media inspection and compliance components on the Cemex facility with the other EPNR Programs;
- Reviewed the Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) reports submitted by contractors on the Cemex facility and the proposed baseball summer training facility;
- Completed the clean-up plan review and coordination of the Percolate Cleanup at Tally Industries with the Land Use Program;
- Reviewed the proposed site exploration plans at the TriCity Landfill and Center Street Landfill with the Land Use Program;
- Completed the abandonment of the Gilbert/Virginia well;
- Completed the first phase of NEIEN;
- Hosted a macroinvertebrate sampling training in July;
- Completed a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) for macroinvertebrate sampling; and
- Received successful annual grant review from EPA for FY08.

**Data Management:** The following is a summary of the data management activities performed by the program during FY 09:

- Continued to update and managed the WQP's key databases (Groundwater Monitoring, Surface Water Quality, Wetlands, and Soil Contamination);
- Initiated the submission of all data to US EPA in the required STORET format as well as transforming the existing database into STORET format;
- Continued to file all hardcopy and electronic documents according to the proper file management system; and
- Updated and organized all documents.

**Water Quality Monitoring:** The following is a list of the numerous activities performed for water quality monitoring by the program during FY 09:

- Continued updating the Surface Water Quality Standards, Aquifer Water Quality Standards, and Soil Remediation Standards to reflect the most current federal and state criteria (US EPA approval of the Surface Water Quality Standards is anticipated by the end of FY10);
- Revised the current QAPP for surface and groundwater sampling for submittal to US EPA Region IX following internal review;
- Submitted an informal Treatment as a State (TAS) document to EPA Region IX anticipating early comments from EPA to assist in a more expedited review once the document is formally submitted;
- Completed the required bi-annual surface water sampling in March as well as the summer bacteria sampling (each month from May to September) at the four (4) fixed sampling sites along the Verde and Salt Rivers;
- Conducted the annual groundwater sampling at three (3) public drinking water wells and one (1) newly constructed wildlife well for all drinking water parameters regulated by USEPA in order to establish the baseline groundwater quality indices for monitoring purposes;
- Completed the monthly monitoring and bi-annual sample collection at the Cottonwood Wetland; and
- Completed the initial survey work and design phase for the Bank Stabilization Project with on-the-ground work planned for December 2009.

***Stormwater Program:***

- Submitted the Stormwater Ordinance and associated documents to OGC for review;
- Conducted stormwater inspections at construction sites and commented on design review plans as needed;
- Conducted outreach to construction site managers and SRPMIC departments; and
- Prepared inspections reports for each inspection conducted which are becoming more multi-media in nature, strengthening EPNR's Inspection/Compliance/Enforcement goals.

***Outreach Activities:*** The WQP continues to conduct outreach within the Community. This year WQP hosted activities for students, Community Elders, and environmental professionals.

- Conducted five (5) tours at the Cottonwood Wetland which was featured at the EPA National Nonpoint Source Workshop in California;
- Managed a bird counting activity with Salt River High School students and staff during one of the Cottonwood Wetland tours where students were able to view many different species of migratory birds;
- Hosted a luncheon in conjunction with a tour at the Cottonwood Wetland for the Community Elders on April 22<sup>nd</sup> which included an overview of the Department, Earth Day history, and wetland function while the Cultural Resources Department (CRD) discussed cultural and historical uses for some of the vegetation present at the wetland, such as plants used for cooking, medicinal purposes, and even chewing gum;
- Coordinated the planting of vegetation at the newly constructed Lehi Wetland during Earth Day;
- Conducted two (2) tours at the Lehi Wetland;
- Hosted a two (2) day training for macroinvertebrate sampling in July where attendees learned about the different macroinvertebrates found in the river and their relationship to water quality as well as how to use the sampling equipment and methods, and actually performing sampling techniques;
- Attended Community events and distributed outreach materials to Community members, guests, and Tribal employees; and
- Published articles for the Au Authm Action News informing the Community on WQP activities and water quality issues.

**Challenges and Recommendations**

- The scheduled summer surface water quality monitoring for bacteria during the month of August along the Verde River and Salt River was cancelled due to abnormally low flow, staff unavailability, and excessive heat conditions.

