



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
August 12, 2026

USIBWC, EPA to hold Nogales Roundtable on August 20

The U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will hold an in-person and virtual meeting on Thursday, August 20, 2026, from 1 to 3 p.m. MST.

USIBWC, EPA, and local officials will provide updates on the status of the Nogales International Wastewater Treatment Plant and sanitation projects on both sides of the border.

The meeting will be held in person at:

Tubac Community Center
50 Bridge Road
Tubac, AZ 85646

The meeting will also be held virtually. [Click here to join the meeting](#). 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: +1 915-320-4718,,546051940# Phone conference ID: 546 051 940#

If you would like to speak during the comment period, please sign up ahead of time by contacting Frankie Pinon at frankie.pinon@ibwc.gov or 915-832-4716 by noon on Friday, August 17, 2026.

Media Contact :

Frankie Pinon
Email: frankie.pinon@ibwc.gov
Phone: 915-832-4716

The mission of the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission is to protect Americans from exposure to Mexican sewage, ensure fair allocations of water from the Colorado and Rio Grande Rivers, efficiently and effectively maintain and operate critical flood infrastructure, and reduce border flood hazards.

USIBWC, EPA NOGALES ROUNDTABLE

Thursday, August 20, 1-3 p.m. MST

Tubac Community Center

50 Bridge Road

Tubac, AZ 85646

And Via Teams

Agenda

- **Welcome and Introductions** – Chad McIntosh, USIBWC Commissioner; Mike Martucci, EPA Region 9 Regional Administrator
- **Key Stakeholder Remarks**
- **IBWC & EPA presentations**
- **Comment**

For more information call 915-832-4716 or email frankie.pinon@ibwc.gov

Microsoft Teams Meeting

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device: [Click here to join the meeting.](#)

Meeting ID: 223 741 416 105 879

Passcode: MR3Jx78F

[Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#)

Or call in (audio only)

+1 915-320-4718,,546051940#

Phone conference ID: 546 051 940#

VIDEO RECORDING

“August 20, 2026 - Nogales Roundtable in Tubac, AZ”

www.Youtube.com

Link to video:

<https://youtu.be/vxUjqGsSZ8k>



Ambos Nogales

August 20, 2026

John Light, AOM Nogales
Wayne Belzer, Environmental Engineer



INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION UNITED STATES SECTION

- Santa Cruz River is dry until it receives water from the NIWTP and is labeled an effluent dominated stream. Carries stormwater during monsoon season.
- Nogales Wash carries stormwater from Nogales, Sonora to the Santa Cruz upstream of the NIWTP.
 - Carries urban runoff but periodically carries untreated municipal wastes due to pump failures or line breaks.
- Los Alisos WWTP became operational in 2012 with a capacity of 5 MGD in order to reduce the excess flows to the NIWTP.



INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION UNITED STATES SECTION





IBWC Minutes related to
sanitation along the international boundary in Nogales

- **Minute 206** Joint Operation and Maintenance of the Nogales International Sanitation Project – January 13, 1958
 - Provided for the operations and maintenance of the first international treatment plant in Nogales, Arizona located closer to the border.
- **Minute 227** Enlargement of the International Facilities for the Treatment of Nogales, Arizona and Nogales, Sonora sewage. - September 5, 1967
 - Moved the treatment plant to its current location
 - Increased treatment capacity to accommodate both cities
- **Minute 276** Conveyance, Treatment, and Disposal of sewage from Nogales, Arizona and Nogales, Sonora – July 26, 1988
 - Expanded the treatment plant to accommodate growth in both cities
 - Increased Mexico's allotment b 4.95 MGD
 - Increased Nogales, Arizona's allotment by 2.6 MGD
 - Expansion of the collection system in Mexico



IBWC Minutes related to
the sanitation along the international boundary at Mexicali and the New River

- **Minute 294** Facilities Planning Program for the Solution of Border Sanitation Problems - November 24, 1995
 - Developed a facilities planning program to address growth issues for sanitation along the border
- **Minute 273** Recommendations for the solution of the Border Sanitation Problem at Naco – March 19, 1987
 - Expand and rehabilitate the Naco wastewater collection and treatment system.
- **Minute 295** Project for the Conveyance and Treatment of Naco, Sonora Sewage – April 30, 1996
 - Incorporated the BECC project into Minute 273 to amend with:
 - The reconstruction of the eastside primary lagoons
 - Construction of a new pumping plant
 - Expansion of the eastside storage lagoons.



IBWC Nogales Binational Technical Committee Meetings

INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION
UNITED STATES SECTION

- BTC's held every quarter
 - Presentation of the results of the quarterly testing
 - Status of the NIWTP and effluent violations
 - Presentation by local municipality on pre-treatment program
 - Infrastructure status (issues, planned projects, repairs etc.)
 - NADB projects
- Agencies that participate in the BTC:
 - IBWC Chairs, US and Mexico
 - USEPA & CONAGUA (National Water Commission, Mexico)
 - Arizona Department of Environmental Quality and CEA (State Environmental Agency)
 - Ambos Nogales municipal representatives
 - IMIP (City Planning for Nogales Sonora)
 - NADBank
 - Periodically invited reps from industry in Nogales.



Nogales Notification Protocol

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- A formal notification protocol was finalized in 2022.
- Under the notification protocol, OOMAPAS notifies the Mexican Section of any issue/incident.
- The information provided is then relayed to USIBWC via email. Upon receiving the notification, USIBWC sends an email notifying Headquarters, U.S. BTC members, CBP and others.
- As updates are received, the information is relayed to everyone until the issue is resolved.
- Conversely, if the US identifies an issue, the US Section notifies the Mexican Section to investigate and report back.



Water Quality Monitoring

- Under the NPDES permit, the USIBWC collects samples for priority metals and organics for 30 continuous days every quarter at the border, the influent, and the effluent from the NIWTP.
- The results of the testing are compared to the Maximum Allowable Headworks Allocation established in 2014.
- The data is shared with Mexico and presented at the BTC meetings.

Table 1

AHL Based on Average Influent Flow of 14.74 MGD (645 lps)

Bolded shows limiting

Bolded italicized shows limiting with 25% safety factor

Pollutant	MAHL - Safety (lb/day)	MAHL KG/DAY				MAHL KG/MOS				Exceedance first impacts:
		AHL _{eff} (kg/day)	AHL _{inh} (kg/day)	AHL _{solids} (kg/day)	MAHL - Safety (kg/day)	AHL _{eff} (kg/30 days)	AHL _{inh} (kg/30 days)	AHL _{solids} (kg/30 days)	MAHL - Safety (kg/30 day)	
Arsenic	2.3	5.07	5.57	1.39	1.04	152	167	42	31.3	solids
Cadmium	0.41	0.82	289.95	0.25	0.19	25	8699	7	5.58	solids
Chromium	1.69	45.23	60.22	1.02	0.77	1357	1807	31	23.0	solids
Copper	12.64	7.65	15.05	41.82	5.73	229	452	1254	172	effluent
Cyanide	5.03	3.04	23.42	-	2.28	91	703		68.4	effluent
Lead	1.47	0.89	27.88	1.37	0.67	27	836	41	20.0	effluent
Mercury	0.08	0.050	30.67	0.054	0.04	1.5	920	1.6	1.09	effluent
Nickel	13.83	9.62	21.19	8.36	6.27	288	636	251	188	solids
Selenium	0.55	0.37	-	0.34	0.25	11	-	10	7.48	solids
Silver	1.84	1.47	-	1.12	0.83	44	-	33	25.0	solids
Zinc	26.74	-	16.17	79.40	12.1	-	485	2382	364	inhibition
1,4-Dichlorobenzene	8.87	5.36	278.80	5.70	4.02	161	8364	171	121	effluent



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Table 3: 2nd quarter of 2026

AHL based on recorded flows

Reflects monthly average in which pretreatment monitoring took place

Highlight/bold contaminants and loadings where exceedances are taking place

Loadings Summary and Processes Impacted Based on Monthly Totals

Pollutant	MAHL Arizona (kg/mo)	MAHL Sonora (kg/mo)	MAHL TOTAL (kg/mo)	Actual Loadings Arizona (kg/mo)	Actual Loadings Sonora (kg/mo)	Actual Loadings Sonora Exc (kg)	Actual Loadings Sonora Exc (%)	Actual Loadings Total (kg/mo)	Processes Impacted by Total Loadings*
Arsenic	9.80	19.68	29.48	2.16	5.26			7.50	Solids
Cadmium	1.75	3.51	5.26	0.12	0.73			0.85	
Chromium	7.20	14.46	21.66	1.72	16.09	1.63	11%	17.89	
Copper	53.87	108.15	162.02	15.16	31.18			46.86	
Cyanide	21.44	43.04	64.47	0.00	0.00			0.00	
Lead	6.26	12.58	18.84	0.69	3.27			3.97	
Mercury	0.34	0.68	1.03	-0.04	0.05			0.01	
Nickel	58.94	118.33	177.27	-0.03	34.26			36.74	
Selenium	2.34	4.71	7.05	0.00	0.00			0.00	Inhibition
Silver	7.84	15.74	23.58	-0.03	1.22			1.65	
Zinc	113.96	228.79	342.75	80.44	258.48	29.69	13%	341.76	
1,4-Dichlorobenzene	37.80	75.89	113.69	0.00	0.00			0.00	



