



## **International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section**

For immediate release  
June 17, 2015

### **USIBWC COMPLETES REPAIR OF INTERNATIONAL SEWER PIPE**

The United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) has completed a construction project to perform emergency repairs to the international sewer pipe in Nogales, Arizona. Known as the International Outfall Interceptor (IOI), the pipe, which conveys U.S. and Mexican sewage, runs nine miles from the international boundary in downtown Nogales, Arizona to the Nogales International Wastewater Treatment Plant in Rio Rico, Arizona. The City of Nogales, Arizona, which owns the IOI and the Nogales Wash, supported the effort.

The emergency repair covered a 240-foot long segment of the IOI where it is located underneath the Nogales Wash near the Doe Street Bridge. Heavy rains in September 2014 damaged and dislodged concrete panels in the Nogales Wash channel, including panels that help protect the IOI. The storms also washed out soils underneath the Wash, creating voids that could further destabilize the IOI.

To repair the site, the USIBWC in January 2015 issued a contract for \$674,282 to Abide International of Sonoma, California. Abide removed the damaged panels, placed fill material to replace the washed out soil, and covered the soil with a concrete layer to protect the IOI. The City of Nogales, Arizona removed the initial panels that were dislodged and replaced the topping concrete slabs in the Nogales Wash.

The USIBWC also hired a contractor, AECOM/URS, in 2014 for engineering and design for rehabilitation of the entire nine miles of the IOI. The design is scheduled to be completed in September 2015.

The International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico, is responsible for applying the boundary and water treaties between the two countries. The USIBWC operates and maintains the Nogales International Wastewater Treatment Plant.

For more information:

Sally Spener  
915-832-4175  
sally.spener@ibwc.gov