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ADEQ Plans Water Quality Testing Event for Phoenix Students on Verde River as part of Earth Month Activities

PHOENIX (April 21, 2011) – Arizona Department of Environmental Quality officials announced today that the agency will sponsor a water quality testing event for 60 Phoenix students at Riverfront Park on the Verde River in Cottonwood from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. on Wednesday, April 27 as part of ADEQ’s statewide activities conducted during Earth Month.

The sixth-grade students, from Villa Montessori, 3310 E. Cheryl Drive, will be divided into groups and given kits to test for pH balance, temperature, dissolved oxygen and turbidity in the water.

The event also is being conducted during activities throughout April surrounding Earth Day on April 22. ADEQ staff will have participated in 16 events around the state during April.

“Watershed events like this on the Verde River and throughout the state increase environmental awareness and help students of all ages protect public health year-round,” ADEQ Director Henry Darwin said.

ADEQ has spearheaded numerous initiatives to protect children’s health including a school bus idling reduction program which now has more than 700 schools in the state participating. The agency also has a school flag program that communicates daily air quality conditions at school districts in Maricopa and Pinal counties as well as a daily wind forecast for Yuma County.

Also, underground storage tanks at numerous school sites around the state have been evaluated and leaks cleaned up and assistance has been rendered to assist schools in controlling pests and using responsible pesticide applications.

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