

August 20, 2022

TO: Mr. Jaime Chamberlain, Chairman

FROM: Luis Ramirez, President, Ramirez Advisors Inter-National

SUBJECT: Monthly Report of Activities – July 2022

On behalf of Ramirez Advisors Inter-National, LLC (“RAI-N”) we are pleased to present our monthly activity report to you and the Board of Directors of the Greater Nogales Santa Cruz County Port Authority. As always, we request and welcome your continued comments and suggestions as to how we can improve on our services, our communications and on our activities on your behalf. With your feedback, we will make every effort to improve our response to your directives and ensure an effective implementation of the initiatives at hand.

Our recent activities on behalf of the GNSCCPA have focused on the following key areas:

1. Mariposa Cold Room Project Update;
2. FPAA hosts Roundtable discussion with Rep. Stanton;
3. Port Authority presents to ASU Cronkite School’s SUSI Scholars;
4. Port Authority supports Canadian Snowbirds Act;
5. Santa Cruz County receives grant for Broadband development;
6. AMC Transportation Committee meets with State Department on border infrastructure;
7. Arizona Delegation introduce Nogales Wastewater Improvement Act;
8. Port Authority supports federal spending request for Ephraim Canyon Flood Reduction Project; and
9. Port Authority attends EPA Wastewater Virtual Seminar.

This report is not intended to be a full description of all activities but rather, provides highlights and information on the direction of our activities to keep the Board of Directors informed and to ensure adherence to the vision and guidance imparted to RAI-N by the GNSCCPA and its leadership. Throughout this period, RAI-N has maintained active and frequent communications with Ms. Allison Moore, Mr. Bruce Bracker and various other members of the Board of Directors in order to ensure that we have a fully coordinated approach to our efforts. RAI-N stands ready to address any issue, concern or suggestion that may arise from this report and from our on-going dialogue with the leadership and the Board of Directors.

1. *MARIPOSA COLD ROOM PROJECT UPDATE*

- The technical team continues to hold monthly calls to define next steps for the construction phase of the project.
- Contractor personnel has been vetted for access to the port.
- Port Authority has worked out protocols with General Services Administration (GSA) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) for access to the facility, receiving materials and equipment and temporary storage on premises until project is completed.
- Architects and General Contractor are working on providing 100% design, that incorporates all feedback from federal partners in the project.
- Team is considering date for start-up of the project so that PA can host a groundbreaking ceremony.

2. *FPAA HOSTS ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION WITH REP. STANTON*

- On July 7, the Fresh Produce Association of the Americas hosted a roundtable discussion with Congressman Greg Stanton.
- Congressman Stanton sits on the Transportation and Judiciary Committees in the US House of Representatives.
- During the meeting, FPAA President Lance Jungmeyer moderated the discussion.
- Attending the meeting were:
 - Jaime Chamberlain, Chairman
 - The Honorable Bruce Bracker, Supervisor
 - Greg Lucero, South32
 - Rod Sbragia, FPAA Chairman
 - Scott Vandervoet, FPAA Board member
 - Natalia Papachoris, Customs and Border Protection
 - Josh Rubin, INDEX Nogales
 - Olivia Ainza Kramer, Nogales Chamber of Commerce
- While many topics were discussed during the meeting, here is a sample of the topics discussed:
 - Protecting the fresh produce industry in Nogales and Arizona against attacks from Florida and Georgia;
 - Need to modernize the I-19 Interchanges at Ruby Road and Rio Rico;
 - The need to develop a multimodal facility at Rio Rico;
 - The need to modernize the bridges over the wash and the railroad in Nogales;

- The need to re-instate the incentives for CBP personnel that opt for Arizona ports of entry for their posting; and
- The importance of ports of entry for Nogales, Arizona, and the nation.



3. *PORT AUTHORITY PRESENTS TO ASU CRONKITE SCHOOL'S SUSI SCHOLARS*

- On July 7, The Honorable Bruce Bracker and other members of the Board of the PA, participated in a discussion with a group of Scholars from the ASU Cronkite School.
- They were in Nogales to see the realities of the border.
- Supervisor Bracker made a presentation on current PA Activities, and the importance of ports of entry for the local, regional, and national economy.

