

# MIDDLE RIO GRANDE URBAN WATERS PARTNERSHIP

October 16, 2015

*Vision – Through our partnership, we will revitalize urban waters and the communities that surround them, transforming overlooked assets into treasured centerpieces and drivers of urban revival.*

## URBAN WATERS PARTNERSHIP MEETING

### **REMINDER - Urban Waters Meeting**

**Date:** Wednesday, October 28<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** 1:00pm - 4:00pm

**Place:** Mountain View Community Center • 201 Prosperity Ave SE

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### **Dia del Rio**

October 17<sup>th</sup>

8:30am - 1:00pm

See below under "Events"

#### **EPA – Urban Waters Small Grant RFP**

Deadline for filing is November 20

See below under "Funding Opportunities"

#### ***The Middle Rio Grande Urban Waters Partnership Website***

The site will have resources and links to water quality and Bosque management, background on the development of the Urban Waters location, newsletters and meeting notes, and other documents. It's a work in progress: <http://www2.epa.gov/urbanwaterspartners/middle-río-grandealbuquerque-new-mexico>

## RELATED URBAN WATERS DATES

#### *Friends of Valle de Oro - Fundraiser*

**Date:** October 22<sup>nd</sup>

**Time:** 5:00pm - 8:00pm

**Place:** Chama River Brewing Company • 4939 Pan American Fwy, Albuquerque

Zach Guilmette, Head Brewer at Chama River Brewing Company, has created another spectacular beer as a fundraiser for the Friends of Valle de Oro NWR. If you missed last year's Valle de Oro Beer Release Party, now's your chance to get started on your collection. Design artist, Laurel Ladwig, has created another visual masterpiece incorporating birds photographed this fall on the Refuge. The first 240 people to order a beer (or root beer) will receive a promotional "Valle de Oro Pils" pint glass with their purchase.

#### *EPA – MS4 Permittees Workshop*

**Date:** October 29<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** 9:00am - 4:30pm

**Place:** TBD

EPA is sponsoring a facilitated workshop to help the new MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) permittees understand the cooperative agreements encouraged by the permit and how they can help with permit

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:  
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compliance. EPA sees this as a nuts-and-bolts meeting for the permittees that is not open to non-permittees. There will be *an update on the MS4 permit at the next Urban Waters meeting on October 28<sup>th</sup>*.

#### EPA – MS4 Permit NOIs

##### **Deadline for comments for current NOIs is October 31<sup>st</sup>**

The public can get involved in the MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) NOI (Notice of Intent to discharge) process that's going on right now and which are open for public comment. Currently, there are several NOIs open for comments. Information about them and the NOI process is available at: <http://www3.epa.gov/region6/water/npdes/sw/sms4/sms4noi.htm>.

#### **NEWS FROM OTHER URBAN WATERS SITES**

##### East Capitol Urban Farm—An Urban Waters and Partner Effort

There are a number of pieces of information about the creation of this urban farm:

- EPA's Senior Advisor Jeff Corbin's blog: "A Really Good Day: Building the East Capitol Urban Farm" is at <https://blog.epa.gov/blog/2015/10/a-really-good-day-building-the-east-capital-urban-farm/>
- University of the District of Columbia: Good information on establishing the farm and interviews with key stakeholders, at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1BYQ1FKRwyM&feature=youtu.be>
- *Washington City Paper* Article (the comments are fascinating in their own right): <http://www.washingtoncitypaper.com/blogs/housingcomplex/2015/09/29/hundreds-of-volunteers-turn-out-to-help-build-d-c-s-largest-scale-urban-farm/>

##### Groundworks USA & River Network – Urban Waters Learning Network

The Learning Network has a number of resources, including "Impact Stories from the Field" about success stories from the various Urban Waters partnership locations; past webinars; a toolbox for issues such as outreach, stormwater, and monitoring; and fundraising guides. <http://www.urbanwaterslearningnetwork.org>

#### **NEWS**

##### Friends of Valle de Oro – EPA Environmental Justice Small Grant Award

The EPA announced on October 8<sup>th</sup> that Friends of Valle de Oro, in partnership with several community organizations, was selected as a grant recipient to address environmental justice (EJ) issues in the Mountain View neighborhood. The grant enables the organizations to conduct research, provide education, and develop solutions to local health and environmental issues in minority communities overburdened by harmful pollution. The Friends group is one of 40 organizations supported by 2015 EJ Small Grants. For a list of recipients and project descriptions, please see: <http://www3.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/resources/publications/grants/ej-smgrants-recipients-2015.pdf>

##### Jennifer Owen-White, Valle de Oro Refuge Manager, featured on Department of Interior newsletter

Jennifer manages Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge, the first urban wildlife refuge in the southwest and which is becoming a model for other refuges in terms of addressing EJ issues and integrating refuge development with community needs. In a recent TEDx talk, [Jennifer shared her story](#) of why she gave up being a doctor to play in the dirt and why we need more women in the conservation field.

##### EPA Finalizes Rule to Modernize Clean Water Act Reporting

The Environmental Protection Agency finalized a rule to modernize Clean Water Act reporting for municipalities, industries, and other facilities. The final rule will require regulated entities and state and federal regulators to use existing, available information technology to electronically report data required by the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program instead of filing written paper reports. EPA estimates that, once the rule is fully implemented, the 46 states and the Virgin Islands Territory that are authorized to administer the NPDES program [NB: **New Mexico is NOT a delegated state**] will collectively save approximately \$22.6 million each year as a result of switching from paper to electronic reporting. The final rule will make facility-specific information, such as inspection and enforcement history, pollutant monitoring results, and other data required by NPDES permits accessible to the public through EPA's website. This rulemaking is part of EPA's *Next Generation Compliance* strategy, as well as the *E-Enterprise for the Environment* strategy with states and tribes, to take advantage of new tools and innovative approaches to increase compliance and reduce pollution. The shift toward

electronic reporting in the NPDES program and others will help make environmental reporting more accurate, complete, and efficient. It will also help EPA and co-regulators better manage information, and improve effectiveness and transparency. EPA expects to publish the final rule in the Federal Register in October 2015. The final rule will be effective 60 days following this publication. View the final rule at: <http://www2.epa.gov/compliance/final-national-pollutant-discharge-elimination-system-npdes-electronic-reporting-rule> and get more information on Next Generation Compliance at: <http://www2.epa.gov/compliance/next-generation-compliance>

#### *Senator Tom Udall – New Mexico Drought Preparedness Act of 2015*

Senator Udall introduced Senate Bill 1936 in early August, co-sponsored by Senator Heinrich. The bill appears to be identical with a bill the Senator introduced in 2014. The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources recently held hearings on the bill. Among other items, the bill deals with:

- Water acquisition program
- Water conservation
- Middle Rio Grande peak flow restoration (continue the temporary deviation in the operation of Cochiti Lake and Jemez Canyon dam that was initiated in 2009 and terminated in 2013)
- National Academy of Sciences study of alternate river management and possible impacts
- A variety of other measures such as emergency funding and funding for pueblo irrigation infrastructure

The bill text is available here: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/1936/text>

### **FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

#### *Fruit Tree Planting Foundation – Orchard in Your Community*

##### **Ongoing**

The Fruit Tree Planting Foundation (FTPF) strategically donates orchards where the harvest will best serve communities for generations, including at community gardens, public schools, city and state parks, low-income neighborhoods, and Native American reservations. For more information: <http://www.ftpf.org/apply.htm>

#### *Smart Growth America – Technical Assistance Workshop Applications*

##### **Deadline is October 21<sup>st</sup>**

Each year Smart Growth America offers a limited number of free workshops to help communities find solutions to local development issues, so that participating communities are able to grow in ways that benefit residents and businesses while protecting the environment and preserving a sense of place. Communities can apply for one of 12 workshop types as part of the free program, including:

