



In the April 2024 edition of *The Sonoran Post*, we celebrate **ARIZONA GIVES DAY** and answer the question "**Why SI?**" The Sonoran Institute team highlights how we partner with communities to generate positive change across the Colorado River Basin. From expanding Growing Water Smart Workshops to more leaders to removing tons of waste from the Santa Cruz and New Rivers and reconnecting the Colorado River to the sea, the Sonoran Institute is enacting critical change for the Colorado River communities.

[Donate today](#) to help shape a brighter future.

SI & SAN BERNADINO PARTNER ON GROWING WATER SMART

In March, our Growing Water Smart team partnered with the San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District for a \$35,000 sponsorship for our second Growing Water Smart California workshop to be held June 3-5, 2024, at the University of Redlands. Organized in partnership with the Babbitt Center for Land and Water Policy and local partner Water Education for Latino Leaders, we are accepting teams from 4-6 California communities that [apply for the California Summer Workshop](#) through April 19 and Colorado GWS Alumni communities may apply for [Technical Assistance Grants](#) through May 1. [Future workshops are scheduled](#) across the Colorado River Basin, promoting water-smart practices from June 2024 to February 2025. The Growing Water Smart team is happy to welcome aboard our Boulder-based Border Program Manager Noah Kaiser.



A DAY FOR MEXICALI

The Delta team teamed with Todos Somos Mexicali and Colonia Misión del Angel residents for "A Day for Mexicali," at the North Collector Drain area, removing 220 lbs of waste with 23 volunteers. A consultation workshop on the Mexicali Fluye project's conceptual design occurred with 36 stakeholders providing feedback, including SI Board Members Alan Dennis and Gabriela Luken-Marce, and SI Advisory Council Member Gastón Luken. Additionally, we participated in the **Agro Baja 2024** event with our partners Raise the River Alliance to highlight Colorado River restoration efforts to more than 56,000 attendees. Reconnecting the Colorado River to the sea: From March 21 to October 22, 2024, the Mexican and US governments are releasing water under Minute 323 in the Delta at Chausse and other points. The approximately six months of flowing river over 30 miles will stretch to where the river meets tides.

#NOTINMYRIVER!

The Santa Cruz River team and University of Arizona interns partnered with Shining AZ, Tumacácori National Historical Park, and the Santa Cruz Valley National Heritage Alliance to tackle a 15-acre trash dam at the Tumacácori National Historical Park. With more than 60 people joining this effort, they were able to remove 2 large roll-off dumpsters and collect information for ongoing trash studies along the Santa Cruz River. The Santa Cruz River team has also partnered with the Santa Cruz River Refuge coalition to expand protections for the fragile yet resilient Santa Cruz River from the border through Santa Cruz and Pima Counties. If you are interested in learning how to help expand these conservation efforts, [please visit this website](#).



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Hummingbird Circle, 2024 Photos by Candidsol

HUMMINGBIRD CIRCLE EVENT

The Sonoran Institute celebrated a Hummingbird Circle event on March 8 with more than 50 supporters, partners and staff at the home of Sonoran Institute Board member Richard and Stella Schaefer.



A MESSAGE FROM CEO MIKE ZELLNER

For more than three decades, the Sonoran Institute has been learning from our communities. From new partners in California and Arizona to stakeholders and neighborhoods in Mexicali, the feedback is priceless, because when we listen and take to heart their comments, we gain new allies. Together we are making amazing progress to conserve water, to reduce tons of waste in our rivers, and to create plans for a future full of hope.

In this effort, the Sonoran Institute is fortunate to have a broad base of support. Hummingbird Circle donors, our Board of Directors, and our Advisory Council provide leadership, resources and wisdom to advance our mission in Mexico and the United States. We are grateful for the service of our outgoing Board Chair Richard Schaefer and Vice Chair Barbara Green. And we are honored to welcome our new Board leadership with Chair Dan Kimball, Vice Chair Joe Kalt, Treasurer Matt Teeters and Secretary Laurinda Oswald.

Thank you as well for giving us the vote of confidence to make learning from our communities and demonstrating commitment to collaboration as hallmarks of the Sonoran Institute.



Board and Staff, Julius Scholsburg

SONORAN INSTITUTE LEADERSHIP HIGHLIGHT NEW SI BOARD LEADERS

Sonoran Institute announces the election of its new Board Officers: Chair Dan Kimball, Vice Chair Joe Kalt, Treasurer Matt Teeters, and Secretary Laurinda Oswald. Kimball, a retired National Park Service superintendent, expresses gratitude for leading the diverse board, emphasizing the institute's 34-year legacy of linking healthy ecosystems with robust economies in the American West. We appreciate the board's commitment to the Institute's mission, fostering collaboration for positive change and a brighter future. [Learn more here.](#)



Santa Cruz River, near Nogales, 2024 Julius Scholsburg



REGISTER TODAY FOR SANTA CRUZ RIVER RESEARCH DAYS 2024

Join us for *Santa Cruz River Research Days/Días de Investigación del Río Santa Cruz 2024*, from April 24-26, 2024! This in-person and virtual event is accessible in both English and Spanish. Dive into the rich tapestry of research and conservation efforts surrounding the Santa Cruz River's natural and cultural resources.

The "Stories of a Multinational River" theme features diverse speakers, new ideas, expanded networks, and collaborative projects. Don't miss this opportunity to deepen your understanding and contribute to the preservation of our precious river. [Register today - Free event!](#)



Did you enjoy Dragonfly Day? Would you like to learn more? Check out and subscribe to UArizona's Santa Cruz River Connections page [HERE!](#)

Interested in becoming a sponsor for this event?
Contact Melissa Cordero (520) 505-0034 | mcordero@sonoraninstitute.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

APR 2 [Arizona Gives Day - Tucson, AZ](#) **GIVE TODAY**

APR 13 [Sonoran Institute at Dragoon Anniversary Celebration](#)

APR 18 [Green Drinks Tucson - FREE EVENT - Tucson, AZ](#)

APR 20 [Santa Cruz River Day of Connection Clean-up](#)

APR 24-26 [Santa Cruz River Research Days - Tucson AZ](#) **FREE EVENT**

At Sonoran Institute, we believe that by connecting people and nature today, we can create a positive future for all. We are dedicated to protecting and restoring the Colorado River Basin, and to ensuring that our communities have access to the water they need to thrive. Join us in our mission to create a sustainable future for the Colorado River Basin and beyond.

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