



La Fiesta de las Cienegas November 12-13, 2008

Apache Powder Superfund Site a Success

In November Apache Nitrogen Products, Inc. celebrated two major milestones: 1) the 10th anniversary of the constructed wetland used to treat nitrate-contaminated groundwater and 2) EPA's issuance of a Preliminary Close-out Report concluding that all remedies have been implemented. Apache has accomplished "Construction Complete" and is now in routine operation and maintenance.

nitrate in the extraction well have dropped from over 200 ppm to less than 70 ppm. The nitrate concentrations in the discharge are consistently less than 10 ppm, usually between 1-2 ppm.

The celebration included a wetland seminar at the Manning House on November 12th and a ceremony and cookout at the wetland on November 13th. About 50 attended the seminar to hear presentations about the Apache wetland and other related topics. They heard from speakers from the Central Arizona Project, The Nature Conservancy and Pima County Natural Resources among others.

The wetland has been operating year-round since 2004, treating 1 million gallons per week. Concentrations of



Over 100 people attended the wetland celebration including neighbors, regulators and environmental professionals. Attendees were brought to the wetland by horse and buggy. Once there they learned about the Superfund site through displays and hands-on activities. They had time to stroll to the top of the wetland or sit and enjoy the cowboy music and poetry of the Katy Creek Band. Members of the technical team shared about the challenges and excitement of starting the wetlands and members of management acknowledged the great success of the Apache Superfund project.

The Apache technical team included Andria Benner (EPA Region IX), Bill Ellett (ADEQ), Joan Thullen (USGS), Pamela Beilke and Greg Hall (Apache Nitrogen), Robert Gearheart (Humboldt State University), Phil Whitmore (CH2MHill), and Leo Leonhart, Eric Roudebush, Beth Ann Scully and Amy Milsom (Hargis + Associates).