- [Implementing smart growth 101](#)
- [Planning for economic and fiscal health](#)
- [Sustainable land use code audit](#)
- [Complete Streets](#)
- [Using LEED-ND to accelerate the development of sustainable communities](#)
- [Walkability workshop/audit](#) [Regional planning for small communities](#)
- [Smart growth zoning codes for small cities](#)
- [Transportation performance measurement](#)
- [“Cool planning”](#)
- [Parking audits](#)
- [Implementing transit-oriented development 101](#)

Any unit or subdivision of local government, Indian tribe, or regional government is eligible to apply for these free workshops. Communities may apply for more than one workshop, but must submit separate applications for each. For more information and to apply, please go to: <http://www.smartgrowthamerica.org/2015/09/23/applications-now-being-accepted-for-smart-growth-americas-2016-free-technical-assistance-workshops/>

#### *EPA Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Grants*

##### **Solicitation scheduled to open in October 2015**

The SBIR program funds small businesses developing green technologies that protect the environment. 2015 draft topics include, among others: home-based sensors for organic pollutants, non-toxic and biodegradable plastics, innovative construction materials, and water-related resource and/or energy recovery. For information about recent SBIR Phase I awards, please visit: <http://www.epa.gov/ncer/sbir2015phase1>. For information about the SBIR Program, please visit: <http://www.epa.gov/ncer/sbir/> and <http://www2.epa.gov/sbir/sbir-funding-opportunities>. For information about the SBIR Program across the Federal Government, please visit: <https://www.sbir.gov/>

### USDA – Innovation Challenge

#### **Deadline is October 27**

USDA and Microsoft have launched a competition, called the Innovation Challenge, to help farmers and local food systems adapt to climate change. The Challenge is meant to encourage software developers to create applications that will use more than 100 years of USDA data on weather and climate, markets and consumer trends, and a wide range of other information to explore how our food system can achieve better food resiliency and help preserve existing farms and encourage new entry into agriculture. For more information: “[Innovation Challenge](#)” and [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ON\\_wlflwZBg&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ON_wlflwZBg&feature=youtu.be)

### EPA – Urban Waters Small Grant RFP

#### **Deadline is November 20** (9:59pm Mountain Time; electronically via Grants.gov at <http://www.grants.gov>)

The total estimated funding available for awards under this competition is approximately \$1.6 million with the expected award to range from approximately \$40,000 to no more than \$60,000. EPA Regional Offices will award the cooperative agreements resulting from this announcement. It is anticipated that each EPA Regional Office will award approximately two to three cooperative agreements. **A minimum non-federal cost share/match of \$4,000 is required.** EPA will host **one national Information Session regarding this announcement via webinar on Oct 22, 2015 at 12:00pm** Mountain Time. For more information and the RFP, go to:

<http://www2.epa.gov/urbanwaters/urban-waters-small-grants>

or

<http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=279164>

### US Forest Service - National Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Cost-Share Grant Program

#### **Deadline is November 23**

The USFS anticipates that in Fiscal Year 2016 the Urban and Community Forestry Program may provide approximately \$900,000 (\$300,000 per category) in grant funds. Funds are to support national **urban and community forestry projects on nonfederal public land that have a national or multi-state impact and application.** The National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council seeks innovative (new, cutting-edge or building upon existing studies) grant proposals for program development, study, and collaboration that will address strategies in the Ten Year Action Plan. This Request for Proposals is to address the following priority issues:

- Analysis and Solutions for Development and Redevelopment Impacts on Urban and Community Forests
- Building Human Health Through Urban and Community Forestry
- Climate Change and Its Impact on Trees and Water

Organizations, local governments, tribal agencies, and partnerships are encouraged to submit proposals that will demonstrate the reach, resources, and expertise needed to address the three priority issues in ways that will lead to meaningful, replicable results across the country.

