

Southeast Arizona Citizens Forum  
Benson City Hall  
Benson, Arizona  
March 17, 2017  
\*Tentative Meeting Notes

**Board Members in Attendance:**

Rosanna Gabaldon, Arizona State Representative, LD2 and Citizens Forum Co-Chair  
Marty Jakle, Friends of the Santa Cruz  
Ben Lomeli, U.S. Bureau of Land Management – Friends of the Santa Cruz River  
Lee Jacobs, Utility Director, City of Nogales

**USIBWC Staff in Attendance:**

John Light, Nogales Area Operations Manager and Citizens Forum Co-Chair  
Lorenzo Ortiz, Assistant Area Operations Manager, Nogales Field Office  
Alison Lamb, Administrative Services Clerk, Nogales Field Office

**Members of the Public in Attendance:**

Amanda Stone, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ)  
Roxanne Linsley, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ)  
Joel Mora, Arcadis  
Dean Moulis, Pima County, Az  
Arturo Gabaldon, Community Water Company  
Mayor John Doyle, City of Nogales  
Griselda Doyle

**Welcoming Remarks:**

At 5:00 pm John Light, Co-Chair, convened the Citizens Forum meeting and called it to order. Board members and audience attendees were then asked to introduce themselves. Mr. Light also reminded everyone to sign in, and during the public comments propose any topics you would like to see discussed in the future.

**Presentation One: [Statewide Public School Drinking Water Lead Screening: Amanda Stone, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality \(ADEQ\):](#)**

Ms. Stone began her presentation by stating that this is a proactive program started earlier this year that the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) is very excited about. Lead is in water and pipes and is regulated by EPA and it is extremely harmful in children under the age of five. 80 percent of the exposure in the State of Arizona primarily comes from lead paint, and imported goods, (spices, candy, toys, etc.). It is not a predominantly water problem in Arizona. What brought up the idea to test for lead in drinking water in schools was due to the issues in Flint, Michigan.

There are roughly 1,500 schools and 12,000 buildings and over 1 million students. 85 schools provide their own drinking water.

The purpose of this program is to screen school drinking water for lead and to take immediate corrective actions to eliminate identified exposure.

The program is primarily looking at schools built before 1987 because that was when the EPA changed their regulations regarding lead. There will also be a few random samples from schools built after 1987, but do not foresee a problem with those schools.

This is a voluntary program. Schools are not required to participate. The Department of Health Services has a list of high risk zip codes and schools with children ages five and under.

Roughly \$800,000 is left over from an IT project that was delayed so they used this money for this project, again this is not a regulatory issue, they were just curious of the results. Not expecting a big problem, just a protective item.

Currently they have scheduled sampling at 873 of 1,198 schools and 7,230 school buildings. Of that they have completed screening of 133 schools and 1,105 of the school buildings. Of the 1,105 buildings sampled, 28 exceeded the screening level of lead.

**Question:** Will you be addressing mitigation?

**Answer:** Yes.

ADEQ is coordinating closely with DHS and the School Facilities Board. The pilot program was started in January in Phoenix and Tucson locations, primarily since that is where ADEQ has offices located.

**Question:** If this is voluntary, the school sends the sample to the lab, results then go to ADEQ, if the levels are above the limit, can you please explain this process?

**Answer:** During the initial screening, if the sample exceeds the limit, then confirmation sampling protocol includes sampling where water comes in, several points along the lines and all of the discharge points. Most are found at discharge points, (example would be faucets). The system will be flushed and retested which will usually result in an acceptable limit.

**Question:** How is the sampling paid?

**Answer:** The initial Scope of Work was based on doing it all. Some schools are partnering with ADEQ and are providing the staffing and sending the samples to the lab and paying for it themselves, with the results being sent to ADEQ.

**Question:** Quite a few years ago, the University of Arizona (UofA) was working on something similar, is ADEQ partnering with anyone at the UofA, or any other groups?

