

The SONORAN POST

April 2023



HOT

FIRST-TIME EVER BINATIONAL EDITION OF THE GROWING WATER SMART PROGRAM

U.S. Consulate Nogales in partnership with Sonoran Institute, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy and Babbitt Center for Land and Water Policy, and Consulmex Nogales launched for the first time a binational edition of the Growing Water Smart Program on March 9.



SANTA CRUZ RIVER BOUNCES BACK

On the Santa Cruz River, north of Tucson's downtown, there's something you rarely see outside of monsoon season: Running water flowing all the way toward Marana. It's the result of a lot of cooperation among various agencies. Luke Cole of the Sonoran Institute, explains how Pima County Flood Control, and the Cities of Tucson and Marana, and Sonoran Institute are making this happen..

[CLICK HERE TO WATCH VIDEO](#)



SONORAN INSTITUTE'S STORY MAP "WATER FOR THE RIVER: THE STORY OF THE COLORADO RIVER DELTA"

Thirty five public officials from municipal, state, and federal levels responded positively to this initiative during the Political Ecology Workshop, whose goal is to continue building a network of information on the recreational use and environmental quality of urban wetlands in Mexicali.

ONE BASIN INITIATIVE: SONORAN INSTITUTE RECOMMENDATIONS TO WIFA

Sonoran Institute Senior Advisor, John Shepard shares Sonoran Institute recommendations on Arizona's \$200 million Water Infrastructure Finance Authority. [CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

A MESSAGE FROM CEO, MIKE ZELLNER



The Sonoran Institute recently turned 33 years old and a key element to our longevity is our ability to listen and learn from the communities served by the Colorado River. Through our various programs, we touch base with communities from Mexicali to Fort Collins and along the Santa Cruz River from Ambos Nogales to Tucson.

Our Mexicali Fluye program restores urban waterways in some of the city's most impoverished neighborhoods. Incorporating local communities' priorities into the project sets the stage for these communities to participate in trash removal, tree planting, park creation, and, most importantly, long-term stewardship of these green spaces for future generations.

Our Growing Water Smart program convenes community leaders across the West to identify and plan for challenges around water and land use. In Colorado, our Bridging the Gap study provides learning from water-sharing and transfer experiences of eight communities. In our listening sessions for the planned Growing Water Smart workshops on the US/Mexico border, we are learning in Ambos Nogales—in Arizona and Sonora—about the priorities and challenges, such as the importance of community engagement for long-term collaboration to overcome the turnover of government officials with each election on both sides of the border.

With our annual Santa Cruz River Research Days on April 20 and 21, we highlight the latest and most important research and projects in a virtual and in-person event in English and Spanish. This year's theme Raising All Voices in Conservation reflects the Sonoran Institute's commitment to learning and listening from all communities—a priority that has made Sonoran Institute a dependable partner in our communities for decades.

UPCOMING EVENTS

APR 20-21 SANTA CRUZ RIVER RESEARCH DAYS 2023 - Tucson, AZ

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

MAY 8-10 GROWING WATER SMART WORKSHOP - Estes Park, CO

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

MAY 20 SANTA CRUZ RIVER CLEANUP & FUNDRAISER #NotInMyRiver Tucson, AZ

JUN 21 SAVE THE DATE! LA SOLSTICIA-SUMMER EVENT & FUNDRAISER AT PLAYGROUND BAR & LOUNGE Tucson, AZ

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SONORAN INSTITUTE LEADERSHIP HIGHLIGHT



Dr. Luke Cole is a leader in the field of environmental science and the executive director of the Sonoran Institute's Santa Cruz River Program. He has dedicated his career to protecting the environment and advocating for the rights of marginalized communities. He has worked to create a more equitable and sustainable future for all. Dr. Cole and his team have been instrumental in developing innovative strategies to restore the Santa Cruz River.



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Sonoran Institute inspires a positive future by connecting people and nature today. We are an international conservation organization with operations in the United States and Mexico. We promote collaboration to ensure there is water for flowing rivers, healthy landscapes, and thriving communities throughout the Colorado River Basin. The lack of water is an issue for all of our communities' future. Without water there is no life.

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