



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
September 23, 2014

SAN PEDRO RIVER WATER QUALITY MONITORED AFTER SMALL SPILL FROM MEXICAN MINE

Personnel from the Mexican Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission and Mexico's National Water Commission (Conagua) made a site visit to the San Pedro River basin in Sonora, Mexico today following reports of a release of potentially contaminated water into the San Pedro River watershed. The Mexican Section reported that a small overflow of a detention pond at the Buenavista mine in Cananea, Sonora occurred on September 20, affecting a tributary to the San Pedro River, causing some discoloration in the tributary. The team observed no anomalies in the San Pedro River and took water quality samples from both the tributary and the river. Lab results will not be available for several days.

The San Pedro River flows north from Mexico, entering the United States to the west of Naco, Arizona. The mine is located approximately 30 miles upstream from the U.S.-Mexico border. The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality is testing water from the San Pedro River in Arizona near the international boundary.

The U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) has been in regular communication with federal and state environmental and emergency management officials to update them on any information confirmed by the Mexican Section regarding potential impacts to the United States.

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 has two offices in Arizona, located in Rio Rico and Yuma.

For more information:

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