

# Upper San Pedro Water District

## The First Step to More Local Control and Planned Water Management

In 2007, the Arizona Legislature enacted House Bill 2300, which allows for the establishment of the Upper San Pedro Water District, if approved by local voters. The goal of the Water District would be to maintain the conditions needed to sustain the Upper San Pedro River and to help meet the water supply needs and water conservation requirements for Fort Huachuca and the communities within the District.



The Legislature acted in recognition of community concerns related to the environmental, economic and health concerns of the area connected to the viability of the San Pedro River and its aquifer.

The District boundaries were set in the legislation (HB 2300) authorizing the District formation and were based on an Arizona Department of Water Resources map.

## District Voters Will Decide

Registered voters within the proposed District will need to approve the formation of the District, a measure scheduled to be on the November 2010 ballot.

If the District is approved, a local seven-member Board of Directors selected by voters in the same election will manage the District. Prospective candidates can come from anywhere in the District and must have 200 qualified signatures to be eligible for the ballot. Board members would be voluntary, and unpaid.

## Plans That Guide The District Board

A set of draft plans for the District have been prepared by the Organizing Board, based on existing information. The plans recognize that many entities have already taken steps to conserve, reuse and recharge area water, but more needs to be done.

Altogether there are four plans: a water resources plan, a financial plan, an organizational plan and an election plan.

## More Pumped Out Than Nature Can Replenish

Currently more water is taken from the underground aquifer in the Sierra Vista Subwatershed each year than

nature can recharge or replenish with rainwater and snow melt, resulting in a water deficit or overdraft. Overdrafting groundwater reduces the amount of water that is available for residents and the San Pedro River, and the lush habitats it supports for wildlife. As our municipal and domestic water demands increase over time, balancing human and natural water needs becomes increasingly important.

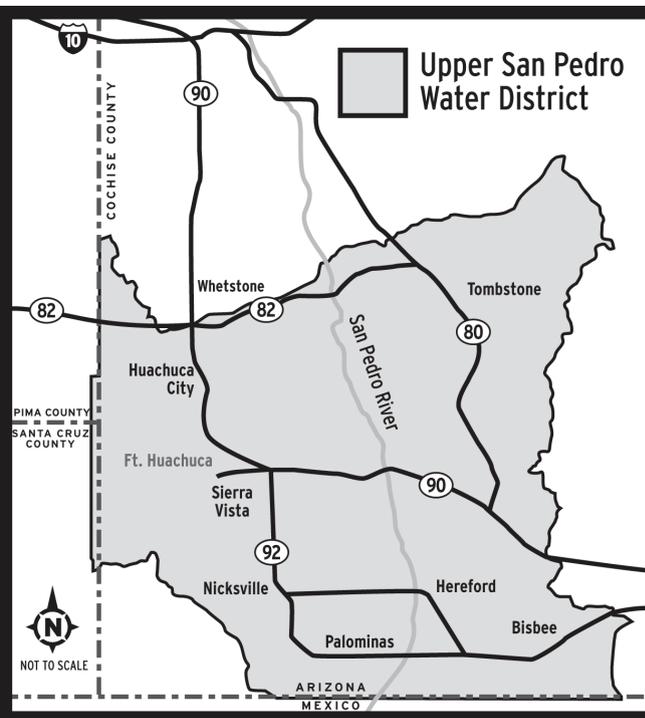
## The Fort Is Our Main Economic Engine

The economy of the Sierra Vista Subwatershed is heavily dependent on Fort Huachuca, headquarters for the U.S. Army Intelligence Center, NETCOM, the Electronic Proving Ground and other Department of Defense operations. The Fort is Southern Arizona's largest employer.

## Effective Water Management Is Critical for Both Fort Huachuca and Our Economy

The Defense Authorization Act of 2004 directs the way in which the Endangered Species Act applies to Fort Huachuca. The Act requires the Secretary of the Interior to prepare reports to Congress on steps to be taken to reduce the overdraft and restore and maintain the regional groundwater aquifer in the Sierra Vista Subwatershed by and after Sept. 30, 2011. If these requirements are not adequately addressed by the Fort and all of the communities within the Sierra Vista Subwatershed, unacceptable impacts to the San Pedro River will occur, which could result in the mission of Fort Huachuca being impacted.

For further information visit [www.sanpedrowaterdistrict.org](http://www.sanpedrowaterdistrict.org)



## What the District WOULD do:

- Provide local control over water management decisions.
- Take a leadership role in coordinating and assisting in water conservation projects with individuals, businesses, industries, and public and private entities in the District.
- Assist communities in setting up programs for recharging and/or reusing wastewater, effluent and stormwater runoff.
- Actively pursue project funding from federal, state and private sources.
- Develop enhanced water conservation programs for public facilities, schools and industries.
- Work with ADWR to ensure that new subdivisions comply with the goals of the District, as part of determining adequate water supply.
- Develop new water supply wells in locations that would not as directly impact the San Pedro River.

## What the District SHALL NOT do, by law:

- Levy a tax unless approved by voters.
- Engage in the retail sale of water to customers.
- Require the use of a water-measuring device for any well, except as a condition in a contract agreed to by both parties.
- Impose mandatory conservation requirements on persons in the District.
- Regulate the acquisition, use or disposal of water or rights within the District.
- Exercise any right of eminent domain (property acquisition).

Water is a very limited resource in Arizona, and the San Pedro River is one of the last rivers in the state that continually flows in many stretches all year long. While balancing the needs of both nature and people can be difficult, we know more about ways to do this today than we ever have before.