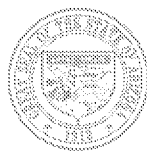


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Arizona State Senate

COMMITTEES:

NATURAL RESOURCES, ENERGY AND
WATER, CHAIR

GOVERNMENT

RULES

January 25, 2018

Edward Drusina, Commissioner
International Boundary and Water Commission, U.S. Section
4171 North Mesa, Suite C-100
El Paso, TX 79902-1441

Alexis Strauss, Acting Regional Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street
Mail Code: ORA-1
San Francisco, CA 94105

Alex Hinojosa, Managing Director
North American Development Bank
203 South St. Mary's, Suite 300
San Antonio, Texas 78205

RE: IMMEDIATE ATTENTION NEEDED – Transboundary untreated sewage flows from Naco, Sonora into Naco, Arizona

Dear Mr. Drusina, Ms. Strauss, and Mr. Hinojosa:

This letter is to request your immediate action to mitigating transboundary untreated sewage flows from Naco, Sonora into Naco, Arizona, including tributaries that eventually feed the San Pedro River in Arizona. Although the frequency of these transboundary sewage flows have increased since the summer of 2017, my home is near Naco and within the legislative district I represent and I am well aware that these issues have impacted this area for well over 20 years.

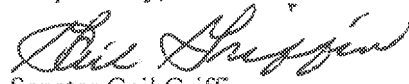
I understand that your agencies have assisted with response actions to stop these sewage flows over the past several months, some of which has included the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) lending Naco, Sonora equipment and the North American Development Bank (NADB) funding rental equipment and services. I also understand that through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Border Environment Infrastructure Fund (BEIF), Naco, Sonora received NADB support in the past for improvements to its wastewater treatment system and that the city has submitted an application through the same program to rehabilitate its current wastewater treatment and collection system. With these items in mind, I request that you please take action to expedite the following:

- EPA and IBWC establish a streamlined process with participation from state partners for cities, counties and municipalities to communicate when a binational sanitary sewer overflow is taking place to trigger response actions within 24 hours of when notification first occurs. Immediate notification and mitigation is critical to protect the residents of this area. As institutions of the federal government, EPA and IBWC should work cooperatively to develop processes and capacity to provide leadership in crisis management of this binational issue when responses are necessary.

- IBWC should ensure that an effective mitigation plan, along with equipment and training, is in place for Naco, Sonora to impede cross-border sewage flows (of treated and untreated wastewater, accidental releases or intentional) by March 30, 2018. I understand that establishing a new Minute with the Mexican Section of IBWC may be necessary to accomplish this. I ask that you please engage State of Arizona partners as you are developing this plan.
- EPA and NADB expedite the review, approval and funding of the Naco, Sonora wastewater treatment system rehabilitation application submitted by the city.
- EPA and NADB, once funding is approved for that project, ensure that grant requirements are met and that maintenance accountability measures are in place. Although infrastructure has been established in the past, Naco, Sonora has been unable to obtain the resources that are necessary to adequately maintain the infrastructure.

I am seeking a lasting solution to this decade's long problem that has significantly and negatively impacted my constituents. Given limited resources we all face, I strongly encourage you to collaborate in a spirit of accomplishing results for our mutual customers. Thank you.

Respectfully,



Senator Gail Griffin
Majority Whip
Arizona State Legislature
LD 14

CC: Jose Nuñez, Principal Engineer, IBWC U.S. Section
Tomás Torres, Water Division Director, U.S. EPA Region 9
Salvador López, Chief Environmental Officer, NADB
ADEQ