

FACT SHEET: U.S.-Mexico Transboundary Aquifer Assessment Program- Arizona (TAAP-A/S)

Aquifers shared by Arizona and Sonora

Version: November 2, 2010

Outline of Program

The TAAP originates from U.S. Public Law 109-448, signed into law by the President on December 22, 2006 as the Transboundary Aquifer Assessment Act. The Act applies to the states of Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona where four transboundary aquifers have been designated for priority assessment; those being the Hueco Bolson and Mesilla Basin aquifers in the greater El Paso / Ciudad Juárez region, and the Santa Cruz and San Pedro aquifers across the Arizona – Sonora border (see map). TAAP is designated to operate for 10 years, with \$50 million authorized for appropriation over that time period.

Appropriations to date include \$500,000 each for fiscal years 2008 and 2009 and 1 million for 2010.

TAAP-A/S is the component of assessment activities for aquifers shared by Arizona and Sonora and is a collaborative effort of the United States Geological Survey (USGS) with the Water Resources Research Center (WRRC) and Udall Center for studies in Public Policy, both at the University of Arizona. A variety of other U.S. and Mexican stakeholders participate in the priority setting for the assessment process. TAAP-A/S (the transboundary Santa Cruz and San Pedro aquifers) has participated in the UNESCO Internationally Shared Aquifer Resource Management (ISARM) Programme.

Progress and Future Activities

- Definition of TAAP-A/S work plan among binational stakeholders
- Public engagement with TAAP-A/S through various presentations at conferences and community meetings.
- Compilation of scientific and other published materials in a searchable, online, bilingual database on groundwater resources within the binational Santa Cruz and San Pedro.
- Initial recharge / runoff monitoring and modeling in the San Pedro.

U of A graduate student activities supported by TAAP-A/S:

- A contaminant transport model for the effluent-dominated portion of the Santa Cruz River with the goal of understanding spatial and temporal variability of contaminants within the aquifer, and the risk they pose to drinking water wells.
- Assessment using DRASTIC model to determine likelihood of groundwater contamination by surface-level pollutants.
- Analysis of water supply needs and wastewater treatment issues in the Ambos Nogales region.

TAAP-A/S Collaborating Partners

Mexico: National Water Commission; Sonora State Water Commission; OOMAPAS-Nogales; University of Sonora; College of Sonora; Technological Institute of Sonora

United States: Bureau of Reclamation; Arizona Department of Water Resources; City of Nogales, Arizona; Friends of the Santa Cruz River, Upper San Pedro Partnership

Binational: International Boundary and Water Commission; Water Committee of the Arizona-Mexico Commission



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Timeline and Selected Accomplishments

November 5, 2007- Santa Cruz Active Management Area hosted first binational meeting to discuss priority-setting process, define scope of TAAP-A/S in Santa Cruz basin

June 11, 2008- TAAP personnel participated in meeting convened by the Upper San Pedro Partnership (USPP) in Sierra Vista, Arizona.

June 20, 2008- Arizona-Mexico Commission Water Committee meeting in Phoenix with TAAP presentation attended both Commissioners of IBWC and CILA.

Fall, 2008- TAAP-A/S included in World-wide Hydrogeological Mapping and Assessment Programme (WHYMAP) for 5th World Water Forum; Istanbul, Turkey

December 2, 2008- TAAP-A/S presented at the International Conference on Water Scarcity, Global Changes, and Groundwater: Management Responses- convened by UNESCO and USGS at UC Irvine to international research and water-policy community

August 19, 2009- IBWC Commissioners formally approved Joint Report of the Principal Engineers regarding the Joint Cooperative Process United States-Mexico for the Transboundary Aquifer Assessment Program.

August 20, 2009- TAAP-A/S presented by Sharon Megdal at World Water Week in Stockholm, Sweden

November 3-4, 2009- TAAP-A/S sponsored workshop "Developing a Work Plan for the Assessment of the Santa Cruz and San Pedro Aquifers" held in Tucson, Arizona.

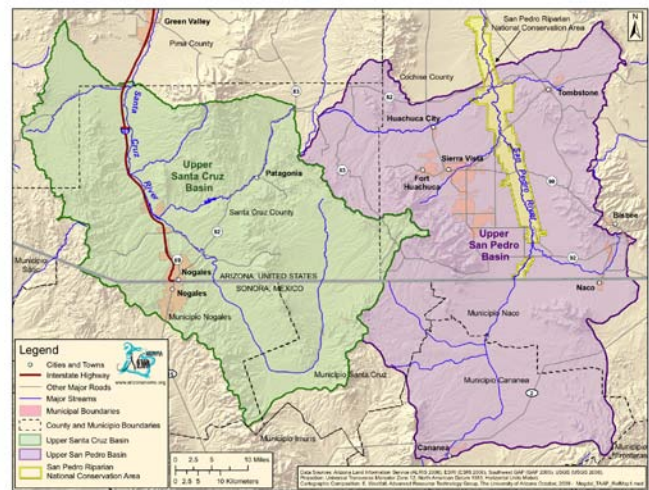
July 7, 2010. Presentation by Sharon Megdal at 19th Session of the IHP Intergovernmental Council, Paris, France.

September 2, 2010- TAAP-A/S organizes and moderates a session with Arizona and Sonora collaborator in the annual symposium of the AZ Hydrological Society in Tucson, AZ.

TAAP-A/S Contacts: For more information please visit <http://www.cals.arizona.edu/azwater/taap>

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Santa Cruz River valley at Rio Rico, Arizona

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