



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
August 30, 2018

SOURCE METALS IN NOGALES WASTEWATER AND THE HEALTH OF THE SANTA CRUZ RIVER TO BE DISCUSSED AT SEPTEMBER 13 PUBLIC MEETING

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, September 13, 3:00-5:00 p.m. at the Tubac Community Center, 50 Bridge Road, Tubac, Arizona.** 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, Arizona.

Mr. Hans Huth, Hydrologist, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, will talk about metals in wastewater treated at the Nogales International Wastewater Treatment Plant (NIWTP), the USIBWC plant that serves the communities of Nogales and Rio Rico, Arizona as well as Nogales, Sonora. Wastewater treated by the NIWTP contains chromium, copper, nickel and zinc at levels exceeding influent objectives for the plant. Impacts of exceedances may include biosolids contamination, plant upsets through microbiological disturbance, and exceedances of permitted discharge limits. The industrial sector in Nogales, Sonora is an important contributor to metal loadings in wastewater. In response, the Nogales, Sonora Potable Water and Wastewater Utility coordinated with the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ), the EPA Border 2020 Program, wastewater utilities in Pima County and the City of Phoenix, and the USIBWC to conduct a source characterization of contamination sourced to Sonora. Mr. Huth will present the results of the 30-day study that took place in June 2018.

Ms. Claire Zugmeyer, Ecologist, and Ian Dowdy, Director of Sustainable Landscapes and Communities, both of the Sonoran Institute, will discuss the health of the binational Santa Cruz River. Since its founding in 1990, the Sonoran Institute has been working along the Santa Cruz River. This presentation will discuss data shared in the Living River reports that track water quality, fish and other indicators of river health before and after the upgrades to the Nogales International Wastewater Treatment Plant. They will briefly discuss some of the other work they're leading along the river near Nogales and discuss how improving quality of life in Nogales, Sonora relates to the health of the river.

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

News media may contact:

Lori Kuczanski
Office: (915) 832-4106
Cell: (915) 494-6027
Lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov

SOUTHEAST ARIZONA CITIZENS FORUM

Thursday, September 13, 2018

3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Tubac Community Center

50 Bridge Road*

Tubac, Arizona 85646

Agenda

- **Welcome and Introductions** – John Light, Area Operations Manager, and Citizens Forum Co-Chair

- **Source Characterization of Metals in Ambos Nogales Wastewater**– Hans Huth, Hydrologist, Arizona Dept. of Environmental Quality

- **Ensuring the Health of the Binational Santa Cruz River** – Claire Zugmeyer, Ecologist, and Ian Dowdy, Director of Sustainable Landscapes and Communities, Sonoran Institute

- **Public Comment**

- **Board Discussion**

- **Suggested Future Agenda Items**

*Directions: From Tucson, take I-19 South, take exit #40 toward Chavez Siding Road, turn left onto Chavez Siding Road, turn right onto I-19 Frontage Road, turn left onto Bridge Road, turn left at Crosby Road, destination is on the right

To enhance efficiency and cost-effectiveness, we are pleased to announce that Citizens Forum stakeholders may now choose to receive their meeting notifications via email. Simply send an email to lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov with the subject line of "**SEAZ Opt-in**"

If you have a disability that you wish to self-identify confidentially that requires accommodation, please advise us ahead of time. For information, call 520-281-1832 or e-mail lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov