



## **International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section**

For immediate release  
March 28, 2011

### **APRIL 7 PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS NOGALES INTERNATIONAL WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT AND THE SANTA CRUZ RIVER**

The United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) has scheduled a public meeting of the Southeast Arizona Citizens Forum for Thursday, April 7 at 5:30 p.m. in the Nogales City Council Chambers, 777 N. Grand Avenue, Nogales, AZ. The purpose of the forum is to promote the exchange of information between the USIBWC and the community regarding Commission projects and related activities in Pima, Cochise, and Santa Cruz Counties, Arizona.

USIBWC Principal Engineer Carlos Peña will discuss industrial pollution impacts at the Nogales International Wastewater Treatment Plant (NIWTP). The NIWTP, which is owned by the USIBWC and City of Nogales, Arizona, treats wastewater from the United States and Mexico. Last year, the plant was affected by cadmium, a pollutant that was discharged into the sewer system in Nogales, Sonora. Working with the State of Arizona, the USIBWC has stepped up efforts to monitor for this and other industrial contaminants and to ensure proper disposal of biosolids from the plant that contain cadmium.

The Forum will also hear from Sherry Sass, one of the founders of the Friends of the Santa Cruz River. The presentation will cover the Friends of the Santa Cruz River's mission and

provide examples of past and recent efforts to keep the Santa Cruz River flowing. Treated effluent from the NIWTP is considered an important water source for the Santa Cruz River.

The USIBWC recently reactivated the Southeast Arizona Citizens Forum with the appointment of nine community members who serve on the Forum Board. This marks the second quarterly meeting with the new board.

A complete agenda follows. Members of the public who would like more information about the meeting may call 520-281-1832 or e-mail [sally.spener@ibwc.gov](mailto:sally.spener@ibwc.gov).

For more information:

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**SOUTHEAST ARIZONA CITIZENS FORUM**

**Thursday, April 7, 2011**

**5:30 – 7:30 p.m.**

**Nogales City Hall, Council Chambers**

**777 N. Grand Avenue**

**Nogales, AZ 85621**

**Agenda**

- Call to Order – John Light, USIBWC Area Operations Manager
- Friends of the Santa Cruz River – Sherry Sass, Founder, Friends of the Santa Cruz River
- Industrial Pollution Impacts at the Nogales International Wastewater Treatment Plant – Carlos Peña, Principal Engineer, USIBWC
- Public Comment
- Board Discussion
- Suggested Future Agenda Items