



Pima County Regional Flood Control District Monthly Brown Bag Series

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THE MARANA HIGH PLAINS EFFLUENT RECHARGE PROJECT - Evolution of a Small-Scale Effluent Recharge Project in Marana, Arizona

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The Marana High Plains Effluent Recharge Project (MHPERP) is a full scale constructed facility for recharging treated effluent from the Santa Cruz River in addition to enhancing riparian habitat along the river corridor. From its inception to current operation, the main objectives have included:

- Recharging up to 600 acre-feet of water per year while maximizing infiltration rates in basins with side slopes vegetated with emergent plants and riparian trees,
- Establishing vegetated areas outside of the recharge basins with plants that will improve wildlife habitat value and could survive if recharge activities cease,
- Maintaining wildlife, aquatic macro-invertebrates, and vegetative resources associated with an effluent-dominated stream,
- Identifying and monitoring any biological effects that may result from establishing other habitat types that are now rare to the area and increasing the extent of riparian vegetation, and
- Providing trails, descriptive literature and interpretive signs describing the project and supplying a possible linkage to a longer riverine trail.

This presentation will share the project Phases and main accomplishments since its inception in 2003.