



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
May 25, 2017

GROUNDWATER DATA AND ARIZONA-SONORA ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGIC PLAN TO BE DISCUSSED AT JUNE 15 PUBLIC MEETING IN GREEN VALLEY, ARIZONA

The United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) has scheduled a public meeting of the Southeast Arizona Citizens Forum for **Thursday, June 15 at 5:00 p.m. at the Green Valley Elks Lodge, 2951 S. Camino Mercado, Green Valley, AZ.** Agenda items will cover water supply and environmental issues in the region. The purpose of the forum is to promote the exchange of information between the USIBWC and the community regarding Commission projects and related activities in Pima, Cochise, and Santa Cruz Counties.

Olga Epshtein, Hydrologist, Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR), is presenting on recent updates to local groundwater models leading up to the fourth Santa Cruz Active Management Area (AMA) plan, highlighting the ongoing field work efforts. Ms. Epshtein will also share ADWR's plan for model expansion.

Since 1997, when a long-term monitoring program was first established by ADWR within the Santa Cruz AMA, the Department has been developing modeling tools for groundwater management within the AMA. Used to better understand historic and projected groundwater dynamics in the basin, these models will serve to guide any new Assured Water Supply rules once the statewide moratorium on rulemaking is lifted.

In other business, Edna Mendoza, Director of the Office of Border Environmental Protection, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ), will provide an overview of a recent initiative to strengthen state-to-state collaboration along the border. An Arizona-Sonora Environmental Strategic Plan was executed in December 2016 through a partnership of ADEQ, the State of Sonora's Ecology and Sustainable Development Commission, Arizona Game and Fish Department, and State of Sonora Water Commission. The plan includes priority projects that these agencies intend to implement within the 2017-2021 timeframe, including activities related to stormwater management in Nogales, solid waste planning, air quality monitoring, and wildlife studies.

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

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SOUTHEAST ARIZONA CITIZENS FORUM

Thursday, June 15, 2017

5:00 - 7:00 P.M.

**Green Valley Elks Lodge
2951 S. Camino Mercado*
Green Valley, AZ 85662**

AGENDA

- **Welcome and Introductions** – Rosanna Gabaldon, Citizens Forum Co-Chair
- **ADWR Groundwater Modeling & Data Collection Efforts within the Santa Cruz Active Management Area** – Olga Epshtein, Hydrologist, Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR)
- **Coordination between Neighboring States: The Arizona-Sonora Environmental Strategic Plan**– Edna Mendoza, Director, Office of Border Environmental Protection, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
- Public Comment
- Board Discussion
- Suggested Future Agenda Items

Directions: From Tucson, take I-10 West, merge onto I-19 South towards Nogales. Take Exit #63 Continental Road and turn right onto W. Continental Road. Turn left onto I-19 frontage road. Turn Right onto E. Camino Encanto. Turn Left onto S. Camino Del Sol. Turn right onto Retorno De Anza. Turn right onto S. Camino Mercado.

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 lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov