



## Wash Awarded Project of the Year

The Lower Narrows and Homestead Weirs construction project has been named the 2011 Environmental Project of the Year by the Nevada Chapter of the American Public Works Association (APWA). The Las Vegas Wash project was chosen from a field of 10 finalists representing projects from around the state of Nevada for its environmental contributions. Judges evaluated nominees on criteria such as community need and service, design intricacy, aesthetic value, funding and sustainability.



View of the award winning Lower Narrows Weir project.

The weirs span nearly 480 feet across, making them two of the largest weirs built in the Las Vegas Wash to date. In addition, they slow erosion and help control the Wash as it descends 31 feet across less than a half mile.

Located near the newly completed Wells Trailhead, the Lower Narrows and Homestead Weirs project replaced more than 100 acres of invasive salt cedar with native trees and shrubs, created 29 acres of wetland ponds, established 3 miles of walking trails and added a half-mile scenic drive along the Las Vegas Wash.

The Upper Diversion Weir and bridge construction project was also selected by the Nevada Chapter of the APWA with the environmental project of the year award in 2009. Visit [lwash.org](http://lwash.org) to see photos of both of these projects.

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## Mabel Hoggard Program Begins Another School Year

With the start of a new school year, the Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee (LVWCC) has started another round of educational outreach with the 5th graders from Mabel Hoggard Math & Science Magnet Elementary school.

The LVWCC has been a sponsor of the 5th grade students at the school since 1999, providing students with both in-class and field experiences with water quality and biological data collection. As part of the program, students spend half of the day on Lake Mead and half at the Las Vegas Wash.



The Mabel Hoggard Elementary outreach program recently started using the Desert Princess.

One of the newest changes to the program is a partnership with Lake Mead Cruises, facilitating a ride on the Desert Princess, a Mississippi-style paddlewheel boat. In past years, the Forever Earth Floating Environmental Laboratory houseboat was used for the tour of Lake Mead and the water quality portion of the field trip, but it became unavailable two years ago. As a result, a grant from the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection enabled the Desert Princess to take over as the new floating laboratory.

Another new development is a revision of the field trip notebook that students are given. Most of the updates were made to ensure a better correlation between the notebook and field trip experiences. Other changes, including a grid where students could graph their data, were made to meet and promote curriculum standards.

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