



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
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USIBWC AND CITY OF NOGALES ASSESS FLOOD DAMAGE TO NOGALES WASH

The United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) and the City of Nogales, Arizona are cooperating to assess flood damage to Nogales Wash after heavy rains beginning September 17 damaged concrete panels in the channel. The Nogales Wash conveys storm water north through central Nogales. Constructed in the 1930s, the aged infrastructure has suffered damage in various storms in recent years.

Initial assessments indicate damage south of the Highway 82 overpass and just south of the Doe Street Bridge. In these areas, dislodged or damaged concrete slabs from the bottom and sides of the channel are visible. The site near Doe Street Bridge is of particular concern because it is near the International Outfall Interceptor (IOI), the pipe that conveys wastewater from the United States and Mexico to the Nogales International Wastewater Treatment Plant in Rio Rico, Arizona. As storm waters recede, officials are inspecting the site to determine any potential risk or damage to the IOI and to develop a strategy for any repairs that may be needed. The USIBWC will send additional engineers to the site on September 22 to assist. Protecting the IOI is a top priority so as to prevent any sewage spills.

In recent years, various repair projects have been undertaken for the Nogales Wash and IOI as follows:

- Following a 2007 storm, the USIBWC provided technical assistance to the City of Nogales, Arizona to implement temporary repairs to protect the IOI. The USIBWC and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers performed permanent repairs the following year using \$500,000 in USIBWC funds. The current damage near the Highway 82 overpass is just north of the

area that was previously repaired. The earlier work has held and is protecting the IOI at this location.

- In 2010, the USIBWC spent \$1.4 million to replace a section of the IOI at the international boundary after the bottom of the pipe had worn away. That year, the USIBWC also sealed joints in the Nogales Wash in order to secure the concrete panels and protect the IOI, and repaired a manhole in the IOI following a storm.
- In 2013, the USIBWC, with support from the City of Nogales, issued a contract for \$750,000 to encase an exposed portion of the IOI in concrete and to repair erosion that threatened the IOI at an earthen segment of the Nogales Wash just south of the Department of Motor Vehicles Building.
- In 2014, the USIBWC awarded an engineering and design contract for rehabilitation of the 9-mile long IOI. The USIBWC contractor, with support from the City of Nogales, is currently performing the field work required for design of the project. The final design is expected to be completed in summer 2015.

The Nogales Wash and the IOI serve the needs of Nogales, Arizona and Nogales, Sonora.

Construction, operation, and maintenance of the facilities in the United States have involved local and federal participation.

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:

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