**Goals and Activities for FY 2010**

- Complete improvements at the Lehi Wetland;
- Review and submit QAPP to USEPA;
- Conduct all of the surface water sampling events (bi-annual and summer) at the Salt & Verde Rivers for FY 2010;
- Perform all of the groundwater sampling events for FY 2010;
- Complete the first draft of the fish tissue study report by the first quarter of FY 2010 and the final report subsequently;
- Implement macroinvertebrate sampling program;
- Finalize the review and OCG approval process for the Stormwater Ordinance; and
- Implement the Bank Stabilization Project.

## Personnel

**Wang Yu**, Environmental Engineer – provides technical support for the Water Quality, Land Use, and Pesticide Programs which includes document review, amendment, and development.

**Denise Taylor**, Environmental Engineer – manages stormwater program goals and tasks.

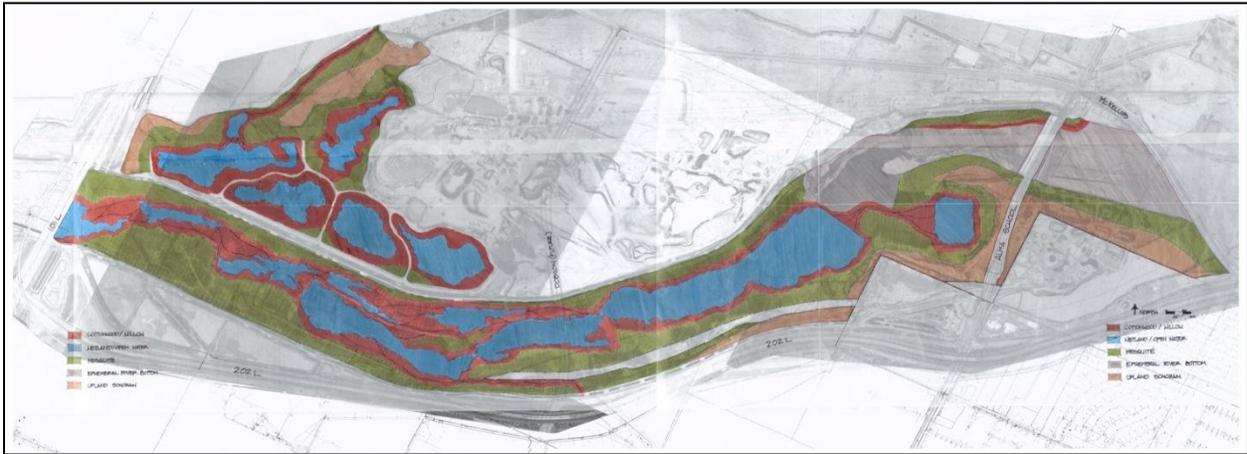
**Gina Leverette**, Environmental Engineer – manages CWA 319 goals and tasks, supports CWA 106 goals and tasks as well as other WQP projects, wetlands management, and WQP budgets.

**Amy Miguel**, Environmental Specialist – manages CWA 106 goals and tasks and supports tasks under CWA 319 and other WQP projects.

**Corwin Smith**, Environmental Technician – supports of all CWA 319 and CWA 106 goals and tasks.

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

## Va Shly'ay Akimel Ecosystem Restoration Project



Va Shly'ay Akimel Habitat Plans for Phase I of the Project.

### Project Summary

The Va Shly'ay Akimel Ecosystem Restoration Project is an ongoing, collaborative project implemented by the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community (Community), the US Army Corp of Engineers (Corps), and the City of Mesa. The Community and the City of Mesa act as project sponsors and contribute a cost-share at a specified percentage rate per phase.

This project is in the Design Phase, which officially began in June of 2006. The current focus is on developing the conceptual design and cost of construction for each component of the project based on the plan. The Design Phase is taking place in Phase I, which extends from the Loop 101/202 interchange to McKellips Road.

### Accomplishments

- The Community Council deliberated and determined that the Salt River Materials Group would cease mining in the Phase I area in order to complete the Design Phase by the Project Team;
- Ground surveys and underwater topography of the mined areas in Phase I were completed;
- Congressional allocations and Stimulus funds were awarded to the project;
- The Community and the City of Mesa provided the negotiated cost share amounts to complete the Design Plan of Phase I;
- Public Outreach was conducted during the Community's Annual Earth Day event; and
- The Design Team presented its initial habitat plan for Phase I to the Community and the City of Mesa.

