



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
October 4, 2011

WATER SUPPLY ISSUES ON AGENDA FOR OCTOBER 13 PUBLIC MEETING IN SAHUARITA

The United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) announces a public meeting of the Southeast Arizona Citizens Forum on Thursday, October 13, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. at the Sahuarita Town Hall Council Chambers, 375 W. Sahuarita Center Way, Sahuarita, AZ. The meeting will feature presentations about regional water supply issues and the status of an aging sewer pipe at the international border. The purpose of the Citizens Forum is to promote the exchange of information between the USIBWC and the community about Commission activities and related projects in Pima, Santa Cruz, and Cochise Counties.

Dale Mason, a hydrologist with the Arizona Department of Water Resources, will give a presentation about the Tucson Active Management Area (AMA) Groundwater Model. The Tucson AMA covers 3,866 square miles in southern Arizona and includes portions of Pima, Pinal, and Santa Cruz Counties. The Tucson AMA was established pursuant to the 1980 Groundwater Management Act and is administered by the Arizona Department of Water Resources. The Tucson AMA has a statutory goal of achieving safe yield by 2025 and maintaining it thereafter. Safe yield means that the amount of groundwater pumped from the AMA on an average annual basis does not exceed the amount that is naturally or artificially recharged.

In another presentation, Ken Taylor with the Upper Santa Cruz Providers and Users Group (USCPUG) will cover the background of local water challenges and how USCPUG was created in 2007 to enable major water users and providers to work together for solutions. The group includes major providers and users in the Green Valley and Sahuarita area. The group is interested in creating a plan for

bringing Central Arizona Project water to the south end of their area, among other activities to address the sustainability of the water supply.

USIBWC engineers Jose Nuñez and Don Atwood will give a presentation about the International Outfall Interceptor (IOI), an aged sewer pipe that conveys wastewater from Mexico and the United States to the Nogales International Wastewater Treatment Plant in Rio Rico, Arizona. Their talk will cover the history of the IOI, explain its relationship with the Nogales Wash drainage channel that runs through central Nogales, Arizona, and discuss plans under consideration to rehabilitate it.

The Commission is responsible for applying the boundary and water treaties between the United States and Mexico. In Southeast Arizona, the USIBWC operates the Nogales International Wastewater Treatment Plant, addresses a variety of transboundary sanitation and water issues, and demarcates the international boundary.

A complete agenda follows. Members of the public who would like more information about the meeting may call 520-281-1832 or e-mail sally.spener@ibwc.gov.

For more information:

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SOUTHEAST ARIZONA CITIZENS FORUM

Thursday, October 13, 2011

5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Sahuarita Town Hall, Council Chambers

375 W. Sahuarita Center Way

Sahuarita, AZ 85629

Agenda

- Call to Order – John Light and Alejandro Barcenas, Citizens Forum Co-Chairs
- Tucson AMA Groundwater Model – Dale Mason, Hydrologist, Groundwater Modeling Unit, Arizona Department of Water Resources
- Teamwork in Local Water Challenges - Ken Taylor, Board Secretary, Upper Santa Cruz Providers and Users Group
- Status of the International Outfall Interceptor Sewer Pipe in Nogales – Jose Nuñez and Don Atwood, Engineering Services Division, USIBWC
- Public Comment
- Board Discussion
- Suggested Future Agenda Items

If you have a disability that you wish to self-identify confidentially that requires accommodation, please advise us ahead of time. For information, call 520-281-1832 or e-mail sally.spener@ibwc.gov.