FIGURE 4: Chromium (Cr) Daily Loading NIWTP Border Station

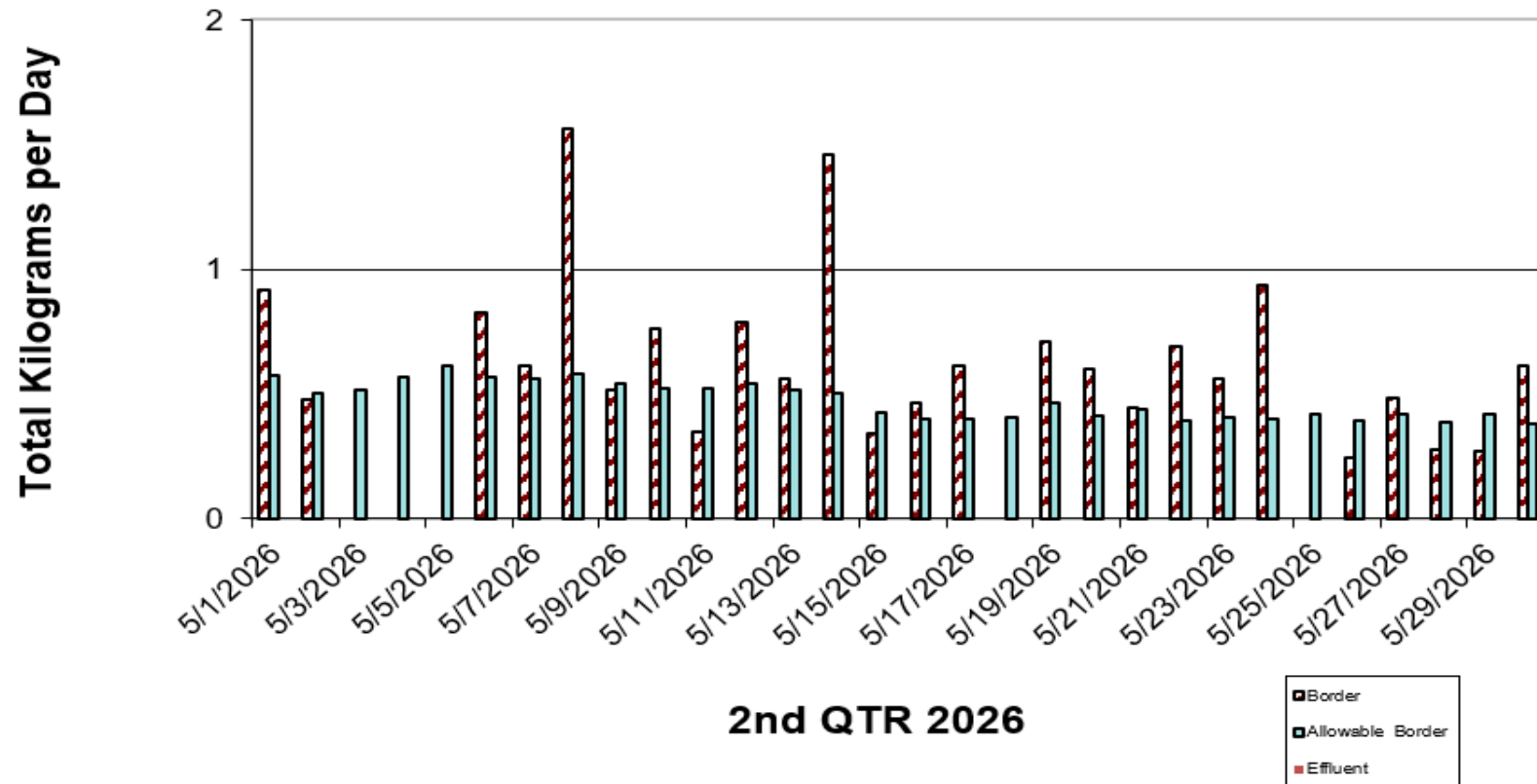
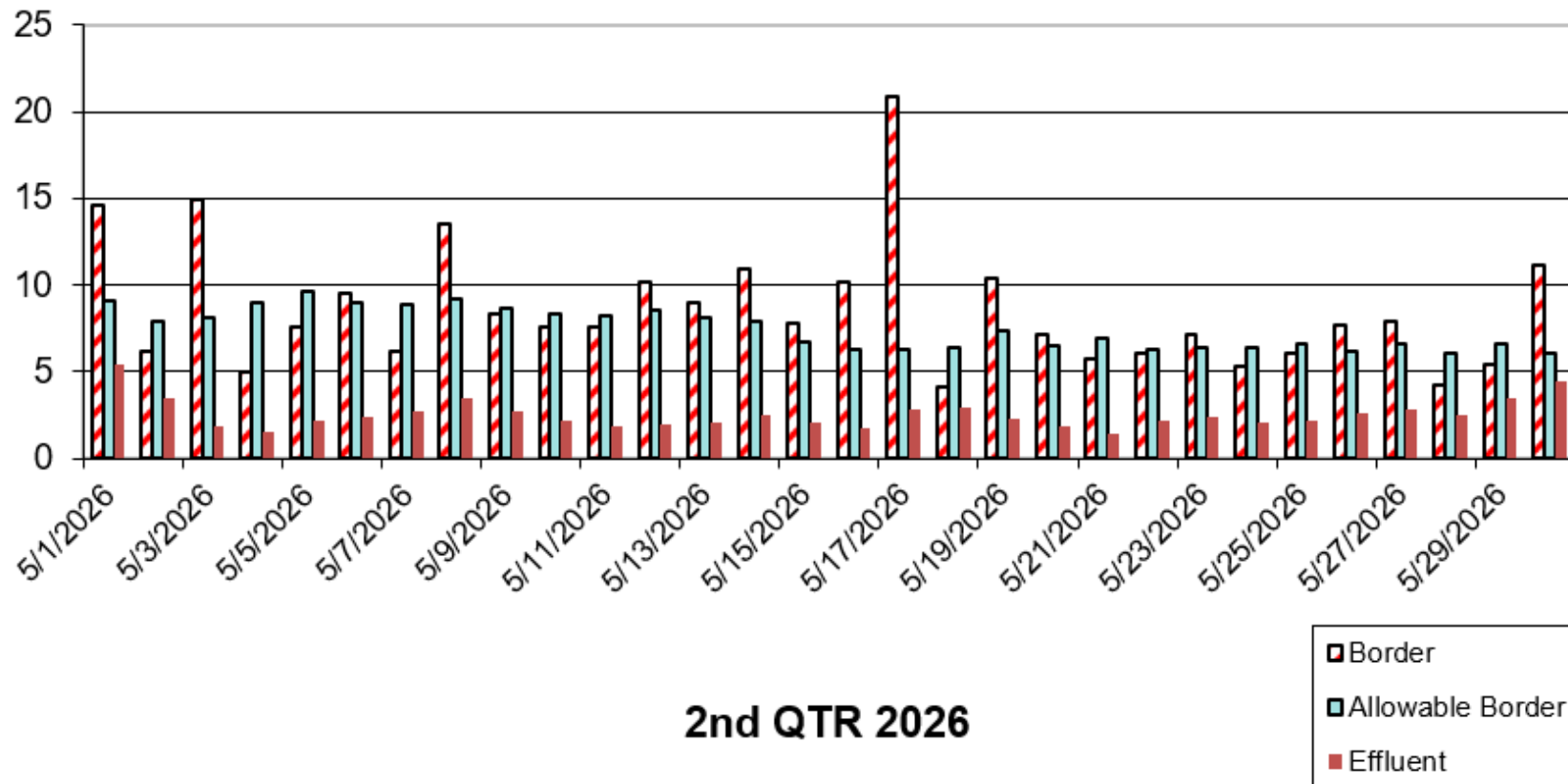