- **Eligible Applicants:** Any US non-Federal organization or Tribal agency operating within the United States or its territories may apply for the Challenge Cost-Share grant. While collaboration with Federal agencies is encouraged, a Federal agency may not receive funding or be used as match to the Federal funds being requested. Individuals and private land are not eligible
- **Not Eligible:** An entity with a local/State tree-planting project, capital improvements to property of any ownership, or projects that have only a local impact and applicability are not eligible and should contact their State Urban and Community Forestry Coordinator for assistance in identifying funding alternatives at the local level. The list of State Coordinators may be found at the following website: [http://www.fs.fed.us/ucf/contact\\_state.shtml](http://www.fs.fed.us/ucf/contact_state.shtml)
- **Matching Requirements:** All grant funds **must be matched at least equally** with non-Federal source funds. This match may include in-kind donations, volunteer assistance, and private and public (non-federal) monetary contributions. All matching funds must be directly related to the proposed project.

Detailed information may be found at: [http://www.fs.fed.us/ucf/supporting\\_docs/fy2016/2016NatlUrbanForestryRequestForProposals.pdf](http://www.fs.fed.us/ucf/supporting_docs/fy2016/2016NatlUrbanForestryRequestForProposals.pdf)

### USDA – Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive (FINI) Grant Program

#### **Deadline is December 16**

USDA announced the availability of up to \$16 million in funding to help Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) participants increase fruit and vegetable purchases. USDA Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive program assists local, state, and national organizations to test incentive strategies to help SNAP participants better afford and access healthy foods by providing incentives at the point of purchase. The program will test strategies

that could contribute to our understanding of how best to increase the purchase of fruits and vegetables by Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) participants that would inform future efforts, and develop effective and efficient benefit redemption technologies. For more information, go to: <http://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/food-insecurity-nutrition-incentive-fini-grant-program>. To apply: <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=279520>

*FHWA - Ladders of Opportunity Initiative: Pilot On-the-Job-Training Supportive Services Program*  
**Deadline is December 23**

The Federal Highway Administration announced availability of up to \$3 million to help state departments of transportation or local transportation agencies develop the skilled workforce needed to ensure safe public roads. This is a pilot grant program as part of the *Ladders of Opportunity* effort. For more information: <http://www.federalgrants.com/Ladders-of-Opportunity-Initiative-Pilot-On-the-Job-Training-Supportive-Services-Program-53799.html>

## EVENTS

### LOCAL

(“Local” includes webinars and teleconferences)

*City of Albuquerque Open Space – Día del Río: A Celebration of the Rio Grande*

**Date:** October 17<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** 8:30am - 1:00pm

**Place:** “Shining River” parking lot and trailhead (southwest corner of Rio Grande Blvd just before it crosses Paseo del Norte - [Click here to go to Google maps](#))

Join the Open Space Division and other local organizations for the 20th Annual Dia del Rio. There will be a variety of conservation projects that nurture and protect the Bosque and river, including trail work, re-vegetation, and trash clean up. There will be activities appropriate for all ages. **Please arrive promptly at 8:30am to sign in and enjoy free refreshments provided by generous sponsors.** At the end of the event, make sure to stick around for a *fabulous prize drawing!* Please bring: gloves, sun protection, plenty of water. This event is sponsored in part by REI, the Open Space Alliance, and Michael Thomas Coffee.

