



## International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release  
January 31, 2022

### **NOGALES WASTEWATER PIPELINE PROJECT AND EFFLUENT RECHARGE IN SOUTHERN ARIZONA TO BE DISCUSSED AT FEBRUARY 10 WEBINAR**

Construction work on a Nogales wastewater pipeline known as the International Outfall Interceptor (IOI) and effluent recharge in southern Arizona will be discussed at the next public meeting of the Southeast Arizona Citizens Forum of the U.S. Section of the [International Boundary and Water Commission](#) (USIBWC) on **February 10, 4:00-6:00 p.m. MST via webinar**. 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.

Crystal Cadillo, Civil Engineer, USIBWC, will talk about the (IOI) rehabilitation project. Construction for the [\\$13.8 million contract](#) to rehabilitate the sewage pipeline in Santa Cruz County was awarded to SAK Construction. Cadillo will discuss the rehabilitation work that will be performed and the construction work plan.

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 vulnerable to damage from stormwater and debris.

Mark Apel, Environmental Projects Coordinator, Cochise County Engineering and Natural Resources, will be speaking about the Cochise Conservation and Recharge Network (CCRN), a collaborative partnership between Cochise County, the Cities of Sierra Vista and Bisbee, Fort Huachuca, The Nature Conservancy, and the Hereford Natural Resource Conservation District. The CCRN was formed in 2015 to implement tangible water management projects that will increase water availability for the region's residents and the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area (SPRNCA). In addition to other successfully implemented or planned water management projects, the CCRN is focusing its efforts on the reach of the San

Pedro River that starts at the international border in the southern-most extent of the BLM-managed SPRNCA and flows north to Highway 92 and Palominas. Streamflow in this reach has declined significantly over the last few decades due to climate change, drought and pumping south of the border, jeopardizing the cottonwood-willow riparian habitat that supports numerous wildlife species. Effluent recharge is one tool for helping to meet the water needs of riparian areas. The County has entered into an option agreement with the City of Bisbee to purchase a minimum of 200 acre-feet a year of treated effluent for use in a near-stream recharge facility for 25 years. If successfully implemented, the project will help maintain nationally important riparian and aquatic habitat for decades to come.

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: **267 958 285#**

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 2/10/2022 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 February 10.

Members of the public who would like more information about the meeting may call 520-281-1832 extension 103 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, February 10, 2022

4:00 – 6:00 p.m. MST

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## Agenda

- **Welcome and Introductions**—Mark Taylor, Citizens Forum Co-Chair
- **Project to Rehabilitate the Nogales International Sewer Pipeline (IOI)**  
—Crystal Cadillo, Civil Engineer, USIBWC
- **Effluent Recharge – A Proposal to Meet the Water Needs of the BLM’s San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area** – Mark Apel, Environmental Projects Coordinator, Cochise County Engineering and Natural Resources
- **Public Comment** (To make public comment, RSVP by noon on February 10 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)*