FIGURE 12: Zinc (Zn) Daily Loading NIWTP Border Station

Total Kilograms per Day



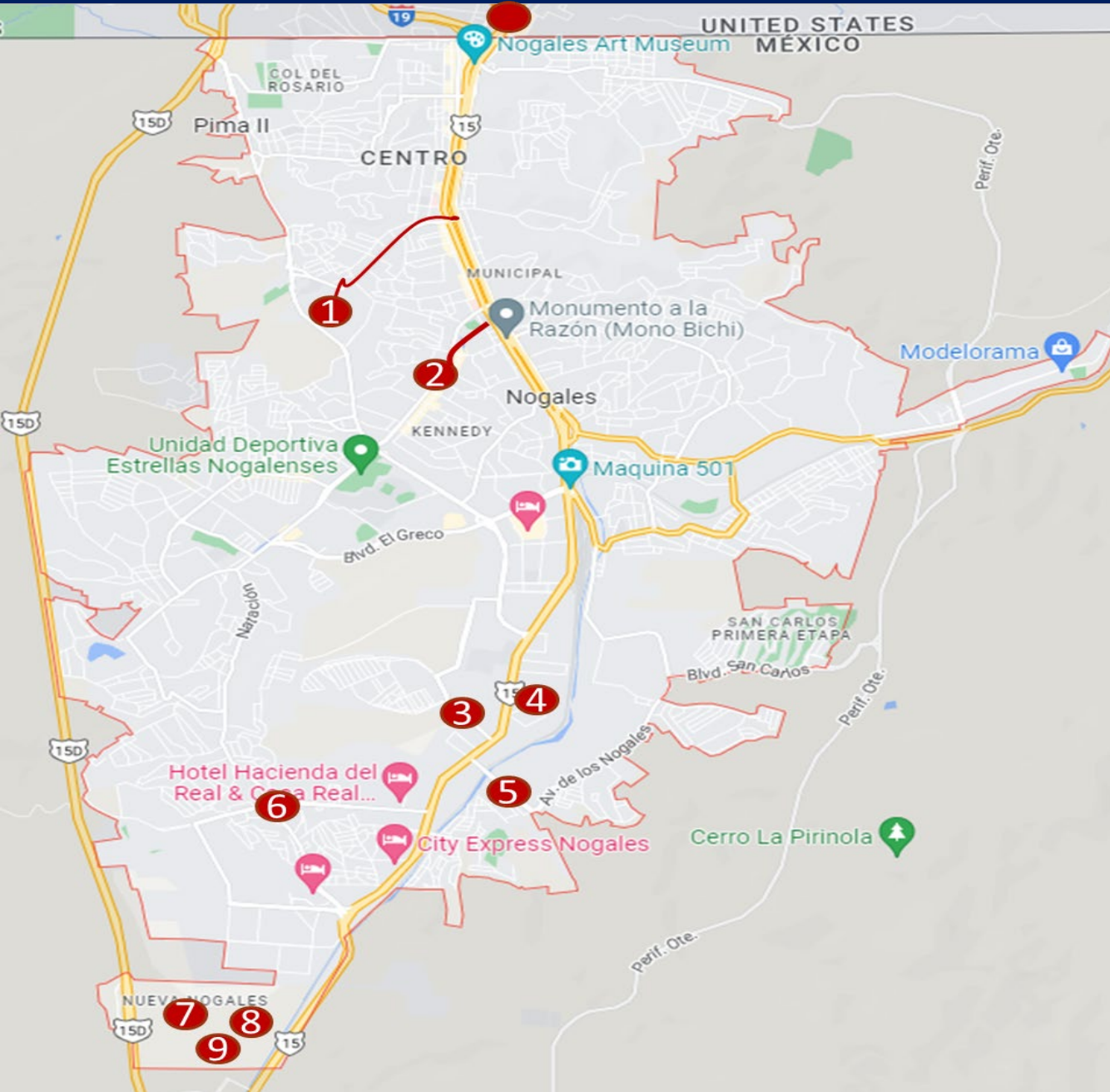


Binational Metals Study

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- Based on the results of the water quality monitoring, the BTC recommended a source tracking study to determine which industries were discharging metals.
- Binational funding for the study done in 2003
- 9 industries known for using the metals of concern were analyzed concurrent with the 30x sampling.
- Study ran from October 2023 to May 2024
- Data was assessed against the MAHA and NOM-002
- Data showed metals discharges from all industries analyzed however most had relatively low emissions, except for 2. Weiserlock and Cromadora