*Bosque Action Team – Bosque Events*

The BAT has put together a Fall calendar of events. Events are held on Saturdays

- *Bosque By Wheelchair*

**Date:** October 17

**Time:** 10:00am – 12:00pm

**Place:** Rio Bravo Riverside Picnic Area

This area includes a ¼ mile trail made of crushed gravel, there is ADA parking, an ADA fishing pier for the irrigation ditch, and a picnic area. Those who want to can also explore some hard-packed dirt trails. The purpose of this outing is to enjoy the trail but also to see how well it works for people who use wheelchairs or other assistive devices (walkers, canes, etc.) and make recommendations to agencies on how they can improve and properly care for these trails. Please do know that there may be unexpected challenges. If you need special assistance, please contact the organizer before hand, but there will be outings leaders who can help on the inclines if needed. Please send ideas and suggestions even if you can’t make it. **To access the Rio Bravo Riverside Picnic Area** take Rio Bravo Blvd. west from Broadway. Before the bridge turn right onto Poco Loco Rd. and follow it west into the parking area. Please bring good shoes and wheels, walkers, crutches, canes, etc., water, hat, sunscreen, snack and lunch if you want to stay to picnic afterwards. For more information, please contact: [camilla.feibelman@sierraclub.org](mailto:camilla.feibelman@sierraclub.org)

- *Visit a hidden wetlands on the Rio Grande*

**Date:** October 24

**Time:** 9:00am – 11:00am

**Place:** Meet at the parking area on the northwest corner of Central Bridge

Explore the Bosque on the west side of the river, immediately north of Central Avenue and extending slightly beyond an old MRGCD diversion canal that has been turned into a wetland for silvery minnows and waterfowl. The 2-2.5 miles is fairly level walking. **Limited to 20 walkers.** Please bring insect repellent, good walking

shoes, hat, sunscreen, binoculars, water and snack (if you wish). For more information and to RSVP, please contact Colston Chandler at (505) 343-9498 or [ccent@swcp.com](mailto:ccent@swcp.com)

- *Poetry in the Bosque*

**Date: October 31**

**Time: 8:30am – 11:00am**

**Place: Rio Grande Nature Center (2901 Candelaria Rd NW)**

Stroll through the beautiful autumn Bosque with stops for short poetry readings to help deepen our connection to this forest and river. We will also learn about conservation efforts and wildlife sightings in this area, as well as visit some hidden land art. Moderate 3 mile loop through both young and mature forest, no elevation gain.

**Limit 15 people.** Please bring hat, sunscreen, water, and binoculars (optional). No dogs please. For more information and to RSVP, please contact M.J. Zimmerman at [mjzim@hotmail.com](mailto:mjzim@hotmail.com)

- *Bosquitos Event: Bosque Treasure Hunt with Noel Chilton*

**Date: November 8**

**Time: 12:00pm – 2:00pm**

**Place: Open Space Visitor Center (6500 Coors Blvd NW)**

Learn how to use compasses and sun dials while learning about the bosque. Please bring a water bottle and snacks. For more information, please contact Sarita Streng at (505) 288-8713 or [saritastreng@yahoo.com](mailto:saritastreng@yahoo.com)

- *Fall Hike in the Bosque*

**Date: November 14**

**Time: 9:00am – 11:00am**

**Place: Meet at the parking lot just east of the SE corner of Montañño and Coors**

Hike the west side stretch of the Bosque from Montañño to the Oxbow (approx. 1 ½ miles). The stand of cottonwoods behind the Bosque School should be beautiful this time of year. Then follow a side trail to the river and talk briefly about the benefits of the new embayment installed by the Corps of Engineers and then move on to the new pond at the edge of the Oxbow for a discussion of the Corps' project and the importance of the Oxbow and it's place in the Rio Grande Valley State Park. Please dress for cool fall weather and bring what is necessary for a two-hour hike. For more information and to RSVP, please contact Peter Kelling at

[cloudsandwater@juno.com](mailto:cloudsandwater@juno.com)

- *Bosque By Wheelchair*

**Date: November 21**

**Time: 10:00am – 12:00pm**

**Place: Bachechi Open Space (9521 Rio Grande Blvd NW)**

This area, just outside the river's levees, has a forested and wetland area, in addition to a rose garden and educational center. Explore Bachechi and then walk the Paseo del Bosque trail to explore routes down to the River. The purpose of this outing is to enjoy the trail but also to see how well it works for people who use wheelchairs or other assistive devices (walkers, canes, etc.) and make recommendations to agencies on how they can improve and properly care for these trails. Please do know that there may be unexpected challenges. If you need special assistance, please contact the organizer before hand, but there will be outings leaders who can help on the inclines if needed. All are welcome on this outing. Please send ideas and suggestions even if you can't make it. Please bring good shoes and wheels, walkers, crutches, canes, etc. water, hat, sunscreen, snack. For more information and to RSVP, please contact Colston Chandler (505) 343-9498 or [ccent@swcp.com](mailto:ccent@swcp.com).

