



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
July 13, 2021

USIBWC AWARDS CONTRACT TO REHABILITATE SEWAGE PIPELINE IN NOGALES, ARIZONA

The United States Section of the [International Boundary and Water Commission](#) (USIBWC) on July 13, 2021 awarded a \$13.8 million contract to SAK Construction to rehabilitate a sewage pipeline in Santa Cruz County, Arizona known as the international Trunkline and International Outfall Interceptor (IOI).

The 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. Installed between 1970 and 1971, it is comprised of reinforced and unreinforced concrete pipe that ranges in size between 24 inches and 42 inches in diameter. Much of the pipeline lies underneath the Nogales Wash channel and Potrero Creek. The contract will include installation of protective measures for the upgraded IOI in key locations vulnerable to damage from stormwater and debris.

The rehabilitation of the 9.9-mile-long pipeline was divided into five phases. The work under this contract is limited to Phases 1, 2, and 3 and includes rehabilitation of 56 manholes and over 5 miles of the sewage pipeline. Construction is expected to be completed in 2023.

Phase 1 nearest the NIWTP covers 1.6 miles of the most deteriorated part of the pipeline. Phase 2 covers the first 2.1 miles from the international boundary, and Phase 3 starts at the terminus of Phase 2 and extends another 1.6 miles north to near West Produce Row.

SAK Construction will use Cured-in-Place-Pipe (CIPP) technology where a liner is inserted in the existing pipeline then cured to form a solid pipeline inside the old pipeline. Because this technology doesn't require excavation of the pipeline, construction will cause less traffic disruption.

Rehabilitation of the Trunkline and IOI is being undertaken with funding participation from the USIBWC, and supplemental funds from the Mexican Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission, the State of Arizona, and Freeport McMoRan Foundation.

“This is a critical project, and we’re excited for the work to begin,” said Acting Commissioner Daniel Avila. “The pipeline has reached its useful life and, once it’s rehabilitated, this critical infrastructure will be able to continue serving the community. We appreciate all the assistance received from the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality and our funding partners to get this project moving forward.”

The USIBWC expects to award a construction contract for the final two phases of the IOI rehabilitation in 2022 subject to the availability of appropriations.

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 Kuczmanski
915-494-6027
lori.kuczmanski@ibwc.gov