Industry locations Map



No.	Company Name	Address	Industrial Process
1	CARLISLE INTERCONNECT TECHNOLOGIES DE MEXICO	Blvr. Luis Donald Colosio 1195, Obrera, 84048 Heroica Nogales, Son., Mexico	Electroplating
2	TECNOLOGIA MEXICANA S. DE R.L. DE C.V.	Av. Tecnológico 323, Los Tapiros, Granja, 84065 Heroica Nogales, Son., Mexico	Electroplating
3	CURTISS WRIGHT CONTROLS DE MEXICO S.A. DE C.V.	Zona Industrial, 84066 Nogales, Sonora, Mexico	Chrome plating
4	JAVID DE MEXICO, DEPTO. INTEGRATED MAGNETICS	Parque Industrial, Calle San Patricio #10, Blvd. San Carlos, 84090 Heroica Nogales, Son., Mexico	Metal part rinsing
5	CROMADORA INTERNACIONAL, S.A. DE C.V.	Calle Jusacamea #43 Col. Colinas Del Yaqui Nogales, Sonora	Plating and anodizing of parts.
6	PENCOM CSS DE MEXICO S. DE R.L. DE C.V. P-2	Boulevard del Raquet 20, Nuevo Nogales, 84066 Heroica Nogales, Son., Mexico	Anodizing of parts.
7	ITT CANNON DE MEXICO, S.A. DE C.V.	Avenida Libre Comercio Sin Numero, Nueva Nogales, 84093 Heroica Nogales, Son., Mexico	Plating of parts.
8	WEISER LOCK DE MEXICO S. DE R.L. DE C.V.	Calzada Industrial de las Maquiladoras 55, Nueva Nogales, 84094 Heroica Nogales, Son., Mexico	Plating and Powder coating
9	OSCAR RENE GASTELUM CEBALLOS (KRONOS)	Calz. Industrial de las Maquiladoras 2, Nueva Nogales, 84094 Heroica Nogales, Son., Mexico	Plating and anodizing of parts.



Binational Metals Study

INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION
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- Follow on actions
- Cromadora volunteered to participate in a study to determine if phytoremediation would be an effective pre-discharge treatment
- Weiserlock committed to installing a pre-treatment system to reduce emissions
- More frequent testing of the industries
- Changes in local limits laws on industrial charges



THANK YOU!



Arizona-Sonora Transboundary Challenges

August 20, 2026

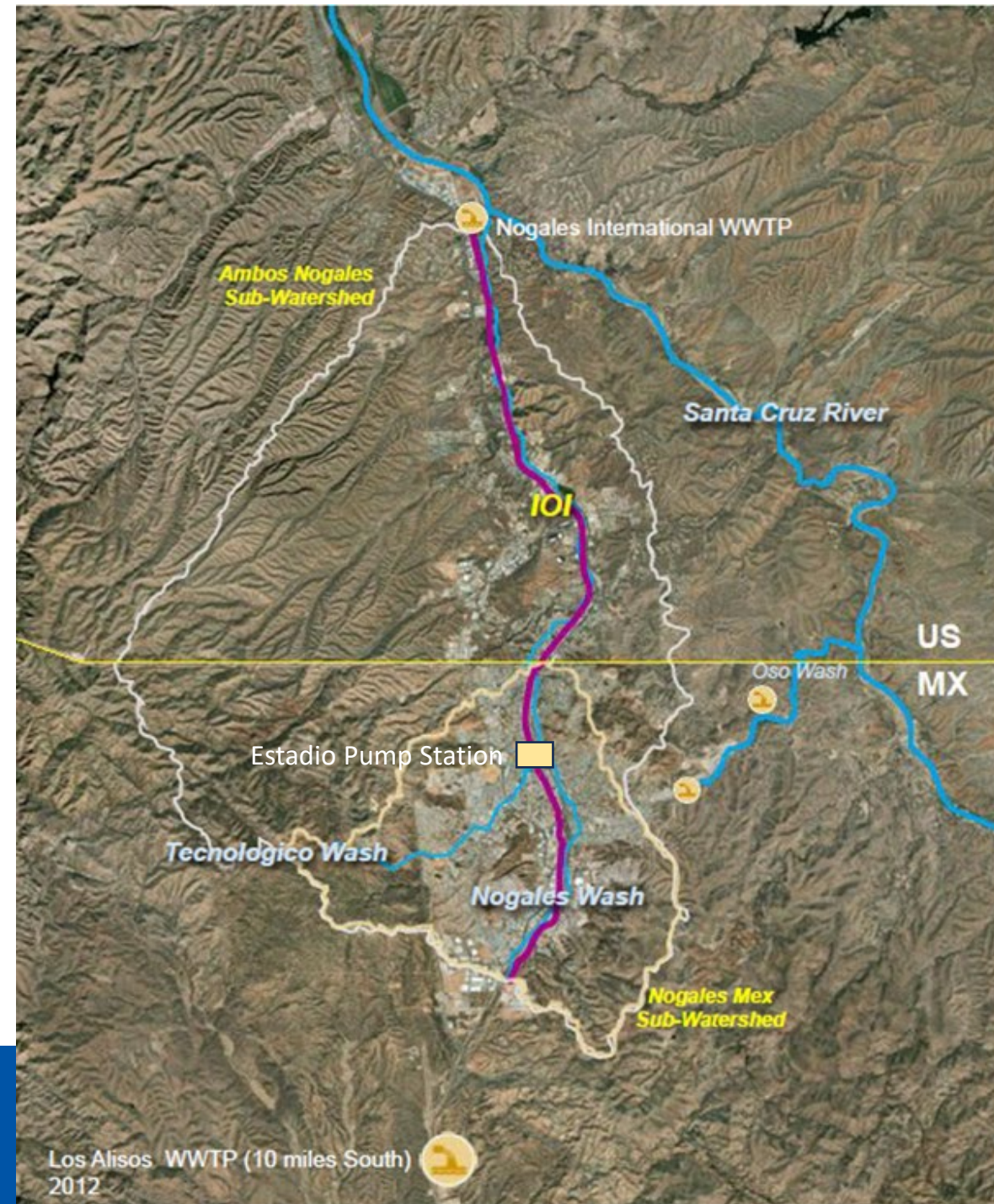
US EPA Region 9

Water Division



Infrastructure Overview

- Nogales International Wastewater Treatment Plant
- International Outfall Interceptor (IOI)
- Estadio Pump Station
- Los Alisos Wastewater Treatment Plant



US-MX Border Water Infrastructure Program (BWIP)



EPA's U.S.-Mexico Border Water Infrastructure Program (BWIP) funds the planning, design, and construction of high-priority water and wastewater infrastructure projects along the U.S.- Mexico border.

- Requires 100% funding match by Mexico
- Mexico-side projects must benefit the U.S.
- Funding managed by NADBank
- Big lever to influence Mexico's investment along the border
- Since 2021, BWIP annual appropriation ~\$30-36M, evenly split with R6

Significant Prior Investments

1992: \$17M from Congress for additional capacity and improved conveyance to Nogales International Wastewater Treatment Plant (NIWTP) in Nogales, AZ

2009: BWIP \$59M for NIWTP upgrades/expansion and collection system replacement in Nogales, AZ

2013: BWIP \$8M for Construction of Los Alisos WWTP in Nogales, SN



BWIP Projects Under Development in Nogales, SON

<u>Project</u>	<u>EPA Funding</u>	<u>Mexico Funding</u>
1. Colinas del Sol & Colonia Bella Vista WWC & WWTP	\$5.5M	--
2. Mascareñas WWC & WWTP	\$2M	--
3. Lomas & Puerta de Anza WWTP Rehab & Expansion	--	\$11.71M
4. Downtown WWC Rehabilitation	\$2M	--
5. Relocation of Arroyo Los Nogales Collect	--	\$1.5M
6. Ruíz Cortines Collector Rehabilitation	--	3.14M
TOTAL:	\$9.5M (37%)	\$16.36M (63%)

Additional Projects in Mexico's FY26/27 Nogales Sanitation Plan

Project	Impact
Local treatment system for Oso Wash	Prevent SSOs and improve water quality
Rehabilitation of the gravity pipeline to Los Alisos	Reduce volume of wastewater sent to NIWTP
Los Alisos WWTP expansion from 7.5 to 10 MGD	Reduce volume of wastewater sent to NIWTP
Maintenance for regulation dams (gabions)	Prevent sediment transport, reduce pipeline blockages and SSOs
Construction of regulation dams/gabions to retain sediment	Prevent sediment transport, reduce pipeline blockages and SSOs
Permanent Monitoring, sampling and analysis for heavy metals	Reduce/eliminate discharge of heavy metals into wastewater treated at NIWTP
Installation of pH and electrical conductivity meters and automatic samplers	Reduce/eliminate discharge of heavy metals into wastewater treated at NIWTP
Rehabilitation of Estadio Pump Station	Reduce/eliminate transboundary SSOs into Nogales Wash

San Pedro River (Ambos Naco)

Background:

- Intermittent transboundary flows of untreated/partially treated wastewater into Naco, Arizona

Prior Investments:

- 1996: \$1M for construction of treatment plant, interceptor sewer line, and 452 household connections

Challenges:

- Lack of technical, managerial, and financial capacity of Naco Sonora's wastewater utility