4. *PORT AUTHORITY SUPPORTS CANADIAN SNOWBIRDS ACT*

- On July 10, 2022, the Port Authority sent a letter to Arizona's Senators Sinema and Kelly, expressing support for the Canadian Snowbirds Act.
- This Act is intended to recognize the importance and impact of Canadian visitors to the United States and strives to make it easier for Canadian visitors to spend up to 8 months in the US without any immigration or tax repercussions for their extended stay.
- Canadian visitors and Canadian companies are selecting Arizona, with greater frequency, as their preferred US destination.
- According to the Canada-Arizona Business Council, more than 500 Canadian companies have made Arizona their home-base for their US operations.

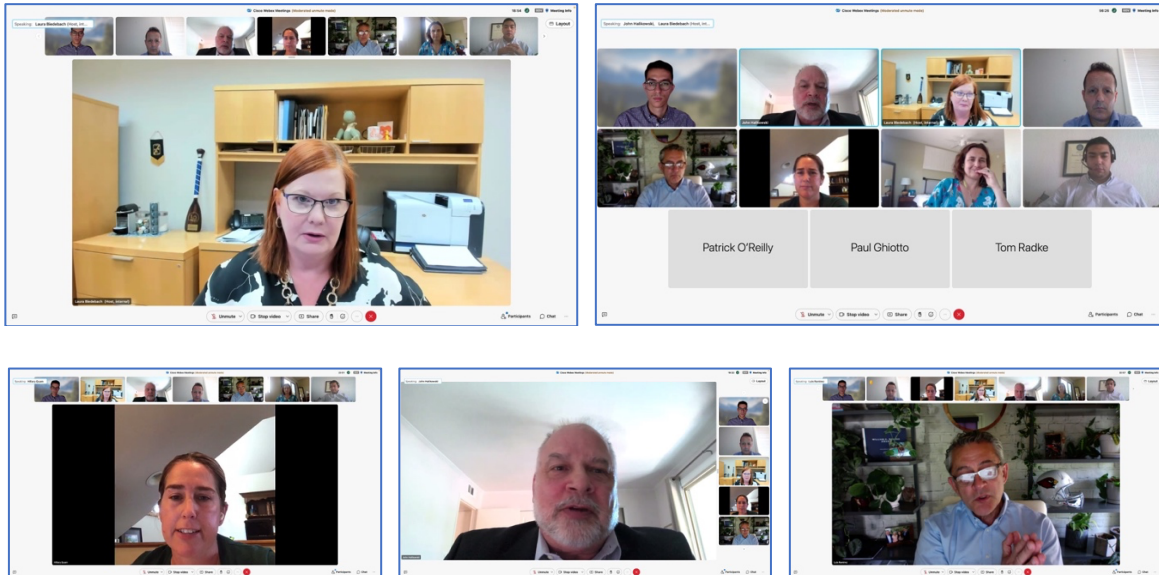
- And many of these companies are also using their operations in Arizona as the launching pad for the Mexican market.
- A copy of the letter can be found in Attachment #1.

5. *SANTA CRUZ COUNTY RECEIVES GRANT FOR BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT*

- On July 12, 2022, the Arizona Commerce Authority (ACA) announced grants totaling \$100 million to be spent throughout rural Arizona to improve access to broadband.
- Among the recipients of the Arizona Broadband Development Grant Program, the ACA announced that Santa Cruz County would be the recipient of a \$2.1 million grant to help improve broadband access in the Patagonia area.
- In a press release from Santa Cruz County, the following details were provided:
 - “Valley Telecom has been awarded \$2.1 Million from the Arizona Commerce Authority’s Broadband Development Grant Program to extend broadband services to Patagonia residents and businesses. In addition to business expansion, high speed broadband also will provide the foundation for K12 schools, higher education, hospitals, public safety agencies and other government facilities to maximize resources available to bring the best services to the area.”
- A copy of the complete press release can be found in Attachment #2.