### Project Activities:

- Resumed Project coordination following the directive from the Community Council in the first quarter;
- Conducted a meeting with the entire design team to bring everyone together and get back on track;
- Held a specialized meeting with the Flood Control District of Maricopa County to share information on a study they are conducting regarding Salt River flows from Granite Reef Dam to the I-10;

- Reviewed the new topography data;
- Provided the negotiated cost share amounts to complete the entire Design of Phase I along with the City of Mesa while the Congressional allocations and Stimulus funds arrived to the Los Angeles District of the Corps; and
- Displayed Project information during the annual Community's Earth Day event.

### **Challenges and Recommendations**

- The project was delayed in 2008 due to on-going mining by Salt River Materials Group in the project area. Since then, the project was re-initiated by the Community Council and communications among the major parties is essential to the on-going progress of the Project.
- Direction from Administration is needed as to whether goals from earlier years of the project will be relevant in upcoming FY 2010 (such as outreach to departments and Community Members).
- The West Nile Virus Working Group has voiced their support for the construction of the Va Shly'ay Project, as it will assist them in their vector mitigation efforts in the Phase I area of the Salt River.
- The Design Team departures (Kari Morehouse, EPNR and Mike Ternack, USACE) has lead to new project managers (Denise Taylor, EPNR and Gwen Meyer, USACE) for the project.
- Direction from Administration was received to include areas of alleged trespass in the design plans.
- Direction from Administration is needed as to whether the implementation of the design plans will commence.

### **Goals and Activities for FY 10**

- The Design Team will present to the Community its conceptual habitats and conceptual designs for a demonstration wetland area on McKellips road;
- Layouts and pumping stations will be finalized during the fourth quarter;
- Design Review of the wetland demonstration area and project area will need to be completed;
- A new cost share for the construction of Phase I will need to be negotiated;
- Allocations from Congress will need to be secured for Phase I Construction; and
- Discussion on beginning design phase for Phase II will need to be considered.

### **Personnel**

**Denise Taylor**, Environmental Engineer - serves as the Project Manager and main point of contact for the Community.

**Dan Daggett**, Environmental Program Supervisor – serves as Project Archaeologist.

**Ondrea Barber**, EPNR Manager - oversees project activities.

**Selena Espinoza**, Assistant CDD Director - provides guidance and serves as Administrative Liaison.

**Stacey Gubser**, CDD Director - provides guidance and serves as Administrative Liaison.

**Kent Andrews**, Assistant Community Manager - provides guidance and serves as Council Liaison.

## Feedlot Project Brownfields Assessment and Clean-Up



*Trenching and analysis of the site, 2009*

### **Project Summary**

The US EPA Brownfields Assessment grant was awarded to the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian 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 2009, the project has made considerable progress with the completion of all Phase II Site Assessment activities and the drafting of the Clean up and End Use Plans are in progress. During FY 09 the project team encountered some project obstacles but the team was able to address them and continue to move forward with the project.

## **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.

- Completed a second round of groundwater sampling which included both of the existing wells (East Well and West Well);
- Attended the Western Brownfield Workshop, San Diego CA. October 8-10, 2008;
- Reviewed and commented on the initial rounds of sampling events and associated analytical reports (groundwater and soil samples);
- Reviewed and provided comments on the completed draft Phase II Environmental Site Investigation and have continued discussions with the contractor regarding some inconsistencies found during initial review of the document;
- Uploaded all of the soil and groundwater sampling data into the EPNR database;
- Completed the financial Budget Authorization (BA) for next phase (Clean-up) of the project;
- Compiled extensive project update and submitted to the Community Council;
- Initiated excavation in the northwest quarter of the project site as a follow-up to the indication of underground anomalies detected from a ground scan conducted earlier;
- Conducted the final round of groundwater sampling at the two existing monitoring wells using the “full purging” approach to determine the source of the elevated level in lead detected during the first two (2) rounds of “non-purge” sampling (the purged groundwater was later disposed of at the Salt River Landfill);
- Purged, tested and disposed of standing water in the dip vat (this activity also removed a potential breeding environment for mosquitoes);
- Demolished and conducted soil samples directly below the dip vat to ascertain if there was contamination in the soil below this area;
- Updated the online database for the EPA Brownfield Program (ACRES) to reflect the current status of the project;
- Conducted preliminary review and comment on the latest analysis of the soils in the northwest section of the project site and determined additional sampling will need to be conducted for three areas within the section; and
- Completed required contract addendum for extension of the current contract and a budget modification in order to complete the additional delineation of the contaminants discovered at the site.

