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CONTACT: Mark Shaffer, Director of Communications, (602) 771-2215 (o);
(480) 433-9551 (cell)

ADEQ Director Darwin to Attend Water Quality Test Event for Rolle School Students in Yuma at Gateway Park Oct. 7

PHOENIX (Oct. 3, 2011) – Arizona Department of Environmental Quality Director Henry Darwin will attend an agency-sponsored water quality testing event for James B. Rolle Elementary School sixth-grade students at 9:30 a.m. on Friday, Oct. 7 at Yuma's Gateway Park as part of October's Children's Environmental Health Month activities.

The science students will be divided into groups and given kits by ADEQ staff to test for pH balance, temperature, dissolved oxygen and turbidity in the water.

The event also has special significance for Director Darwin since he grew up in Yuma and attended Rolle Elementary. Rolle is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.

“Watershed events like these in the Yuma area and throughout the state increase environmental awareness and help students of all ages protect public health year-round,” ADEQ Director Henry Darwin said. “I’m anxious to return to my old school and meet the teachers and students for such a noteworthy educational opportunity like this.”

Children's Environmental Health Month is celebrated nationally every October by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which collaborates with state agencies in developing publications and activities that highlight the importance of protecting children from environmental risks. For Arizona's activities list, see <http://www.azdeq.gov/ceh/download/activities.pdf>.

The Yuma event also is being held in honor of World Water Monitoring Day, which was on Sept. 18 this year, and is celebrated by more than 212,000 people on six continents monitoring their local waterways last year. Schools can compare the data collected from their water testing event to testing events in other water bodies around the world.

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