6. *AMC TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETS WITH US DEPARTMENT OF STATE ON BORDER INFRASTRUCTURE*

- On July 19, the Transportation, Infrastructure and Ports Committee of the AMC held a meeting with the US Department of State’s Mexico Desk to highlight the importance of binational attention to Arizona’s port of entry projects.
- Director John Halikowski, Chairman of the Committee outlined the need to include Arizona’s projects in binational forums and offered to have Arizona host the next US-Mexico Binational Bridges and Border Crossings Meeting in the first week of October 2022.
- Special thanks to Consul General Laura Biedebach for her assistance in setting up this briefing session.



7. **ARIZONA DELEGATION INTRODUCES NOGALES WASTEWATER IMPROVEMENT ACT**

- On July 19, 2022, Senators Kyrsten Sinema and Mark Kelly, along with Congressman Raul Grijalva and Congresswoman Ann Kirkpatrick, introduced the Nogales Wastewater Improvement Act.
- In a joint press release that was published, the members of the delegation stated that the Act “transfers the ownership, operations, and maintenance of the International Outfall Interceptor to the U.S.-section of the International Boundary and Water Commission.”
- In a press release from the office of Senator Sinema, various local leaders were quoted supporting the legislation, including Chairman Chamberlain:
 - *“When the original ownership structure was conceived decades ago, no one ever imagined that the Ambos Nogales region would grow to become one of the most dynamic and fastest growing on the border. This legislation takes into consideration what Nogales has become and offers a safer future for the residents of the binational region,” said Jaime Chamberlain, Chairman of the Greater Nogales Santa Cruz County Port Authority. “We are grateful to Senators Sinema and Kelly, and Congressman Grijalva for working out the details on this long-term solution.”*
- The complete text of the Act is provided in Attachment #3.
- A copy of the complete press release can be found in Attachment #4.

8. ***PORT AUTHORITY SUPPORT FEDERAL SPENDING REQUEST FOR EPHRAIM CANYON FLOOD REDUCTION PROJECT***

- At the request of Santa Cruz County, the Port Authority issued a letter of support for the funding request for approximately \$2.9 million to help complete the funding required for the project.
- A copy of the letter sent in support of the request is provided in Attachment #5.

9. ***PORT AUTHORITY ATTENDS EPA VIRTUAL SEMINAR ON WATER INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS***

- On July 13, 2022, the Environmental Protection Agency hosted a webinar focused on funding for water infrastructure projects.
- Below are some highlights from the EPA webinar presentation on water infrastructure funding opportunities through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. A couple of screenshots are attached as well.
 - *The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law designated \$50 billion to the EPA to fund water infrastructure projects for the next 5 years.*
 - *The vast majority of that funding will be administered through the states in the form of grants or principal forgiveness loans, known as the State Revolving Fund Program (SRF).*
 - *The [Water Infrastructure Finance Authority](#) (WIFA) is responsible for administering Arizona's portion of the EPA funding and has final say on eligibility criteria.*
 - *For 2022, Arizona will receive approx. \$109.5 million for water infrastructure projects. ([EPA](#))*
 - *Among the types of projects eligible are treatment plants for drinking water or wastewater, pipeline upgrades, water/wastewater infrastructure expansion, stormwater and water conservation projects.*
 - *Funding can be used for planning, design, and construction of water infrastructure but cannot be used for operations and maintenance.*
 - *SRF funding can be used as match when applying for other competitive grant programs.*
 - *[Technical assistance programs](#) are available to facilitate access to SRF grant/loan opportunities.*
 - *Additional information on the programs can be found here: <https://www.epa.gov/infrastructure>*

Technical assistance to help communities access BIL SRF funding

- **Need:** many communities need support to access SRF funding
- **Goal:** foster collaboration with states, territories, and tribes to expand availability of technical assistance (TA) to help underserved communities access SRF funding
- **Focuses:**
 - Underserved and disadvantaged communities in rural, urban, and suburban, and tribal areas
 - Community-centered, locally driven solutions
 - Partnership with states, tribes, territories, local governments, and community groups

What is the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)?

