



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
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USIBWC TO REPAIR INTERNATIONAL SEWER PIPE

The United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) has awarded a contract in the amount of \$674,282 to Abide International for repair of the international sewer pipe in Nogales, Arizona. The contractor is scheduled to begin mobilizing at the site in mid-April and complete work by June 1.

The repair will cover a 240-foot long segment of the sewer pipe, known as the International Outfall Interceptor (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. The IOI carries U.S. and Mexican wastewater from the international boundary in downtown Nogales, Arizona to the Nogales International Wastewater Treatment Plant in Rio Rico, Arizona.

To repair the site, the contractor will remove the damaged panels and material. Once these are removed, any exposed sections of the IOI will be inspected and a recommended repair plan approved. The contractor will place fill material in the voids and encase the IOI in concrete. After this work is completed, the City of Nogales will make arrangements to replace the topping concrete slabs.

“We are undertaking these emergency repairs to prevent the IOI from rupturing at this location,” said U.S. Commissioner Edward Drusina of the International Boundary and Water Commission. “We will continue to partner with the local community to do what is possible to prevent sewage spills.”

The Nogales Wash, which the City of Nogales, Arizona is responsible for maintaining, conveys stormwater northward through central Nogales. Constructed in the 1930s, the aged infrastructure has suffered damage in various storms in recent years. To address this damage, several 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. In 2008 the USIBWC and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers performed permanent repairs using \$500,000 in USIBWC funds.
- 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 totaling \$610,292 for rehabilitation of the 9-mile long IOI. The design is to be completed in September 2015.
- Following storms in September 2014, the USIBWC sent engineers to inspect the Nogales Wash to determine any potential risk or damage to the IOI and to develop a repair strategy. That repair strategy is being implemented in 2015 with the construction project described above that is taking place near the Doe Street Bridge.

The Nogales Wash, IOI, and Nogales International Wastewater Treatment Plant serve the needs of Nogales, Arizona and Nogales, Sonora. Construction, operation, and maintenance of facilities in the United States have involved local, federal, and Mexican government 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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