



## Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee

### E-mail update

February 2007

#### Upcoming Meetings

No Scheduled Meetings



#### Call to Arms...but Especially Hands

The time is quickly approaching for the latest edition of the Las Vegas Wash Spring Green-Up. This year's event is scheduled to take place on Saturday, March 10, 2007 at the newly completed Powerline Crossing Weir and bridge. With the overwhelming past public response in both volunteer numbers and efficiency, we've set a goal to plant more than 4,000 plants on approximately 14 acres of land. This will be the biggest planting site to date and as a result, we are looking for plenty of helping hands. We need both general volunteers as well as those willing to be site supervisors, who help oversee planting teams of about 20 people. Please mark your calendars and come out and help "Green-Up" the Las Vegas Wash! To volunteer as a planter, please call 822-8400. If you are interesting in volunteering as a site supervisor, please contact Debbie Van Dooremolen at 822-3370.



Volunteers planting

Join the Green-Up March 10, 2007

#### Weir Hydraulic Model Tests Continue

The Southern Nevada Water Authority has partnered with the Engineering Research Center at Colorado State University (CSU) to conduct physical hydraulic modeling of rock riprap weir-type structures similar to those being placed in the Las Vegas Wash. Results of the model studies will be used to advance engineering methods applied in the design of these highly specialized channel stabilization facilities.

"CSU has been conducting hydraulic model studies for over 50 years and has both the expertise and large scale facilities necessary to conduct the studies we need" said Gerry Hester, Engineering Project Manager for the Las Vegas Wash Facilities group. At 20 feet wide and over 108 feet long, CSU's outdoor flume allows testing of weir models up to a 1:6 scale of the stabilization weirs used in the Las Vegas Wash.

CSU's model testing will focus on high velocity flow capacity characteristics, rock sizing, foundation filter requirements and interstitial flow stresses across steeply sloped rock riprap surfaces.

"In combining our present knowledge and past experience at the Las Vegas Wash with the modeling results from CSU we will be able to further refine our weir designs to be more cost effective and durable" Hester indicated.

"The modeling results will be immediately applied to the final design of the Demonstration Replacement, Duck Creek Confluence, Lower Narrows and other weirs currently under design."

CSU's final report is due for completion in late spring.



CSU's outdoor flume for testing stabilization weirs

#### Agency Spotlight

##### Tamarisk Goes Up in Smoke!

On January 9, 2007 a controlled burn was conducted by the Nevada Division of Forestry on the north side of the Las Vegas Wash with great success. Approximately 52 personnel conducted the burn staged across from the Bostick Weir. This was the fifth burn at the Las Vegas Wash, and it reduced over 8,300 cubic yards of cleared tamarisk material to less than 60 cubic yards.



Nevada Division of Forestry conducts a controlled burn to reduce more than 8,300 cubic yards of invasive tamarisk

The management and reduction of this invasive weed is a high priority for the Las Vegas Wash Project Coordination Team in meeting their restoration goals. Controlled burns are a cost effective way to remove large quantities of tamarisk. Had the debris been hauled out in dumpsters prior to burning, this project would have cost over \$150,000. By burning the cleared material first, this cost was reduced to approximately \$50,000 saving the Las Vegas Wash project approximately \$100,000.