- \$50 billion appropriation to EPA for water – **single largest federal investment in water infrastructure ever**
- **Large amount of funding will be grants/forgivable loans for “disadvantaged communities”** – which can help communities better afford necessary infrastructure upgrades
- **Five-year** appropriation timeline
- EPA implementation goals include:
 - Targeting resources to disadvantaged and underserved communities
 - Making rapid progress on lead service line replacement and lead-free water for all
 - Tackling forever chemicals
 - Supporting resilience (including climate resilience) & One Water Innovation
 - Creating good jobs

Mr. Jaime Chamberlain
Greater Nogales Santa Cruz County Port Authority
August 20, 2022

Attachment #1

Copy of presentation to Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors



July 10, 2022

The Honorable Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senate
317 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mark Kelly
United States Senate
516 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Sinema and Kelly,

On behalf of the Greater Nogales Santa Cruz County Port Authority, I write to express our support for S.2096, the Canadian Snowbirds Act. This legislation extends the amount of time Canadian visitors are permitted to stay in Arizona each year.

Canadian visitors are significant contributors to our state's economy with nearly a million Canadian tourists visiting Arizona each year in addition to 100,000 residential tourists or Canadian *Snowbirds*. Allowing Canadian Snowbirds to stay for an additional two months will greatly contribute to our tourism and retail sectors, and as we have seen, many of the visitors to Arizona end up being investors in our state. The story of Canadian visitors that start by staying in our hotels, that move toward purchasing a second home and eventually make significant business investments throughout Arizona, is becoming more frequent and familiar. In fact, many Canadian companies that invest in Arizona are looking to make Arizona as their beachhead to the United States and even to Mexico.

We are grateful for your sponsorship and support of the legislation and hope you will continue to fight to include it in the new reconciliation package, or in other provisions that address the tax implications for Canadian visitors to stay for longer periods of time in Arizona. Nogales and our surrounding areas are a growing destination for Canadian visitors, and it is our hope that with the approval of this bill, more visitors will opt to stay in our hotels, eat in our restaurants and shop in our stores. As always, we are grateful for your continued leadership in representing the interests of Nogales and Arizona.

Respectfully,

Jaime Chamberlain
Chairman

Attachment #2

Copy of Press Release on Broadband Grant

**The Birthplace of Arizona's History
Press Release
August 17, 2022**



Grant to Provide Patagonia Residents Broadband Services

Santa Cruz County, AZ - Valley Telecom has been awarded \$2.1 Million from the Arizona Commerce Authority's Broadband Development Grant Program to extend broadband services to Patagonia residents and businesses. In addition to business expansion, high speed broadband also will provide the foundation for K12 schools, higher education, hospitals, public safety agencies and other government facilities to maximize resources available to bring the best services to the area.

Project Cost

The total project cost for Patagonia is \$2,103,200. Valley Telecom will contribute a required 10% project match totaling \$210,320. Santa Cruz County is committed to assisting VALLEY with obtaining permits for right of ways and other permitting requirements. VALLEY and Santa Cruz County BOS resolutions documenting their commitments to the project are included as attachments.

The Design

The project design is a 100% fiber optic network; therefore, the design and performance of this system reflects advantages available with state-of-the-art, carrier-grade advanced technologies operating at multi-gigabit rates. Unlike optical fiber networks typically designed by other providers in the area, the network design for the VALLEY system will make fiber available to every customer location and can offer carrier-grade service at speeds of up to 400 Gbps upon request.

The result is an optical fiber network that will ensure that residents within the Patagonia have access to broadband services of at least 100/25 Mbps. The proposed broadband solution consists of optical fiber cables, placed aerially or underground, dependent on the terrain and utility pole availability.

"This is the start of a big turning point for our community. The County's vision is for our residents, students, and businesses looking to participate in an ever-growing digital world to have the necessary tools to do so, and this grant is the first step in achieving that goal," said Santa Cruz County Broadband Project Manager and Chief Information Officer, Juan Balderas.

