



## **International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section**

For immediate release  
June 6, 2016

### **GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY TO BE DISCUSSED AT JUNE 16 PUBLIC MEETING IN SIERRA VISTA, AZ**

The Southeast Arizona Citizens Forum of the United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) will discuss regional water issues at a public meeting on **Thursday, June 16<sup>th</sup> from 5 pm to 7 pm** at the **University of Arizona South - Groth Hall, Public Meeting Room 203, 1140 North Colombo, Sierra Vista, AZ.**

Bruce Gungle, Hydrologist for the United States Geological Survey (USGS) in Tucson, will present an assessment of groundwater sustainability in the Sierra Vista subwatershed of the Upper San Pedro Basin in Arizona based on monitoring data collected through 2012. Sustainability was considered based on whether there was an increase or decrease of groundwater discharge to the riparian system and river. Scientists identified various sustainability indicators, including those related to the riparian system, the San Pedro River, the springs near the river, and much or all of the subwatershed.

Mr. Gungle will also discuss the Transboundary Aquifer Assessment Program (TAAP) in Arizona, which consists of a binational team of U.S. and Mexican government and university scientists focused on developing an integrated understanding of the transboundary Upper Santa Cruz and Upper San Pedro Aquifers. These scientists worked with the International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico (IBWC) according to an IBWC-approved binational cooperative framework. Mr. Gungle will provide an overview of the findings from the recently-released Upper San Pedro Basin transboundary aquifer binational report. This fiscal

year, the U.S. Congress has directed the USGS to re-initiate the TAAP in Texas and New Mexico as well as continue work in Arizona.

Dr. Laura M. Norman, Research Physical Scientist for the Western Geographic Science Center at the USGS in Tucson, will discuss scientists' efforts to identify favorable artificial recharge sites for augmenting groundwater and surface water resources. By constructing earthen and rock stormwater detention structures, scientists can enhance natural recharge. Dr. Norman will discuss how watershed models were used to delineate and screen recharge sites in the Babocomari River and how her group is monitoring potential recharge affecting the San Pedro River. In 2014, the group developed and implemented a methodology to identify favorable artificial recharge sites. Scientists accessed or developed data covering the entire Babocomari watershed to look for seepage and springs, modeled surface runoff and sediment yield, and then simulated recharge to screen potential recharge areas for potential to impact flow in the Upper Babocomari River. In 2015, structures were installed and some monitoring began; preliminary results are now available.

The purpose of the Southeast Arizona Citizens Forum is to promote the exchange of information between the USIBWC and the community about Commission projects and related activities in Santa Cruz, Cochise, and Pima Counties.

A complete agenda follows. Members of the public who would like more information about the meeting may call 520-281-1832 or e-mail [shellie.munoz@ibwc.gov](mailto:shellie.munoz@ibwc.gov).

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# **SOUTHEAST ARIZONA CITIZENS FORUM**

**Thursday, June 16, 2016**

**5:00 – 7:00 p.m.**

**University of Arizona South - Groth Hall**

**Public Meeting Room 203**

**1140 North Colombo\***

**Sierra Vista, AZ**

- Welcome and Introductions – Rosanna Gabaldón, Citizens Forum Co-Chair, Arizona State Representative Legislative District 2
- Assessment of Groundwater Sustainability in the Sierra Vista Subwatershed and Characteristics of the Transboundary Upper San Pedro Aquifer – Bruce Gungle, Hydrologist, U. S. Geological Survey (USGS) in Tucson, will discuss indicators related to the groundwater sustainability of the Sierra Vista subwatershed of the Upper San Pedro Basin in Arizona, and the findings of a transboundary aquifer study.
- Aridland Water Harvesting Study – Dr. Laura Norman, Research Physical Scientist, Western Geographic Science Center, USGS in Tucson, will discuss scientists' efforts to identify favorable artificial recharge sites for augmenting groundwater and surface water resources.
- Public Comment
- Board Discussion
- Suggested Future Agenda Items

**\*Directions:** From I-10, Take exit 302 for AZ-90 E toward Ft Huachuca/Sierra Vista. After approx. 27 miles, turn left to stay on AZ-90 S. Turn left on Charleston Rd. Turn left at 1st traffic light onto Colombo Ave. Take the second right then follow the road to the end.

If you have a disability that you wish to self-identify confidentially that requires accommodation, please advise us ahead of time at 520-281-1832 or shellie.munoz@ibwc.gov.