



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
October 31, 2017

CONSTRUCTION COMPLETE ON SEWER MANHOLE 89 IN RIO RICO, ARIZONA

KE&G Construction, Inc. of Tucson, Arizona, under contract to the United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC), concluded the emergency repairs on a manhole in the International Outfall Interceptor (IOI) on Friday, October 27, 2017. Although final contract costs are still being calculated, they are estimated to be on the order of \$1.65 million.

The IOI conveys wastewater from the cities of Nogales and Rio Rico, Arizona and Nogales, Sonora to the Nogales International Wastewater Treatment Plant. Much of the IOI lies underneath the Nogales Wash channel. While the IOI is owned by the City of Nogales, due to a lack of action by the City and State of Arizona, the USIBWC took action. Utilizing emergency authority, funds were diverted from border-wide projects to protect the health and safety of Arizona citizens.

Work to repair the manhole began on October 9 with KE&G Construction building a diversion channel around the damaged manhole and shoring the Nogales Wash (also known as Potrero Creek at this location) as a safety measure and for bank protection.

During the week of October 16, KE&G Construction completed the installation of the shoring for bank protection, excavated and removed the damaged manhole, removed sections of the IOI pipeline, and installed a new manhole and pipeline encased in concrete. With the repairs, the bypass of sewage in a temporary pipeline around the damaged section was halted on October

20 and flow was restored to the IOI. Work to remove the bypass piping and associated pumps was completed on October 25. Old Tucson Road has reopened to traffic, after being closed since late July.

KE&G Construction hydro seeded the restored area on October 27, finalizing the contracted work.

On July 25, the City of Nogales notified USIBWC that Manhole 89 became dislodged due to heavy rainfall and stormwaters in Potrero Creek. Under contract to USIBWC, KE&G installed a temporary bypass on August 2 to contain sewage from the damaged manhole until repairs could be made.

“This was a challenging project and the USIBWC appreciates the partnership with KE&G Construction to work through the many obstacles to repair Manhole 89,” said U.S. Commissioner Edward Drusina.

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.

News Media Contact:
Lori Kuczanski
915-832-4106
lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov