

LWCC Tour



Don't forget the annual LVWCC Tour Oct. 25, 2005. Call **822-3390** for more information.

Upcoming Meetings

Operations
Study Team Meeting
Nov. 2, 2005
8:30 a.m.

Research/Environmental
Monitoring Study Team
Meeting
Nov. 2, 2005
10:30 a.m.

Interagency Cooperative
Sampling Meeting
Nov. 17, 2005
8:00 a.m.

Administrative
Study Team Meeting
Nov. 17, 2005
1:00 p.m.



Daphnia (top) are great at cleaning up the water by eating or filtering algae like this diatom (bottom) from the water column. Daphnia also are a good source of food for small or young fish like shad.

Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee

E-mail update for the Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee

November 2005

Water quality improvements are making a difference in Lake Mead

Water entering Lake Mead from Las Vegas Wash has changed for the better over the past few years due to improving treatment for both perchlorate and phosphorus. We care about perchlorate because it has been shown to have health effects in high concentrations. Phosphorus is important because too much of it in Lake Mead can result in unwanted blooms of nuisance algae. Treatment to remove both has been greatly improved. Through the efforts of Kerr McGee and the Nevada Department of Environmental Protection, the amount of perchlorate in Las Vegas Wash is less than 10 percent of what it was five years ago. Levels are so low in Lake Mead new sophisticated instrumentation had to be employed by chemistry laboratories in order to measure amounts that were previously below detection limits. As for phosphorus, Dr. Doug Drury and his staff at the Clark County Water Reclamation District (CCWRD) have worked very hard to improve efficiency of existing treatment technology that removes phosphorus from wastewater. The amount of phosphorus in effluent from the CCWRD plant has less than 20 percent of the phosphorus it had two years ago. This is significant since CCWRD treats about half the wastewater from the Las Vegas Valley. The result is improving the ecology of Lake Mead this past summer. There is a significantly lower abundance of undesirable aquatic plants and animals in Lake Mead. At the same time, there is an increased abundance of desirable aquatic organisms. Therefore, treatment of flows into Las Vegas Wash is working to make Lake Mead a better place for all of us.

Volunteers 'Green-Up' new erosion control structure

Under sunny early autumn skies, more than 100 valley residents and 26 site supervisors dug in Oct. 1 at the Las Vegas Wash Green-Up, planting nearly 1,000 shrubs and trees near the banks of the waterway.

Conceived as a way to increase wildlife habitat while helping stabilize the Las Vegas Wash's banks, this fall's Wash Green-Up took place on 3.17 acres adjacent to the Rainbow Gardens Weir, one of the Wash's newest erosion control structures. Funding for this Green-Up was provided through a grant from the Nevada Department of Environmental Protection.



Oct. 2005 Green-Up

Interesting Facts

The little things in the lake

Did you ever wonder about those tiny creatures living in lakes and ponds called plankton? The name plankton is derived from the Greek term *πλαγκτον*, meaning "wanderer" or "drifter". In the animated television series *SpongeBob SquarePants*, Plankton is the name (and species) of one of the primary antagonists *SpongeBob* faces. Plankton's small size proves to be retained in this sense, as he is much smaller than the other characters. Phytoplankton (from Greek *phyton*, or plant), are commonly called algae that live near the water surface where there is sufficient light to support photosynthesis. Among the more important groups are the diatoms, cyanobacteria and dinoflagellates. Zooplankton (from Greek *zoon*, or animal), are small protozoans or metazoans (e.g. crustaceans and other animals) that feed on other plankton.

There are good and bad algae and zooplankton. Good kinds of algae are diatoms; bad are usually from the group called blue greens. Rotifers are a group of less desirable zooplankton since they indicate that the aquatic ecology is in disarray. Daphnia, or water fleas, is an example of desirable zooplankton. When desirable forms of both are abundant, the lake is healthy. A healthy lake is better for the fish, recreation and other uses of the water.