### ***Phase II Site Assessment/Quality Assurance:***

- Continued Project Management activities for this portion of the assessment which included review of draft documents and associated paperwork (Phase II ESI, invoices, summary reports, etc.) submitted by the contractor;
- Reviewed the initial round of groundwater samples which indicated an elevated presence of lead in one of the existing wells (East Well) (a lack of lead in the other well sampled and in the wells sampled from the surrounding area has given the project team reason to believe the source may be from the deteriorated casings);
- Conducted a second round of well sampling for lead which will be reviewed and if lead is shown to be present, a different method of groundwater sampling will be conducted which should show if the contamination is coming from the deteriorated casing or from the surrounding aquifer;
- Ordered security fencing that will be installed to prevent unintended exposure to the asbestos found to be present in one of the standing structures;

- Coordinated and supervised the trenching and analysis of the northwest quadrant of the project site which was identified to have subsurface anomalies during a ground-penetrating radar scan; and
- Contracted an emergency response crew to oversee the excavation activities due to the possibility of exposing hazardous materials during excavation.

### **Challenges and Recommendations**

- The presence of lead in the East Well provided a small challenge for the team in attempting to determine the source. However, further investigation is planned in order to determine the true source of the lead. The project team is still trying to determine the best approach for the northwest corner of the project site which has shown to be potentially impacted by buried materials. A question was presented to the EPA Project Officer as to which ways the site should be approached as there are funding restrictions set to when assessment and cleanup funds can be used. Staff will follow up with the EPA PO.
- Planned new monitoring well installation turned out to be cost prohibitive so the project team had to change the direction of the final tasks.
- Environmental Programs Supervisor/project team member resigned during this quarter
- In looking forward to the next phase of the project (clean-up) there is concern over the length of time recent contracts have spent in review at the Purchasing department. In order to complete the next phase on time there should be an effort to complete the review and finalization within a timeframe that was normally followed by the Purchasing department in the past.
- Initial budget discrepancies between contractor and SRPMIC were brought to light during this quarter and were ultimately reconciled. However, the issue delayed the remaining analytical work which had to be pushed back to the next quarter.

### **Goals and Activities for FY 2010**

- Complete clean up and end use plan report;
- Draft final report for EPA; and
- Close out the Assessment Project.

### **Personnel**

**Tudor Montague**, Environmental Engineer (Policy Analyst) – serves as Project Manager.

**Wang Yu**, Environmental Engineer – provides technical and analytical oversight.

**Dan Daggett**, Environmental Program Supervisor - provides general direction, support, and overall supervision.

**Ondrea Barber**, EPNR Manager – provides general direction, support, and overall supervision.

## Earth Day 2009



*Children enjoying the petting zoo during Earth Da.*

### Summary

April 2009 marked the 6<sup>th</sup> year in which the Environmental Protection & Natural Resources Division (EPNR) has coordinated the SRPMIC's annual Earth Day events in an endeavor to show a commitment to promoting environmental education, protecting human health, and preserving and safeguarding the environment and natural resources. The celebration was a tremendous success with over six hundred participants that included Community members, SRPMIC program and department staff, community organizations, and the general public. Assistant Community Manager, Kent Andrews and his band, On the Ledge, donated their time by providing the lunchtime entertainment.

The theme was "Preservations for Generations". With help from the O'Odham/Piipaash Language Program, the translation for this theme was "Doibabc Vehejed hek baic hemackm" (O'odham) and "Xumar nyqopak nyweyk ush' iimpik" (Piipaash). This year's schedule of events included a poster contest for Community youth and Elders and a celebratory event held on Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at the Salt River High School which hosted an Environmental Fair and various other activities.