### ABQ-BernCo Comprehensive Plan & ABQ Integrated Development Ordinance

**Date: Various October thru December** (check the [project website](#) for dates, times, and locations)

- **October 19-20 – Integrated Development Ordinance Module 1** meetings to walk through and discuss proposed zoning districts and uses
- **November 30-December 1 – Comprehensive Plan “Chapters” Focus Groups** (eight separate groups) on: Neighborhoods, Urban Design, Land Use, Transportation, Economic Development, Housing, Open Space/Parks/Community Facilities, and Heritage Conservation
- **December 3-4 – Comprehensive Plan Update Open Houses** to share the full Comp Plan draft for public review and discussion
- **December 4 – Comprehensive Plan “Chapters” Focus Groups** (three separate groups) on: Resiliency/Sustainability, Service Provision, and Implementation/Small Area Planning

*Smart Growth America – Building Resilient States: A Framework for Agencies*

**Date:** October 22<sup>nd</sup>

**Time:** 11:00am - 12:00pm Mountain Time

**Place:** Webinar

Smart growth America is announcing a resource designed to help state agency staff integrate land use and transportation issues into their conversations about resilience. Disaster preparedness professionals can also use it to make strategic decisions and build communities that are more resilient from the ground up. As part of the kickoff, they will be holding an online conversation about resilience efforts at the state level. Panelists will be:

- Dr. Gavin Smith, Research Professor, Department of City and Regional Planning at University of North Carolina and Director of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Coastal Resilience Center of Excellence
- Noelle MacKay, Commissioner of Housing and Community Development at the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development
- Kate Dineen, Deputy Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Storm Recovery for the State of New York
- Molly Urbina, Executive Director of the Colorado Resiliency and Recovery Office

They will discuss this emerging field of practice and how some of the nation's leading disaster preparedness agencies are using land use and transportation strategies to make their states more resilient. You'll be able to ask questions of the panelists. Be sure to join the conversation on Twitter at [#ResilientStates](https://twitter.com/ResilientStates). To register, go to: <https://cc.readytalk.com/cc/s/registrations/new?cid=h8es30qlpb80>

*EPA – Urban Waters Small Grant RFP*

**Date:** October 22<sup>nd</sup>

**Time:** 12:00pm Mountain Time

**Place:** Webinar

EPA will host *one national Information Session regarding the Urban Waters Small Grant* announcement. For more background information and webinar information (the page says that webinar information will be posted soon), go to:

<http://www2.epa.gov/urbanwaters/urban-waters-small-grants>

and for the RFP and Application Package, go to

<http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=279164>

*CNM – Water in the Desert: Restore Our Rivers Restore Our Futures*

**Date:** October 26<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** Various

**Place:** CNM Main Campus – JS 208 (films) and SRC 204 (seminars) For a campus map, see: <http://www.cnm.edu/maps-and-directory/main-campus/map/MainCampusC21612.jpg>

The Water in the Desert Project is an 8-week education series hosted by the CNM Sustainability Curriculum Committee to: 1) raise awareness of water resources issues and 2) foster pro-social behaviors relevant to water resources at CNM by providing experiential learning opportunities for students. Week 6 focuses on *River, Stream, and Wetland Conservation*. Several seminars on the topic of restoration will be held during the week with a diverse group of panel members. There will also be a film series, with showings airing at 11:30am Monday through Thursday. A summary of the events:

