



## Soil Analysis Helps Wash Revegetation Take Root

Water and soil play a major role in the growth of plants, especially in the desert. Revegetation efforts along the Las Vegas Wash are aided tremendously by access to water, but the area's high salinity levels have presented some challenges.

Over the years, the Las Vegas Wash Project Coordination Team has improved the plant selection used in revegetation activities by working with the Utah State University soils laboratory. Soil samples are removed and sent for analysis to delineate future revegetation sites, ensuring that areas of high salinity are matched up with suitable plants with high salt tolerances such as alkali sacaton and fourwing bush. This strategy has served to improve plant survivorship over the years.

To further reduce program costs and increase efficiency, the Project Team learned to perform this analytical work in its own laboratory, and recently completed soil analyses for the upcoming revegetation at the Ducks Unlimited Wetlands No. 2 Weir.

### Upcoming Meetings

#### Research and Environmental Study Team

July 1, 2009 10:30 a.m.

#### Administrative Study Team

July 16, 2009 1 p.m.

#### Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee

July 28, 2009 9 a.m.



Project Team members use an auger to collect soil samples.

The weir's construction footprint was recently treated with a hydroseed mixture to meet dust and stormwater permit requirements for soil stabilization.

In spring 2010, the Project Team expects to conduct a Wash Green-Up event at this site, where community volunteers will dig in and participate in the revegetation effort.

## Demonstration Pond Wetlands Study Concludes

After several years of study, the demonstration wetlands project at the City of Henderson Water Reclamation facility has concluded. The focus of the five-year project was to study diverse ecosystems and water quality improvement mechanisms associated with wetlands. The 5.75-acre pond supported 14 constructed loafing and emergent islands and water quality measurements were taken at the pond inflow and outflow, as well as three other locations throughout the pond.

Water quality monitoring and vegetation collection are both completed and the final bird census will be conducted in July. Data analysis indicates that the constructed wetlands played an effective role in improving water quality for several parameters.



The floating water quality station has been removed from the Demonstration Wetlands pond.

An [interim report](#) can be found at [www.lvwash.org](http://www.lvwash.org) and a final report is expected to be completed by the end of 2009. The pond will continue to be managed as a valuable element to the Bird Viewing Preserve and will continue to attract bird watchers from around the valley.

## New Office Hours for SNWA and LVVWD

Beginning in July, the Southern Nevada Water Authority and the Las Vegas Valley Water District will be switching to a four-day work week. Those employed by the agencies will join City of Henderson and North Las Vegas employees in the 10-hour work day and Monday through Thursday work week. The new schedule will not affect any of the future committee or study team meetings, but committee members will be unavailable for contact and field work on Fridays.