

For immediate release
May 10, 2007

NOGALES INTERNATIONAL WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT ON AGENDA FOR MAY 22 PUBLIC MEETING

A report on the upgrade of the Nogales International Wastewater Treatment Plant (NIWTP) will be the focus of the next public meeting of the Southeast Arizona Citizens' Forum (SACF) of the United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC). The meeting will take place Tuesday, May 22, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. at the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors, Room 120, 2150 N. Congress Drive in Nogales, Arizona.

John Earl, Project Manager for the construction management team of Faithful+Gould, will provide the NIWTP update. A groundbreaking ceremony for the project was held on May 8. The City of Nogales, Arizona has received a \$59 million grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for the upgrade. The project will consist of the construction of a biological nutrient removal treatment system which includes new headworks, clarifiers, aeration basins, and a sludge thickening system. The NIWTP, located 9 miles north of the international boundary, treats wastewater from the Cities of Nogales, Arizona and Nogales, Sonora. Upon completion, the NIWTP will be capable of treating nearly 15 million gallons per day of wastewater that will comply with all state and federal requirements for discharging into the Santa Cruz River. The upgrade will improve the environmental conditions in and around the river.

The NIWTP is owned by the USIBWC and the City of Nogales, Arizona. The USIBWC operates and maintains the plant while Nogales, Arizona and Mexico pay a share of operating expenses.

In other business, USIBWC Special Projects Engineer Carlos Peña will provide an overview of the proposed structural inspection of the Nogales Wash tunnel. The Nogales Wash is the concrete conveyance system that traverses the Cities of Nogales, Arizona and Sonora. The Nogales Wash tunnel is

approximately 3 miles long and carries storm water through both cities to the confluence of the Santa Cruz River near the NIWTP. The Wash was completed in the 1930s and has not gone through any significant rehabilitation. The U.S. and Mexican Sections of the IBWC are coordinating with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to provide an expert opinion as to the structural integrity of the system. This analysis will provide both governments with information necessary for determining future rehabilitation needs.

The purpose of the Citizens' 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. SACF Board members represent a variety of interests in Santa Cruz and Cochise Counties.

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

For more information:

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SOUTHEAST ARIZONA CITIZENS' FORUM
Tuesday, May 22, 2007
4:00 - 6:00 p.m.
Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors Room 120
2150 N. Congress Drive
Nogales, AZ

Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions - John Light, Citizens' Forum Co-Chair, USIBWC
- Upgrade of the Nogales International Wastewater Treatment Plant - John Earl, Project Manager, Faithful+Gould
- Structural Inspection of the Nogales Wash Tunnel - Carlos Peña, Special Projects Engineer, USIBWC
- Public Comment
- Board Discussion
- Suggested Future Agenda Items

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