- October 26 – 3:00pm - 7:30pm: Santa Ana Pueblo riparian restoration, CABQ Bosque restoration, Sandia Pueblo riparian restoration, Bosque Ecological Monitoring Program BEMP  
**Film:** 11:30am – 1:00pm *Powell to Powell: Portraits of Upper Colorado*
- October 27 – 3:00pm - 7:30pm: Mid Rio Grande Bosque restoration, Bosque Del Apache, Valle de Oro  
**Film:** 11:30am – 1:00pm *Remains of a River: Down the Colorado*
- October 28 – 3:00pm - 7:30pm: Sevilleta riparian restoration, Santa Ana Clara Pueblo stream/riparian restoration, Navajo Nation riparian/stream restoration  
**Film:** 11:30am – 1:00pm: *Restoring Colorado River Delta in Mexico*
- October 29 – 3:00pm - 7:30pm: silvery minnow & riparian restoration, US Army Corps Engineers & riparian restoration, Acequias & stream/riparian restoration  
**Film:** 11:30 – 1:00pm: *Tales of the San Joaquin: A River Restored*
- October 30 – 8:00am – 6:00pm: tours of refuges/conservation areas

For more information, go to: <https://www.cnm.edu/about/sustainability/water-in-the-desert> or email [ssmall@cnm.edu](mailto:ssmall@cnm.edu)

For the event schedule, see: <https://www.cnm.edu/about/sustainability/documents/water-in-the-desert-project/water-in-the-desert-information-and-calendar>

*EPA – Small Drinking Water and Wastewater Systems Webinar Series*

**Date: Monthly**

**Time:** 12:00pm – 1:00pm (Q&A from 1:00pm – 1:30pm) Mountain Time

**Place: Webinar**

EPA's Office of Research and Development and Office of Water are hosting this monthly webinar series to communicate EPA's current small systems research along with Agency priorities. The series is providing a forum for EPA to communicate directly with state personnel and other drinking water and wastewater small systems professionals, which allows EPA to provide training and foster collaboration and dissemination of information.

**Attendees have the option of receiving a certificate for one continuing education contact hour for each webinar.** (Note: Continuing education contact hour certificates cannot be offered for watching previously recorded webinars. Acceptance of certificate is contingent on state and/or organization requirements. EPA cannot guarantee acceptance.) Recordings and presentation slides are available for past webinars, and are being hosted by the [Association of State Drinking Water Administrators' \(ASDWA\)](#). The remaining webinars are:

- **October 27** – Decentralized High-Rate Wastewater Treatment of Peak Wet Weather Flows
- **November 24** – Treatability Databases, Cost Models, and other Tools for Water Systems
- **December 15** – Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water

For information about upcoming webinars and to register: <http://www2.epa.gov/water-research/2015-small-systems-webinar-series>

*EPA – Safe and Sustainable Water Resources Research Program*

**Date: Monthly**

**Time:** 10:00am - 11:00am Mountain Time

**Place: Webinar**

EPA's Office of Research and Development is hosting monthly webinars to share information on its Safe and Sustainable Water Resources Research Program. Through innovative science and engineering, cost-effective, sustainable solutions to 21st century complex water issues are being developed. These solutions will help ensure that clean and adequate supplies of water are available to support human health and resilient aquatic ecosystems, now and into the future. The remaining webinars are:

- **October 28** – Acidification of Rivers, Lakes, and Oceans
- **November 18** – Advances in Resource Recovery Technologies and Energy Efficiency, and Metrics and Tools for Life-Cycle Comparisons
- **December 16** – Ecosystem Services Approaches to Restoring a Sustainable Chesapeake Bay and its Tributary Watersheds

For more information and to register: <http://www2.epa.gov/water-research/2015-water-research-webinar-series>

*EarthEcho International, Earth Force, Friends of Valle de Oro - World Water Monitoring Challenge Albuquerque*