Attachment #3
Text of the Nogales Wastewater Improvement Act

117th CONGRESS
2d Session

S. 4548

To provide for the assumption of full ownership and control of the International Outfall Interceptor in Nogales, Arizona, by the International Boundary and Water Commission, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

July 19, 2022

Ms. Sinema (for herself and Mr. Kelly) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

A BILL

To provide for the assumption of full ownership and control of the International Outfall Interceptor in Nogales, Arizona, by the International Boundary and Water Commission, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ``Nogales Wastewater Improvement Act of 2022''.

SEC. 2. AMENDMENT TO THE ACT OF JULY 27, 1953.

The first section of the Act of July 27, 1953 (67 Stat. 195, chapter 242; 22 U.S.C. 277d-10), is amended by striking the period at the end and inserting ``: Provided further, That the equitable portion of the Nogales sanitation project for the city of Nogales, Arizona, shall be limited to the costs directly associated with the treatment and conveyance of the wastewater of the city and, to the extent practicable, shall not include any costs directly associated with the quality or quantity of wastewater originating in Mexico.''.

SEC. 3. NOGALES SANITATION PROJECT.

(a) Definitions.--In this section:

(1) City.--The term ``City'' means the City of Nogales, Arizona.

(2) Commission.--The term ``Commission'' means the United States Section of the International Border and Water Commission.

(3) International outfall interceptor.--The term ``International Outfall Interceptor'' means the pipeline that conveys wastewater from the United States-Mexico border to the

Nogales International Wastewater Treatment Plant.

(4) Nogales international wastewater treatment plant.--The term ``Nogales International Wastewater Treatment Plant'' means the wastewater treatment plant that--

- (A) is operated by the Commission;
- (B) is located in Rio Rico, Santa Cruz County, Arizona, after manhole 99; and
- (C) treats sewage and wastewater originating from--
 - (i) Nogales, Sonora, Mexico; and
 - (ii) Nogales, Arizona.

(b) Ownership and Control.--

(1) In general.--Subject to paragraph (2) and in accordance with authority under the Act of July 27, 1953 (67 Stat. 195, chapter 242; 22 U.S.C. 277d-10 et seq.), on transfer by donation from the City of the current stake of the City in the International Outfall Interceptor to the Commission, the Commission shall enter into such agreements as are necessary to assume full ownership and control over the International Outfall Interceptor.

(2) Agreements required.--The Commission shall assume full ownership and control over the International Outfall Interceptor under paragraph (1) after all applicable governing bodies in the State of Arizona, including the City, have--

- (A) signed memoranda of understanding granting to the Commission access to existing easements for a right of entry to the International Outfall Interceptor for the life of the International Outfall Interceptor;
- (B) entered into an agreement with respect to the flows entering the International Outfall Interceptor that are controlled by the City; and
- (C) agreed to work in good faith to expeditiously enter into such other agreements as are necessary for the Commission to operate and maintain the International Outfall Interceptor.

(c) Operations and Maintenance.--

(1) In general.--Beginning on the date on which the Commission assumes full ownership and control of the International Outfall Interceptor under subsection (b) (1), but subject to subsection (e), the Commission shall be responsible for the operations and maintenance of the International Outfall Interceptor.

(2) Authorization of appropriations.--There are authorized to be appropriated to the Commission to carry out this subsection, to remain available until expended--

- (A) \$4,400,000 for fiscal year 2023; and
- (B) not less than \$2,500,000 for fiscal year 2024 and each fiscal year thereafter.

(d) Debris Screen.--

(1) Debris screen required.--

(A) In general.--The Commission shall construct, operate, and maintain a debris screen at Manhole One of the International Outfall Interceptor for intercepting debris and drug bundles coming to the United States from Nogales, Sonora, Mexico.

(B) Requirement.--In constructing and operating the debris screen under subparagraph (A), the Commission and the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall coordinate--

- (i) the removal of drug bundles and other illicit goods caught in the debris screen; and
- (ii) other operations at the International

Outfall Interceptor that require coordination.

