

For immediate release  
August 3, 2004

## **USIBWC CONDUCTS PUBLIC MEETING AUGUST 12 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 Thursday, August 12, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. in the Board of Supervisors Hearing Room at the Cochise County Complex, 1415 W. Melody Lane, Building G 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.

Agenda items include a brief overview of the Sierra Vista Wastewater Reclamation Facility by Brian Bauer of the City of Sierra Vista Department of Public Works. The state-of-the-art facility marks a new era in environmental stewardship for Sierra Vista and the San Pedro sub-basin. The facility demonstrates strong, integrated environmental management across a wide spectrum of categories including recycling, water reuse, waste disposal, native grass restoration, wildlife habitat enhancement, waste diversion, public outreach, and responsible stewardship of public land. The facility increases treatment capacity to 4 million gallons per day, reflects a policy shift from wastewater reuse to groundwater recharge, provides additional protection for the San Pedro River, includes 50 acres of artificial wetlands, and a wildlife viewing platform.

The Citizens' Forum will also hear from Ruben Del Rincon, engineer with IMADES, the Institute of the Environment and Sustainable Development. This Mexican organization is conducting a soil conservation project in Naco, Sonora with the goals of developing sustainable farming and ranching while protecting natural resources like soils and grasslands. As part of the project, IMADES conducted a site assessment and diagnosis of the environmental and socioeconomic state of the community. Then they

constructed works to mitigate erosion at selected sites.

Additionally, USIBWC Nogales Project Manager Steve Tencza will give an update on Commission projects in Nogales, including the planned upgrade for the Nogales International Wastewater Treatment Plant. A consultant was recently selected to evaluate the International Outfall Interceptor, the pipe that conveys sewage from the international border to the treatment plant in Arizona. The aging pipe requires rehabilitation or replacement.

Tencza will also discuss actions undertaken in response to untreated wastewater flows in Nogales Wash. These actions include activation by USIBWC of a pump station to divert wastewater to the Nogales International Wastewater Treatment Plant, use of chlorine to disinfect flows in Mexico, and warning signs.

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. SACF board members represent 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:

Sally Spener  
915-832-4175  
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## **SOUTHEAST ARIZONA CITIZENS' FORUM**

**Thursday, August 12, 2004**

**3:00 - 5:00 p.m.**

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

### **Agenda**

- Welcome and Introductions -John Hays, Citizens' Forum Co-Chair
- Recognition of Board Members - Sally Spener, USIBWC
- Conservation and Restoration of Soil in Naco, Sonora - Ruben Del Rincon, Engineer, Institute of the Environment and Sustainable Development (IMADES)
- Sierra Vista Wastewater Reclamation Facility - Brian Bauer, Management Analyst, City of Sierra Vista Department of Public Works
- An Update on the Nogales Projects - Steve Tencza, USIBWC Nogales Project Manager
- Public Comment
- Board Discussion and Suggested Future Agenda Items

The next meeting will be November 17 in Santa Cruz 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](mailto:sallyspener@ibwc.state.gov)