**Date: December 5<sup>th</sup>**

**Time:** 10:00am - 1:00pm

**Place: La Entrada Pop-up Visitor Center • 840 Bridge Blvd. SW**

The public is invited to test the water quality of the Rio Grande. Families are encouraged to take part in this open-to-all citizen science event. Drop-ins are welcome throughout the event. A volunteer will be there to guide visitors through hands-on tests of water from the Rio Grande. The Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge, Earth Force, Friends of the Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge, and EarthEcho International are organizing this event. Among the volunteer water quality guides will be students and teachers from Truman Middle School's MESA (Math-Engineering-Science-Achievement) Club. They are part of a network of Albuquerque schools studying water quality through the Middle Rio Grande Urban Waters Federal Partnership, guided by non-profit environmental education organization Earth Force. **EarthEcho International's founder and president Philippe Cousteau will be on-hand for the event with a lecture and fundraising reception** (details TBA). EarthEcho is the primary coordinator of the World Water Monitoring Challenge – an international education and outreach program empowering all to protect water resources we depend on every day. Through a global network and database, more than 350,000 participants in nearly 120 countries have become part of the solution for clean water and healthy waterways worldwide. The monitoring activities are easy and fun to carry out. Participants perform tests for dissolved oxygen, pH, turbidity (clarity), and temperature. For more information, go to: [www.MonitorWater.org](http://www.MonitorWater.org)



## NON-LOCAL

### RESOURCES

#### *South Valley's Pop-Up Visitor Center*

**Place:** 840 Bridge Blvd. NW (just east of Isleta on the south side of Bridge)

The Pop-Up Visitor Center is a free public celebration of groups that wish to better serve their community. It is an opportunity for MRGE3 (Middle Rio Grande Environment Education Employment) Alliance and other organizations to have a space to reach out to the community and a chance for the community to talk directly to these organizations and express their wants and needs. For more information, contact Larisa Chavez at (505) 721-9029 • [larisa@conservationlegacy.org](mailto:larisa@conservationlegacy.org)

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#### *River Network – New River Voices on Diversity and Inclusiveness*

River Network's quarterly publication is just out and is focused on the topic of diversity and inclusiveness. Take a look at what organizations in the river community are doing to bridge the divide and proactively build a more equal and inclusive movement for our waters. The publication includes a great set of articles from across the community that provide a variety of perspectives on this topic. To see the articles, go to:

[http://www.rivernetwork.org/sites/default/files/RiverVoices\\_Oct2015\\_Diversity&Inclusiveness.pdf](http://www.rivernetwork.org/sites/default/files/RiverVoices_Oct2015_Diversity&Inclusiveness.pdf)

#### *US Fish & Wildlife Service Documents*

- **New National FWS Urban Policy** – The Fish and Wildlife Service has released its final Urban Wildlife Conservation Program policy to encourage all US Fish and Wildlife Service employees to engage urban communities in fish and wildlife conservation and to encourage Service staff to help address urban wildlife and habitat restoration and conservation needs. For more information: <http://www.fws.gov/policy/110fw1.html>
- **New FWS Strategic Action Plan for the Fish and Aquatic Conservation Program** – Highlights the importance of partnerships and Urban Waters Federal Partnership to help promote aquatic habitat conservation, restoration, and enhancement nationwide. For more information: [www.fws.gov/fisheries/](http://www.fws.gov/fisheries/)

#### *USGS – Bridges, Water, and AMAZING public art*

Artists worked with USGS on a Portland Tillikum Bridge project to design lighting that reflects Willamette river flows and temperatures, which are monitored by USGS. There are 178 LED lights aesthetically placed on 40 bridge cables, the four transmission towers above and below the deck, and on the Sonic Dish artwork along the Eastside Esplanade and future Willamette Greenway at the ends of the bridge. The lights change colors based on the Willamette River's speed, height and water temperature. This data is collected by a US Geological Survey river monitor near the Morrison Bridge and specialized software takes that data and translates it into movements of color and light across the bridge:

- The water temperature determines the base color.
- The river's speed controls the pace the colors change and move across the bridge.
- The river's height is displayed by a second color that moves vertically up and down the towers and the cables.

To read about the project and see a short video: <http://catchtheorange.com/#/tilikum>