(2) Authorization of appropriations.--There are authorized to be appropriated to the Commission, to remain available until expended--

(A) \$11,900,000 for fiscal year 2023 for construction of the debris screen described in paragraph (1) (A); and

(B) \$2,200,000 for fiscal year 2024 and each fiscal year thereafter for the operations and maintenance of the debris screen described in paragraph (1) (A).

(e) Limitation of Claims.--Chapter 171 and section 1346(b) of title 28, United States Code (commonly known as the ``Federal Tort Claims Act''), shall not apply to any claim arising from the activities of the Commission in carrying out this section, including any claim arising from damages that result from overflow of the International Outfall Interceptor due to excess inflow to the International Outfall Interceptor originating from Nogales, Sonora, Mexico.

Attachment #4

Press Release on Nogales Wastewater Improvement Act

**SINEMA, KELLY, GRIJALVA, KIRKPATRICK INTRODUCE WASTEWATER PIPELINE
LEGISLATION REPRESENTING HISTORIC AGREEMENT ON NOGALES' INTERNATIONAL
OUTFALL INTERCEPTOR**

Tuesday, July 19, 2022

The bicameral legislation – introduced by Sinema and cosponsored by Kelly in the U.S. Senate and introduced by Grijalva and cosponsored by Kirkpatrick in the U.S. House – transfers ownership, operations, and maintenance responsibilities of the International Outfall Interceptor to the U.S. – providing long-awaited relief to the health and safety of Nogales communities

WASHINGTON – Arizona Senators Kyrsten Sinema and Mark Kelly and Representatives Raúl Grijalva (AZ-03) and Ann Kirkpatrick (AZ-02) introduced the Nogales Wastewater Improvement Act – bicameral legislation that transfers the ownership, operations, and maintenance of the International Outfall Interceptor to the U.S.-section of the International Boundary and Water Commission, securing a historic agreement between the City of Nogales and the federal government.

“We’re proud to have secured this historic agreement between the City of Nogales and the federal government, and we immediately introduced legislation to transfer the ownership, operations, and maintenance responsibilities to the U.S. International Boundary and Water Commission to keep Nogales families safe and healthy,” said Sinema.

“For too long, the City of Nogales has received little to no support from Washington on this issue. Our bill will finally provide the City of Nogales with a permanent solution, which protects public health and improves infrastructure in Arizona’s border communities,” said Kelly. “Glad to work with Representatives Grijalva and Kirkpatrick and Senator Sinema to get this done for Arizona.”

“After years of working to provide urgent resources to repair the failing International Outfall Interceptor pipeline, I am happy to introduce this negotiated legislation to once and for all clarify the operations and maintenance of the pipeline. We must ensure that the city of Nogales is not burdened with a disproportionate share of responsibility for an international pipeline. This issue has been a persistent public health threat and has weighed on the city for far too long,” said Grijalva. “I am grateful for the work of Sen. Sinema, the city of Nogales, Arizona Department of Environment Quality and especially to U.S. IBWC Commissioner Maria-Elena Giner for being a willing partner to solve this longstanding issue. Every community should be able to live in an environment that

allows them to thrive and be free from environmental hazards. This joint legislation will move us toward that goal.”

“This legislation is a great step forward for the health and wellbeing of Nogales and the surrounding area. It is crucial that we ensure operations and maintenance of this pipeline are clear and efficient – and this agreement simply makes sense from a cost and management perspective. I am grateful to work with my colleagues in the House and Senate on this project and I look forward to the continued and growing partnership between the City of Nogales and the U.S. International Boundary Water Commission on repairing this necessary pipeline for our communities,” said Kirkpatrick.

“The City of Nogales is gratified at the time and attention all parties have put into making this consensus bill a reality, especially Sen. Sinema’s office. We believe this is a major step forward in rebuilding our relationship with the USIBWC and putting it on a solid footing. We hope Congress will speedily pass this legislation, as it is long overdue,” said Nogales Mayor Arturo Garino.

