

For immediate release
April 20, 2004

NOGALES PORTS OF ENTRY, INTERNATIONAL WASTEWATER TREATMENT ISSUES ON AGENDA FOR MAY 3 PUBLIC MEETING

The Southeast Arizona Citizens' Forum (SACF) of the United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) will conduct a public meeting on Monday, May 3 in Nogales, Arizona. The meeting takes place from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. in the Board of Supervisors Hearing Room at the Santa Cruz County Complex, 2150 N. Congress Drive. The event is free and the public is encouraged to attend.

USIBWC staff will give an overview of issues related to the Nogales International Wastewater Treatment Plant including the status of the planned treatment plant upgrade, the recent agreement with the City of Nogales over operation and maintenance costs, Nogales Wash sanitation, the binational wastewater pretreatment program, and security enhancements at the plant, including restrictions on access for birdwatchers and other members of the public.

Additionally, David E. Randolph, Border Coordination Officer for the Arizona-Mexico Commission, will give a presentation about planned upgrades for the Nogales Ports of Entry. These upgrades are intended to address security concerns and increase the efficiency of border crossings. The projects include a dedicated commuter lane at the Deconcini Port of Entry, a new truck safety inspection station and Intelligent Transportation System at the Mariposa Port of Entry, increased commercial capacity at Mariposa, CyberPort, and implementation of US-VISIT, a visitor and immigrant tracking program.

The purpose of the forum is to facilitate the exchange of information between the USIBWC and members of the public about Commission activities in Santa Cruz and Cochise Counties, Arizona. The SACF is intended to bring together community members, enabling the early and continued two-way flow of information, concerns, values, and needs between the USIBWC and the public, environmentalists, government agencies, municipalities, and other interested parties. The SACF Board has 12 members representing a variety of interests in Santa Cruz and Cochise Counties. Board co-chairs are USIBWC Deputy Commissioner Carlos Marin and John Hays, Floodplain Coordinator for the Santa Cruz County Flood Control District.

Members of the public who would like more information can call 520-281-1832 or e-mail sallyspener@ibwc.state.gov. A complete meeting agenda follows.

For more information:

Sally Spener
915-832-4175
sallyspener@ibwc.state.gov

USIBWC Nogales Project Office
520-281-1832

SOUTHEAST ARIZONA CITIZENS' FORUM

Monday, May 3, 2004

4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Board of Supervisors Hearing Room

Santa Cruz County Complex

2150 N. Congress Drive

Nogales, AZ

Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions - Carlos Marin, USIBWC Deputy Commissioner
- Transforming the Nogales Ports of Entry - David E. Randolph, Border Coordination Officer, Arizona-Mexico Commission
- Nogales International Wastewater Treatment Plant Update - USIBWC Staff
 - Operations and Maintenance Overview
 - Nogales Wash Sanitation
 - Pretreatment
 - Treatment Plant Upgrade
- Public Comment
- Board Discussion

NEXT MEETING WILL BE AUGUST 12 IN COCHISE COUNTY.

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 or e-mail sallyspener@ibwc.state.gov