**Answer:** No one with the UofA, but DHS is working closely with them.

**Question,** DHS – is that state or federal agency?

**Answer:** It's a state agency

**Question:** Is there an agreement with ADEQ and the School Facilities Board (SFB) when it comes to funding?

**Answer:** No. This is within ADEQ's jurisdiction but outside our regulatory mandate, we just felt compelled to do it. SFB is in the zone to fix it, there is so little data at this point. It's the piping stuff inside the schools that are the problem, not the water source itself.

There is a website and it is updated every Monday. It also includes a variety of information for schools and parents. [www.azdeq.gov/LeadScreeningProg](http://www.azdeq.gov/LeadScreeningProg)

**Presentation Two: Update on the San Miguel Gate: Lorenzo Ortiz, USIBWC AAOM:**

The San Miguel gate is the unofficial border crossing of the Tohono O'odham Nation. It is a steel rolling gate primarily used by the Tohono O'odham Nation in Mexico to cross into the United States. It is located Southeast of Sells, between Sasabe and Sonoyta. It is not an official Port of Entry but there is Border Patrol presence there. There is no reservation on the Mexican side, but they cross over to use

medical services on the U. S. side.

**Question:** Is the gate locked?

**Answer:** At the Citizens Forum held in March 2016, the issue of the gate was brought up by a Tohono O'odham tribal member, David Garcia, who stated that a rancher in Mexico had installed a new gate that was preventing tribal members from crossing into the United States for medical care. In April, representatives from the USIBWC and the Mexican Section of the IBWC along with Mr. Garcia travelled to look at the gate. They confirmed a new gate immediately south of the old gate and determined a survey of the boundary line was needed. They also observed at that time the gate was not locked. In February of this year, a USIBWC survey crew determined that the gate was in Mexico.

**Question:** Where is the nearest boundary marker at?

**Answer:** East ¼ mile and West 3 miles.

**Question:** How far do the fence bollards go?

**Answer:** Not sure exactly to the east, to the west at least one mile.

**Question:** Can the rancher prevent the Tohono O'odham Nation from crossing into the United States?

**Answer:** The gate is located on Mexican land, so it is a civil issue in Mexico. The Mexican Section of the IBWC is also looking into it.

**Question:** How many miles does the Nation go?

**Answer:** Organ Pipe Monument and just before you get to Sasabe.

**Question:** Is the concern of the rancher the amount of traffic on his property?

**Answer:** It appears he doesn't want anyone accessing his property that doesn't have his permission.

**Question:** Rosanna Gabaldon stated that she has several constituents in the Green Valley area that would like to visit the San Miguel Gate. Is that a possibility for them to just drive out there?

**Answer:** It is on the reservation. It is recommended that you call the Tohono O'odham Nation to get permission and to notify the Border Patrol.

**Public Comment:**

Mayor of Nogales: Is the reservation on both sides of the border? Does Mexico have its own agreement with the reservation?

Answer: I don't know. That would be a good topic for a future presentation.

**Board Discussion/Suggested future agenda items:**

The board stated that it is very important to have topics for the next meeting settled before adjourning. The next meeting is scheduled for June 15, 2017 to be held in Pima County. Rosanna Gabaldon will secure the meeting site. It was also discussed that Tubac be a potential meeting site for the September meeting to be held in Santa Cruz County.

Potential future topics:

Current status on the San Miguel gate to be presented by the Mexican Section of the IBWC.

San Pedro River – presentation by Department of Water Resources

Santa Cruz Basins, Cochise county groundwater recharge

Five Year environmental strategic plan by the Gov's of Az and Sonora – land regional vs border regional.

Nogales drainage tunnel study - requested for the September meeting

Rosanna Gabaldon asked that Board members to please email her as soon as possible topics and potential speakers so that she may get it to USIBWC Public Affairs Officer Lori Kuczmanski.

Meeting adjourned.

\*\* Meeting notes are tentative and summarize in draft the contents and discussion of Citizens Forum meetings. While these notes are intended to provide a general overview of Citizens Forum Meetings, they may not necessarily be accurate or complete, and may not be representative of USIBWC policy or positions.