

Since the Project could make a positive impact on the surrounding area, SROG wanted to involve the people, jurisdictions and organizations that live and work there. The project area is adjacent to six communities including Avondale, Phoenix, Glendale, Youngtown, El Mirage and Surprise.

Meetings were held with 25 organizations and interviews were conducted with 50 individuals. In addition, 9,800 project newsletters were distributed and two public meetings were held to gather input. The Project team used the input to develop the common themes that helped the technical committees focus their research and discussions. The themes identified by the public were:

- Project purpose and coordination with Watercourse Master Plan
- Water quantity and quality
- Recreation and habitat
- Impact to airports, drinking water wells, landfills, and sand and gravel operations

Project Schedule

2001		2002		2003		2004		2005		2006		2007		2008		2009		2010					
Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun				
Phase 1 (completed) Stakeholder and Public Information						Phase 2 Technical Investigations, Conceptual Designs, Economic Analyses and Feasibility Report						Phase 3 Preliminary Designs						Phase 4 Final Designs and Implementation					
July 2001 – September 2003						September 2003 – January 2006						January 2006 – December 2008						January 2009 – Dec. 2010					

How Would The Recharge Project Work?

The Agua Fria Linear Recharge Project proposes to employ a 10-mile stretch of the Agua Fria River for reusing excess reclaimed water from the 91st Avenue Wastewater Treatment Plant.

released into the river at various locations and will reduce impacts on local facilities such as airports, landfills and sand and gravel operations.

Technical Committees Address Public Issues

During development of the consensus plan, five technical committees consisting of representatives from local, regional, state, and federal agencies and community organizations, were created to address specific issues identified by the public. These committees were:

- Flood Control,
- Habitat/Cultural Resources,
- Public Involvement,
- Recreation, and
- Water Resources.

Each committee defined opportunities and constraints for reclaimed water recharge along the Agua Fria River.

Project Purpose and Coordination with the Watercourse Master Plan

The primary purpose of the project is to recharge excess reclaimed water. However, if the water is piped up the river there may be other potential uses adjacent to the river such as irrigation for golf courses and use by sand and gravel operations.

The project was included in the Agua Fria Watercourse Master Plan prepared by the Flood Control District of Maricopa County and will be built within the plan framework. Where feasible, the

project may be able to provide infrastructure and support for the community habitat and recreation projects identified in the plan. SROG has worked closely with the Friends of the West Valley Recreation Corridor to determine how the recharge facilities could enhance the attractiveness of the recreation facilities.

Water Quantity and Quality

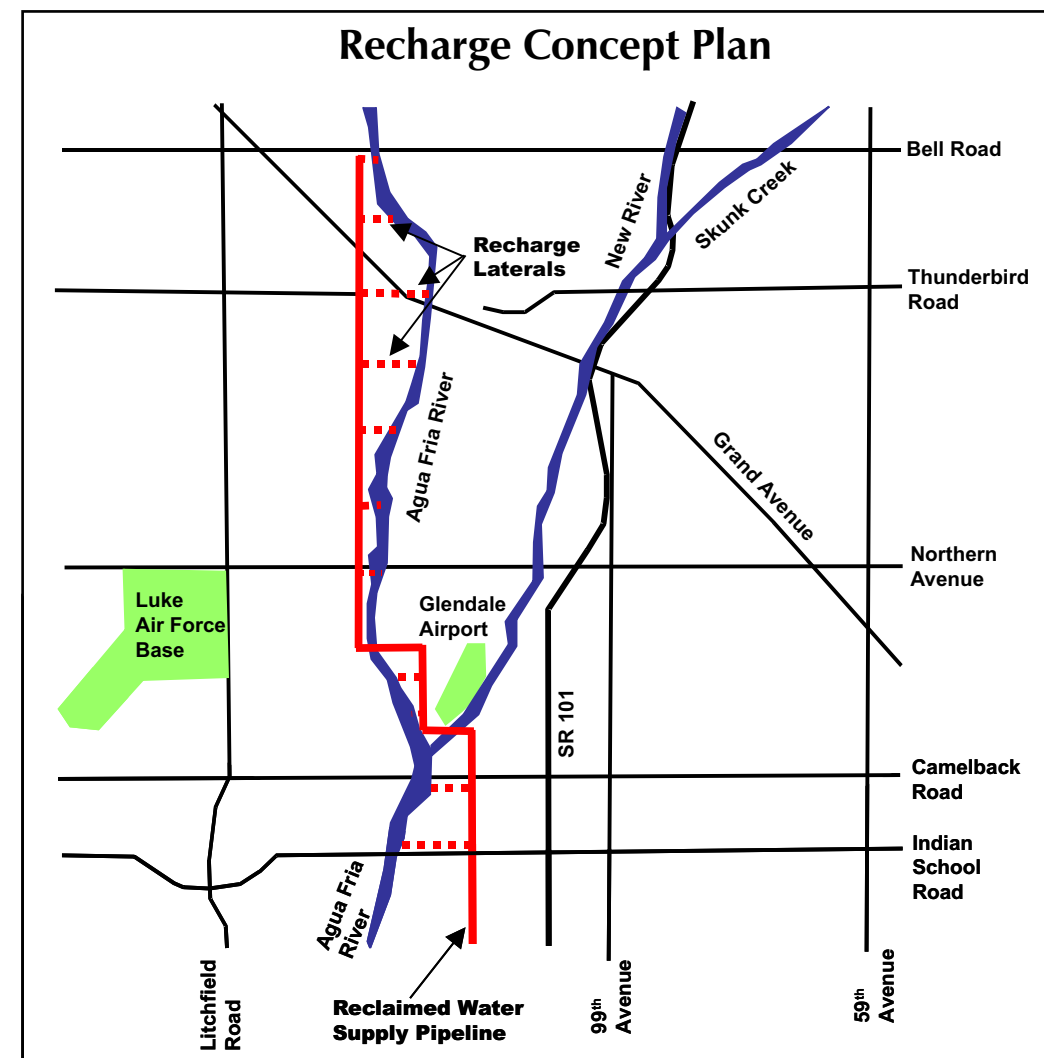
A majority of the reclaimed water produced by the 91st Avenue Wastewater Treatment Plant is used by the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station, Tres Rios and the Buckeye Valley Irrigation District, but not all. Between 13 and 20 billion gallons of excess reclaimed water are generated each year and are discharged to the Salt River.

Based on water supply calculations conducted by the Water Resources Technical Committee, approximately 62,000 acre feet of water per year will be available for recharge beginning in 2010. Because of the high use of reclaimed water during summer months for agriculture irrigation, the excess water will only be available during winter months.

The reclaimed water can be safely used for all non-drinking water uses and meets the required surface and aquifer water quality standards.

Recreation and Habitat

Three existing areas of riparian habitat in the river were identified by the Habitat Technical Committee. These existing areas will be protected and, when feasible, enhanced. In addition, the construction of wetlands to create new habitat areas near planned recreational areas will be considered.



There are several ways to accomplish this reuse including recharge, direct reuse on crops, landscaping and recreational areas, and use for wildlife habitat restoration. The current Agua Fria Linear Recharge Project conceptual plan is based on in-stream recharge. This type of recharge project usually involves discharging water into a dry riverbed or wash and allowing the water to percolate into the bed of the river.

Reclaimed water from the 91st Avenue Wastewater Treatment Plant would be piped 10 miles up the Agua Fria River, from Indian School Road north to Bell Road (see map at left). A series of lateral pipelines spaced at approximately one-mile intervals diverts water into the Agua Fria River channel. This plan allows SROG to control how much water is