“When the original ownership structure was conceived decades ago, no one ever imagined that the Ambos Nogales region would grow to become one of the most dynamic and fastest growing on the border. This legislation takes into consideration what Nogales has become and offers a safer future for the residents of the binational region,” said Jaime Chamberlain, Chairman of the Greater Nogales Santa Cruz County Port Authority. “We are grateful to Senators Sinema and Kelly, and Congressman Grijalva for working out the details on this long-term solution.”

“This is an important step forward in ensuring the continued maintenance and safety of an important wastewater pipeline that runs directly through our community, including through key commercial areas,” said Lance Jungmeyer, president of the Fresh Produce Association of the Americas. “We value the leadership of Senators Kyrsten Sinema and Mark Kelly and Congressman Raul Grijalva for their commitment in resolving this issue. Designated federal ownership of the international outflow interceptor ensures a continued ability to safely move and treat wastewater that flows through the heart of Nogales and north into the U.S.”

“When you combine this change in the ownership structure with the \$38 million investment being made to modernize the IOI, we can be assured of a certain future for residents and businesses in the region. I would like to thank Senator Sinema, Senator Kelly, Congressman Grijalva and Congresswoman Kirkpatrick for their perseverance that resulted in this bill. Placing the responsibility of maintaining and operating this international wastewater system in the hands of the U.S. federal government is the best outcome for the residents of Nogales and Santa Cruz County,” said Bruce Bracker, Chairman of the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors

“We want to thank Senators Sinema and Kelly along with Representatives Kirkpatrick and Grijalva for their leadership and commitment to solving a 40 year-old problem. This legislation gets us much closer to the final piece of a multi-year effort to rehabilitate and maintain critical water infrastructure in Southern Arizona,” said ADEQ Director Misael Cabrera, P.E.

For decades, the City of Nogales has continually tried to seek federal funds and additional ownership responsibility from the U.S. International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) for necessary infrastructure improvements on an international sewage pipe that flows from Mexico through Nogales, Arizona to the Nogales International Wastewater Treatment Facility in Rio Rico, Arizona.

Families in Nogales have faced challenges with untreated wastewater coming from Mexico and overflowing into streets during storm events. This legislation will streamline the ability for the government to respond to crises on the US-side of the border and authorizes full funding for operations and maintenance into the future.

Sinema’s legislation, cosponsored by fellow Arizona Senator Mark Kelly, will provide long-awaited relief to the health and safety of Nogales communities by transferring the ownership, operations, and maintenance responsibilities from the city to the U.S.-side of the International Boundary and Water Commission. Representatives Raúl Grijalva (AZ-03) and Ann Kirkpatrick (AZ-2) introduced companion legislation in the U.S. House.

Attachment #5

Copy of letter in support of Funding Request for Ephraim Canyon



July 26, 2022

The Honorable Mark Kelly
United States Senate
516 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: FY23 Congressional Direct Spending Request – Santa Cruz County Storm
Management at Ephraim Canyon

Dear Senator Kelly:

On behalf of the Greater Nogales Santa Cruz County Port Authority, I write to express our support for Santa Cruz County's request for additional project funding for the Ephraim Canyon Flood Reduction Project. The project is located in the City of Nogales, Santa Cruz County, Arizona. It will construct a retention/detention basin on undeveloped land between Interstate-19 and the Mariposa Port of Entry to reduce downstream flows and mitigate potential damage during 100-year storm events.

The project will decrease the 100-year discharge from 3,460 cubic feet per second (CFS) to approximately 299 CFS along Western Avenue. It will remove approximately 171 parcels and 250 structures from the FEMA Floodplain, a great benefit to the community. In addition, the reduced flow will help protect the International Boundary and Water Commission's (IBWC) International Outfall Interceptor (IOI).

Santa Cruz County is requesting \$3,000,000 to complete the project. The County has already secured \$8,407,440 from FEMA's Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant, which requires a \$2,943,822 match. The project's estimated construction cost is \$14,000,000. It is anticipated that the construction for this project will begin in the fiscal year of 2023.

This project is an integral part of the broader efforts to address the recurring damage resulting from storm-water flows. Thank you for your consideration of this critical project for the safety of the residents of Santa Cruz County.

Respectfully,

Jaime Chamberlain
Chairman