



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
January 30, 2023

BORDER SANITATION CONCERNS IN NOGALES, SANTA CRUZ RIVER CONDITIONS ON AGENDA FOR FEBRUARY 9 WEBINAR

Actions to mitigate and prevent wastewater effluent from flowing into the United States at Oso Wash near Nogales, Arizona, and updates on efforts to restore the Santa Cruz River in southern Arizona will be the focus of the Southeast Arizona Citizens Forum on Thursday, February 9, 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. MST via Teams. The Southeast Arizona Citizens Forum was established in 2005 to facilitate the exchange of information between the United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) and members of the public about Commission activities in Southeast Arizona and related matters.

The Oso Wash, located on the east side of Nogales, is subject to transborder flows, originating as partially-treated effluent from two wastewater treatment plants in Sonora. Officials from the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) – Binational Program Manager Joaquin Marruffo and Environmental Science Specialist Claudia Gil – will discuss how stakeholders from both sides of the border are working collaboratively to find solutions that will mitigate and/or prevent future contamination. ADEQ is in the process of developing a study to identify a nature-based mitigation alternative for the Arizona side of the Oso Wash.

In other business, Dr. Luke Cole, Director of the Santa Cruz River Program at the Sonoran Institute, will provide updates on efforts undertaken in partnership with the U.S. and Mexican federal governments to restore the Santa Cruz River north of the border. His presentation will also highlight the latest *Living River* report, which bolsters the international partnership by demonstrating the social, environmental, and cultural benefits that come from clean, flowing water. He will also provide an advance look at the Sonoran Institute's trash study.

To join our Teams Meeting, go to: bit.ly/SAZCF and 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: 872-240-1286 Conference ID: 634 404 766#

For those connecting via phone, the presentations will be available before the start of the meeting at bit.ly/SAZCF. Look for the links for the 2/9/2023 meeting.

If you would like to speak during public comment, please sign up ahead of time by contacting Sumner Corbett at sumnercorbett@rational360.com or 434-466-2266 by noon on February 9.

For more information:

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SOUTHEAST ARIZONA CITIZENS FORUM
Thursday, February 9, 2023
4:00 – 6:00 p.m. MST
Teams Webinar

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Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions – Ben Lomeli, Citizens Forum Co-Chair
- Remarks from U.S. Commissioner Maria-Elena Giner
- Addressing the Transboundary Flows from Mexico at Oso Wash near Nogales, AZ – Claudia Gil, Environmental Science Specialist, and Joaquin Marruffo, Binational Program Manager, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
- Status and Condition of the Nogales Reach of the Santa Cruz River in Southern Arizona – Dr. Luke Cole, Director of the Santa Cruz River Program at the Sonoran Institute
- Public Comment
- Board Discussion
- Suggested Future Agenda Items

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 434-466-2266 or email sumnercorbett@rational360.com