



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
December 4, 2013

DECEMBER 19 PUBLIC MEETING IN TUCSON TO DISCUSS WATER SUPPLY MODELING AND BORDER SANITATION ISSUES

The United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) has scheduled a public meeting of the Southeast Arizona Citizens Forum on Thursday, December 19, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m., in the Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department's Water & Energy Sustainability Center, 2955 W. Calle Agua Nueva in Tucson, Arizona. 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.

During the meeting Susanna Eden, Assistant Director of the Water Resources Research Center at the University of Arizona, will give a presentation on Groundwater, Climate and Stakeholder Engagement (GCASE) for Water Resources Planning and Management. The Water Resources Research Center and the Hydrologic Research Center are in the second year of a two-year research project funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to help water managers deal with climate uncertainties. The project combines an innovative modeling framework with stakeholder engagement. Groundwater basins within the Santa Cruz Active Management Area in Arizona served as a case study. The modeling framework converts rainfall to streamflow and aquifer recharge in the case study basins. By varying assumptions about groundwater pumping, the model outputs can show a range of likely future aquifer conditions. Enhancements of the modeling framework enable it to analyze water management scenarios

under likely future climate conditions, as well as under historic conditions.

The stakeholder engagement strategy includes a series of workshops used to interest and involve stakeholders in project development. The workshops engaged stakeholders in posing groundwater management questions for the modeling framework to assess and in discussion of results. Additional workshops in other regions of Arizona will explore the transferability of the project methodologies. The presentation will cover: Project Goals, Approach and Roadmap; Case Study Background; Modeling Approach and Climate; Case Study Results; and Next Steps.

In other business, USIBWC Area Operations Manager John Light will give an update on plans to rehabilitate the International Outfall Interceptor (IOI), the pipe that runs from the international border at Nogales to the Nogales International Wastewater Treatment Plant in Rio Rico. The IOI, which conveys U.S. and Mexican wastewater to the treatment plant, has degraded over time and is in need of repair or replacement. Work is underway to hire a consultant to prepare plans and specifications to rehabilitate the aged pipe. Mr. Light will also present information about the Los Alisos Wastewater Treatment Plant in Nogales, Sonora. Commission personnel toured the plant in November.

A complete meeting agenda follows. Members of the public who would like more information may call 520-281-1832 or contact sally.spener@ibwc.gov.

Media may contact:

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SOUTHEAST ARIZONA CITIZENS FORUM
Thursday, December 19, 2013, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department
Water & Energy Sustainability Center
Radon N & S Room
2955 W. Calle Agua Nueva (still known as
3035 W. El Camino del Cerro on most maps)
Tucson, AZ

Agenda

- Call to Order – Ben Lomeli, Citizens Forum Co-Chair
- Groundwater, Climate and Stakeholder Engagement (GCASE) for Water Resources Planning and Management – Susanna Eden, Assistant Director, University of Arizona Water Resources Research Center
- Update on the International Outfall Interceptor and the Los Alisos Wastewater Treatment Plant in Nogales, Sonora - John Light, Area Operations Manager, USIBWC
- Public Comment
- Board Discussion
- Suggested Future Agenda Items

***Directions:** From I-10 west, take Exit #252 Camino del Cerro/Ruthrauff. Turn left (west) and continue past the underpass and past the first light then turn left through the gate to the Water & Energy Sustainability Center.

If you have a disability that you wish to self-identify confidentially that requires accommodation, please advise us ahead of time at 520-281-1832 or sally.spener@ibwc.gov