

WestLand Resources Welcomes Senior Project Managers

WestLand Resources, Inc. of Tucson, Arizona recently welcomed Michael J. Cross and Christopher E. Rife as senior project managers with the Environmental Services Group.

Cross specializes in biological resource assessments, environmental impact assessments, riparian mitigation planning, habitat conservation planning, Endangered Species Act compliance, threatened and endangered species surveys and hydro-electric licensing. He has more than 15 years of experience in environmental consulting and biological research, with expertise in project management, administration, planning, report production and agency negotiations.

Rife specializes in regulatory compliance support and environmental management systems support for environmental and engineering projects. In addition, his expertise includes water resources, solid and hazardous waste, mining, agriculture, environmental site assessment, underground storage tank investigations, and health and safety audit services.

WestLand Resources provides environmental and water/wastewater engineering consulting services with a staff comprised of engineers, environmental specialists, scientists, cartographers and engineering design specialists. Contact the company at (520) 206-9585.

Black & Veatch to Design UV System for California Water District

Black & Veatch, a global engineering, construction, and consulting company, announced that it is under contract with the Rialto-based West Valley Water District (formerly West San Bernardino County Water District) to provide pretreatment design in addition to design and implementation of what is believed to

be the first application of ultraviolet light for potable water disinfection in Southern California.

The plant expansion and addition of UV disinfection will increase treatment capacity of the Roemer Water Filtration Facility (WFF) from 9.6 to 14.4 million gallons per day, enhance the district's ability to effectively treat a full range of blends from two surface sources of raw water, and yield treated water in compliance with all current and foreseeable future drinking water standards. The pretreatment facilities will include coagulation, flocculation and sedimentation along with associated chemical storage and feed facilities.

The application of UV technology for disinfection of surface water is relatively new, and federal regulatory standards for the use of UV for potable water disinfection have not been established.

"The project presents special challenges, not only in designing and implementing a system that features an emerging technology, but also in helping the district validate that system with the California Department of Health Services," said Black & Veatch Vice President and Irvine-based Project Manager Steve Foellmi. "Careful coordination and timing of the entire UV validation process is critical to obtain DHS approval and achieve district objectives."

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SRP Signs Gila River Water Rights Settlement

On April 9, Salt River Project (SRP) President Bill Schrader and Gila River Indian Community Governor Richard Narcia signed an agreement that helps pave the way for the settlement of a landmark case involving Arizona's water rights.

SRP, the largest provider of water to the Phoenix metropolitan area, is one of the principal parties in the historic Gila River Indian Community Water Rights Settlement Agreement along with the federal

government, the Gila River Community, the state of Arizona, the Central Arizona Water Conservation District and numerous cities, towns and irrigation districts.

On Feb. 24, Sens. Jon Kyl and John McCain and Reps. J.D. Hayworth, Raul Grijalva, Trent Franks and Jim Kolbe introduced the Arizona Water Settlements Act in Congress. This legislation would settle the landmark case involving Arizona water rights as well as the repayment obligation owed to the federal government by Arizona for construction of the Central Arizona Project (CAP).

If the legislation is approved by Congress, signed by President Bush, and approved by the Maricopa County Superior Court overseeing the Gila River General Stream Adjudication, it will mark the end of a decades-long legal dispute among the 35 parties to the agreement.

Water settlement negotiations between local parties, the Gila River Indian Community and the federal government were initiated in 1989 to alleviate the uncertainty of claims to the Gila, Salt, Verde, San Pedro and Santa Cruz rivers and to groundwater, and to assure the dependability of water supplies to the more than three million residents in the Gila River basin. Thirteen years later, in 2002, the parties reached a comprehensive settlement of the Gila River Community's water-rights claims.

Under the agreement, the Gila River Indian Community will receive a permanent entitlement to an average of 653,500 acre-feet of water per year. Of this amount approximately 190,000 acre-feet will be new water made available from several sources, including the CAP, SRP, the cities of Mesa and Chandler, and the Roosevelt Water Conservation District.

SRP's share of the contribution will average about 20,000 acre-feet per year, and the agreement provides, with limits, opportunities for the Gila River Indian Community to store any unused water in SRP's reservoir system. Additionally, SRP has agreed to permit the Gila River Community to use a portion of SRP's water-delivery system to facilitate water exchanges

and direct deliveries of Gila River Community's CAP water to its reservation.

In return for these new water sources and funding to help put them to use, the Gila River Indian Community, its members and allottees, and the federal government, on their behalf, will execute a comprehensive waiver and release of claims for water rights, injuries to water rights, and injuries to water quality.

The settlement agreement also authorizes the Gila River Community to lease CAP water to several Salt River Valley cities for their use in meeting the state's assured water-supply requirements. The leasing provisions permit the Gila River Community to lease CAP water to entities in several counties, including Maricopa, Pinal, Pima, La Paz, Yavapai, Gila, Graham, Greenlee, Santa Cruz and Coconino. The agreement prohibits both the permanent transfer of the Gila River Community's water rights and the leasing or use of its water outside Arizona.

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