



## International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release  
October 1, 2021

### **U.S. COMMISSIONER TO ATTEND OCTOBER 14 WEBINAR: IOI UPDATE, EFFLUENT RECHARGE IN SOUTHERN ARIZONA, AND PFAS OCCURRENCES IN THE TUCSON BASIN**

Commissioner Maria-Elena Giner, head of the United States Section of the [International Boundary and Water Commission](#) (USIBWC), will attend the next public meeting of the Southeast Arizona Citizens Forum (SEAZCF) on **October 14, 4:00-6:00 p.m. MST via webinar**. Commissioner Giner was appointed to her position by President Joe Biden and was sworn in on September 15, 2021.

Crystal Cadillo, Civil Engineer, USIBWC, will give an update on the Nogales International Outfall Interceptor (IOI) project. The USIBWC announced in July a [\\$13.8 million contract to rehabilitate the sewage pipeline](#) in Santa Cruz County was awarded to SAK Construction. Construction is expected to begin later this year.

James Brown, Permit and Regulatory Compliance Officer, Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department, will be giving a presentation on managing effluent recharge in southern Arizona. In these times of drought and increasing water scarcity, wastewater effluent has become an important, renewable source of water. Recharging and storing this water underground allows effluent producers to earn credits that enable them to withdraw and use the water later. These credits can also be sold to a third party, subject to certain conditions. Credits can be earned and used on an annual basis or kept in long-term storage accounts for use later. Effluent is recharged either in constructed recharge basins or managed facilities (generally natural stream channels), depending on local hydrogeologic conditions. Proper management of this resource provides economic and environmental benefits to the entire community.

John Kmiec, Interim Director, Tucson Water, will be giving an update on known PFAS issues within the Tucson Basin. First detected in 2009, PFAS compounds have now been found in high concentrations in several areas of the Tucson Basin. These occurrences are affecting access to groundwater available for drinking water providers like Tucson Water and Marana Water. Mr. Kmiec will outline multiple areas of the aquifer where PFAS issues are prevalent, many of which lie within close proximity to the Santa Cruz River.

To join our Teams Meeting, go to <https://go.usa.gov/x6aQC>. Click on the “**Join**” button. If you do not have Teams installed on the device you will use to attend the meeting, it will work through any internet browser. If possible, it may be helpful for you to test connectivity on your own prior to the meeting by clicking on the Join link and ensuring your camera and microphone are functioning. Or join by phone: Call-in number: **(915) 320-4718** | Conference ID: **241 459 166#**

For those connecting via phone, the presentations will be available before the start of the meeting at <https://go.usa.gov/x6aQC>. Look for the links for the 10/14/21 meeting. If you would like to speak during public comment, then please sign up ahead of time by contacting Lori Kuczanski at [lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov](mailto:lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov) 915-494-6027 by noon on October 14.

Members of the public who would like more information about the meeting may call 520-281-1832 or the Public Affairs Office at [lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov](mailto:lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov)

**For more information:**

Lori Kuczanski

(915) 494-6027

[lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov](mailto:lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov)

**SOUTHEAST ARIZONA CITIZENS FORUM**  
**Thursday, October 14, 2021**  
**4:00 – 6:00 p.m. MST**

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**Agenda**

- **Opening Remarks**—Dr. Maria-Elena Giner, Commissioner, USIBWC
- **Welcome and Introductions**—John Light, Nogales Field Office Area Operations Manager, USIBWC, and Citizens Forum Co-Chair
- **International Outfall Interceptor (IOI) Project Update**—Crystal Cadillo, Civil Engineer, USIBWC
- **Managing Effluent Recharge and Recovery in Southern Arizona**—James Brown, Permit and Regulatory Compliance Officer, Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department
- **PFAS Occurrences within the Tucson Basin** — John Kmiec, Interim Director, Tucson Water
- **Public Comment** (To make public comment, RSVP by noon on October 14 to [lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov](mailto:lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov) or call 915-494-6027)
- **Board Discussion**

*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 extension 103 or e-mail [lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov](mailto:lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov)*