



## International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release  
May 26, 2022

### **NOGALES WASTEWATER PIPELINE PROJECT AND THE RETURN OF AQUATIC SPECIES TO THE SANTA CRUZ RIVER TO BE DISCUSSED AT JUNE 9 MEETING**

Construction work on a Nogales wastewater pipeline known as the International Outfall Interceptor (IOI) and aquatic biodiversity of the Santa Cruz River will be discussed at the next in-person public meeting of the Southeast Arizona Citizens Forum of the U.S. Section of the [International Boundary and Water Commission](#) (USIBWC) on **June 9, 4:00-6:00 p.m. MST at the Water and Energy Sustainability Center, 2955 W. Calle Agua Nueva in Tucson.**

The purpose of the Citizens Forum is to promote the exchange of information between the USIBWC and the community about Commission projects and related activities in Santa Cruz, Cochise, and Pima Counties.

Ariana Leos, Civil Engineer, USIBWC, will talk about the [\\$13.8 million contract](#) in progress to rehabilitate the IOI sewage pipeline in Santa Cruz County. Leos will discuss construction work that has already been successfully completed, construction challenges to overcome over the duration of the project, and the progress of the Cured in Place Piping (CIPP). Leos will provide an update on the remaining two phases of the IOI rehabilitation that are currently out for solicitation.

The sewage pipeline conveys wastewater from the cities of Nogales and Rio Rico, Arizona and Nogales, Sonora to the Nogales International Wastewater Treatment Plant (NIWTP) in Rio Rico. The contract includes installation of protective measures for the upgraded IOI in key locations of the Nogales Wash vulnerable to damage from stormwater and debris.

Dr. Michael T. Bogan, Assistant Professor, University of Arizona, will be speaking about the ongoing return of native aquatic and riparian species to the Santa Cruz River in downtown Tucson. Historically, the Santa Cruz River had year-round flow downtown, but groundwater pumping caused the river to dry in the early 20th century. In June 2019, Tucson Water restored

perennial flow to the river via the discharge of treated effluent as part of the Santa Cruz River Heritage Project. Dr. Bogan and his collaborators have documented the return of well over 200 species of invertebrates, birds, and plants to the river downtown. Recently, they also facilitated the reintroduction of native fish species to the Heritage Project.

Members of the public who would like more information about the meeting may call 915-494-6027 or the Public Affairs Office at [lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov](mailto:lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov)

**For more information:**

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## **SOUTHEAST ARIZONA CITIZENS FORUM**

**Thursday, June 9, 2022**

**4:00 – 6:00 p.m. MST**

**Water and Energy Sustainability Center**

**2955 W. Calle Agua Nueva**

**Tucson, AZ 85745**

### **Agenda**

- **Welcome and Introductions** — John Light, Nogales Area Operations Manager, and Citizens Forum Co-Chair, USIBWC
- **Project to Rehabilitate the Nogales International Outfall Interceptor (IOI) Sewer Pipeline**— Ariana Leos, Civil Engineer, USIBWC
- **Increasing Aquatic Biodiversity and Conservation Value of the Santa Cruz River Heritage Project** — Dr. Michael T. Bogan, Assistant Professor, University of Arizona
- **Public Comment** (To make public comment, RSVP by noon on June 9 to [lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov](mailto:lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov) or call 915-494-6027)
- **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 915-494-6027 or e-mail [lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov](mailto:lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov)*