Planning efforts for Earth Day 2009 took place over several months leading up to the April event. Several committees consisting of EPNR staff and several individuals from other staff within the Community Development Department (CDD) assisted in the planning, coordination, and execution of tasks and events which ensured the success of Earth Day 2009. The sections below highlight the two events:

### ***Poster Contest***

The poster contest was open to all SRPMIC students K-12, including those attending schools outside the Community. Students were asked to create a poster using various forms of media and showcasing this year's theme. First, second, and third place prizes were given to students in each of the three categories (K-2, 3-6, 7-12) and senior entry winners also received a prize. This year marked the second year the poster contest was open to Community Elders. The contest generated a good deal of participation with 40 students participating and 3 seniors. Prizes were given out to first, second, and third place contestants. Five presentations were given to generate interest and participation for the poster contest. These presentations were made to the Salt River Elementary and High School, the Young River's People Youth Council, and to the Salt River and Lehi Senior Centers.

### ***Environmental Fair/Celebratory Event***

There were several activities during the event to allow participation from both the young and the young at heart. Earth Day activities included face painting, a petting zoo, senior arts and craft activity, showing of the Planet Earth DVD, bird perch building, native tree and shrub planting, an environmental fair, and a street clean-up.

New activities this year were bird perch building and native tree and shrub planting. Both of these activities were held at the two SRPMIC wetlands, the Cottonwood Wetland and the Lehi Wetland. These activities were reserved for invited youth groups only; such as the Red Mountain Branch and Lehi Boys and Girls Clubs, Salt River Royalty, Youth Services, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Vista Colina Emergency Family Shelter youth, and the Young River People's Council. Cultural Resources, EPNR, and other CDD staff assisted with the bird perch building and planting efforts.



*Planting and bird perch building at the Lehi Wetland.*

There were 15 booths set up for the environmental fair in with participants came from Salt River Financial Services Institute, Cultural Preservation, ADEQ, ITCA, ASU Earth Science, Arizona Game and Fish, Scottsdale Community College and many more. Attendees received brochures, promotional items, and environmental information such as pollution prevention, climate control, and native wildlife.

This was the 5<sup>th</sup> year that Earth Day included a team clean-up event. The “Clean-up” committee was responsible for coordination of all associated clean-up activities. This included locating and securing homesites, roadway identification, equipment procurement, and team registration. The clean-up effort consisted of 29 teams, 13 of which were participants from SRPMIC departments. There were also teams comprised of families, Community organizations and non-governmental entities. Approximately 10 tons of waste was collected with a total area covered of 25 acres. Roughly 36 miles of roadway was cleaned up along with 4 senior homesites. The Salt River Fire Department provided six fire fighters to staff a first aid station in case of an injury. Salt River Project (SRP) donated 1,500 trash bags along with 50 cardboard waste containers for the event.

EPNR collaborated with Public Works (PW) Events and Grounds Crew to ensure setup for the day would be a success. EPNR staff attended three (3) PW Events meeting to discuss all items needed for the day which included event layout, needed equipment, and placement for waste and recycling containers.



*Staff preparing for Saturday event (left).*



*Clean-up team along SRPMIC roadway(right).*

### ***Promotional Items***

The promotional; committee worked to ensure the promotional items were made from sustainable or recycled materials and could be reused. T-shirts made from organic cotton were ordered for both adults and children. A messenger bag, notebook and pen set made from recycled cardboard and a reusable aluminum water bottle were ordered for the event. In addition, all of the items had the EPNR hotline information printed on them as a resource if Community members and employees had any environmental questions or concerns.

### ***Other Activities***

A PowerPoint presentation was generated to assist with promoting this year’s Earth Day event. Several presentations were given by various EPNR and CDD staff. Outreach was provided to the Young River People’s Youth Council, Salt River Royalty, Salt River Senior Center and to the Community Council.

An article was submitted to the April edition of the Au-Authm Action News. The article outlined all Earth Day activities along with scheduled times for each. In addition, 100 posters were printed and distributed throughout the Community. Banners were hung at five (5) strategic Community locations and Earth Day inserts were placed in SRPMIC employee paychecks. Earth Day certificates of appreciation were printed for sponsors and clean-up teams.

EPNR would like to express their gratitude to the Cultural Resources Department, Community Relations, Salt River High School, Public Works, and the many hard working volunteers and participants for ensuring this was the most successful Earth Day celebration to date. EPNR would also like to thank the

Earth Day sponsors, the Salt River Landfill, Salt River Materials Group, DeRito Partners, and Casino Arizona for their generous donations.