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ADEQ, Pima County Parks and Recreation Plan Water Quality Testing Event for Students at Agua Caliente Pond

PHOENIX (Dec. 5, 2011) – The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality and Pima County Natural Resources Parks and Recreation Division announced today that they will co-sponsor a Tucson water quality testing event on Dec. 12 from 10 a.m. until noon for 44 third-graders of Safford K-8 Magnet School at the natural spring and pond of Agua Caliente Park, 12325 E. Roger Road.

Students will be divided into groups and given kits to test for pH balance, temperature, dissolved oxygen and turbidity in the water. The event will be conducted on the shores of the pond, located in northeast Tucson. The event is part of ADEQ's water education efforts around the state through the agency's Children's Environmental Health program.

"Water testing events like this for the Tucson students at Agua Caliente Pond and throughout the state increase environmental awareness and help students of all ages protect public health year-round," ADEQ Director Henry Darwin said.

"These are great events that help students foster a love of the environment and spur children into a career in the sciences," said Wendy Burroughs, manager of the Pima County Natural Resources Environmental Education Program.

In addition, the event is being held in observance of World Water Monitoring Day, which was held on Sept. 18 this year and was celebrated by more than 212,000 people on six continents monitoring their local waterways last year. The Safford school students will be preparing a report for the WWMD website about their water sampling experiences.

"News media interested in additional information on this or any other topic concerning the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality should contact the Office of Communications at (602) 771-2215 or via email at ms15@azdeq.gov."

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