

For immediate release  
January 22, 2004

## **USIBWC CONDUCTS PUBLIC MEETING FEBRUARY 4 IN BISBEE**

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 Wednesday, February 4, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. in the Board of Supervisors Hearing Room at the Cochise County Complex, 1415 W. Melody Lane, Building B in Bisbee. The event is free and the public is encouraged to attend. 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.

Dr. Anne Browning-Aiken of the Udall Center for Studies in Public Policy at the University of Arizona will discuss creation of an informal binational water basin alliance for the San Pedro River. Stakeholders, including municipal, state, and federal agencies, elected officials, non-governmental organizations, water companies, ranchers, rural land owners, and the Cananea copper mine are working together to develop a basin water conservation plan. They are also discussing possible joint projects on pollution, over-exploitation of resources, and habitat degradation.

USIBWC Deputy Commissioner Carlos Marin will provide information about the Commission's assistance in addressing the problem of landfill fires in Naco, Sonora. Recent fires have affected air quality on both sides of the border.

Also on the agenda, an overview of the Arizona-Mexico Commission (AMC) by Douglas City

Manager Mike Ortega and Placido dos Santos, Border Environmental Manager for the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality. Chaired by the Governor of Arizona, the AMC is a public-private organization that formulates programs and action items that impact the Arizona-Mexico relationship. The AMC's Environment Committee works to find solutions to environmental issues in the border region, proposing initiatives to state officials in Arizona and Sonora. For example, the Environment Committee has promoted binational cooperation for establishment of a wastewater pretreatment program for Nogales, Sonora.

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 Arizona. The SACF is co-chaired by 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 about the meeting can call the USIBWC's Nogales Projects Office at 520-281-1832 or e-mail [sallyspener@ibwc.state.gov](mailto:sallyspener@ibwc.state.gov).

For more information:

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## **SOUTHEAST ARIZONA CITIZENS' FORUM**

**Wednesday, February 4, 2004**

**4:00 - 6:00 p.m.**

Board of Supervisors Hearing Room  
Cochise County Complex, Building B  
1415 W. Melody Ln. (off Hwy. 92)  
Bisbee, AZ

### **Agenda**

- Welcome and Introductions - Carlos Marin, Deputy Commissioner, USIBWC
- Background on the Arizona-Mexico Commission and its Environment Committee - Mike Ortega, Douglas City Manager, and Placido dos Santos, Border Environmental Manager, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
- Creating an Informal Binational Water Basin Alliance - Dr. Anne Browning-Aiken, Sr. Researcher and Pgm. Manager for Environmental Policy and Community Collaboration, Udall Center for Studies in Public Policy, University of Arizona
- Naco Landfill Fires - Carlos Marin, Deputy Commissioner, USIBWC
- Public Comment
- Board Discussion

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](mailto:sallyspener@ibwc.state.gov)