



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
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SCREENING FOR LEAD IN SCHOOL DRINKING WATER AND UPDATE ON THE SAN MIGUEL GATE TO BE DISCUSSED AT MARCH 17 PUBLIC MEETING IN BENSON, ARIZONA

The screening for lead in public school drinking water and an update on the San Miguel Gate will be discussed at the next public meeting of the Southeast Arizona Citizens Forum of the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) on **Friday, March 17, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Benson City Hall, 120 W. 6th Street, Benson, Arizona.**

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) is conducting a six-month study among Arizona public schools to screen for lead in school drinking water. The purpose of this proactive school drinking water screening program is to identify whether school drinking water contains lead levels of concern for children's health, so school districts can take appropriate actions to address any identified concerns. ADEQ is working closely with multiple state and local agencies, public water systems, and public schools to proactively screen for the presence of lead in school drinking water. Education and awareness regarding childhood lead exposure is vital to ensuring a healthy environment for Arizona's children. The presentation will give an overview of the program and results obtained to date.

In other business, Lorenzo Ortiz, USIBWC Assistant Area Operations Manager, will give an update on the San Miguel gate at the U.S.-Mexico border, a gate commonly used by members of the Tohono O'odham Nation. A recent land survey was completed to determine if the gate is

in the United States or Mexico. The gate has been impacting border crossings by members of the Tohono O'odham Nation.

The USIBWC established the Southeast Arizona Citizens Forum in 2003 to facilitate the exchange of information between the USIBWC and members of the public about Commission projects and related activities in Cochise, Pima, and Santa Cruz Counties.

A complete agenda follows. Members of the public who would like more information about the meeting may call 520-281-1832 or email <mailto:lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov>.

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SOUTHEAST ARIZONA CITIZENS FORUM

Friday, March 17, 2017

5:00 - 7:00 P.M.

City of Benson – Council Chambers

120 W. 6th Street*

Benson, AZ 85602

AGENDA

- **Welcome and Introductions** – John Light, Citizens Forum Co-Chair, USIBWC
- **Statewide Public School Drinking Water Lead Screening Program** – Amanda Stone, Chief Policy and Legislative Affairs Officer, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
- **Update on the San Miguel Gate** – Lorenzo Ortiz, USIBWC Assistant Area Operations Manager
- Public Comment
- Board Discussion
- Suggested Future Agenda Items

Directions: From Tucson, take I-10 east to exit 303, merge onto W 4th Street/I-10 Bus E/AZ-80. Turn right onto S. Patagonia Street, then right onto W 6th Street.

If you have a disability that you wish to self-identify confidentially that requires accommodation, please advise us ahead of time.

For more information, call 520-281-1832 or email <mailto:lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov>.