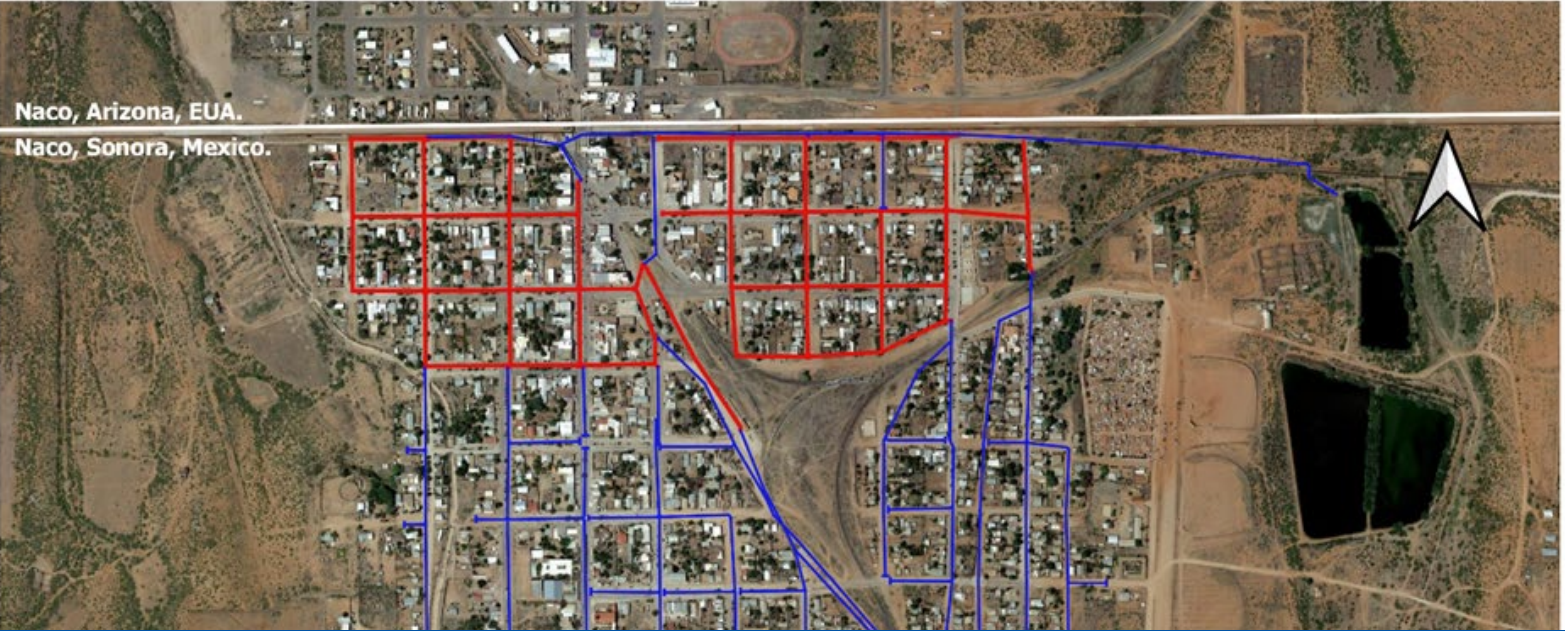
Current Projects Under Development:

- \$2.75 in BWIP funds for treatment plant rehabilitation and collection system adjacent to the border to eliminate transboundary discharges.



Naco Collection & WWTP Rehabilitation/Expansion

Sponsor:	OOMAPAS (Naco ww utility)
Estimated Cost:	US\$ 5.5 M
EPA Funding:	BEIF US\$ 2.75 M
Funding Partners:	CONAGUA; CEA; OOMAPAS: Pending
Expected Results:	Eliminate transboundary untreated WW discharges into the U.S.



Train Derailment in Naco, Sonora

Incident

- July 25, 2026, a Ferromex freight train derailed approximately 10–15 miles south of the Arizona border.
- Over 70,000 liters of sodium hydrosulfide (a toxic substance) and copper concentrate spilled into a local stream.
- Concerns about potential impacts to the San Pedro river basin and local aquifers

Response

- SEMARNAT and PROFEPA have ordered Ferromex to immediately characterize the environmental impact, clean up and remediate the affected stream and soil.
- PROFEPA is looking to gain information from EPA and DOT that will assist with characterization, impact, and remediation.
- According to local authorities, no direct impacts on U.S. soil or water have been reported on the Arizona side of the border, and no public health advisories have been issued for nearby U.S. communities

