



Congressman

RAUL M. GRIJALVA

Serving the people of Arizona's 7th District

Nogales Wastewater Improvement Act



BACKGROUND INFORMATION

For decades, the City of Nogales has continually tried to seek federal funds and release 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. Every year 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. Ensures that the city of Nogales is not burdened with a disproportionate share of responsibility for an international pipeline.



FIVE REASONS TO SUPPORT THE BILL

1. Transfers ownership, operations, and maintenance responsibilities of the International Outfall Interceptor pipeline to the U.S. – providing long-awaited relief to the health and safety of Nogales communities.
2. Addresses the aging infrastructure and safeguards the well-being of Nogales so that the people of Nogales need not to worry about contaminants and pollutants in their water.
3. Requires the installation and upkeep of a debris screen near the border for intercepting debris and drug bundles coming to the United States from Nogales, Sonora.
4. Reduces expenses as it requires the city to pay their “equitable portion” limited to the costs directly associated with the treatment of the wastewater originating in Nogales, Ariz. and not include any costs associated with wastewater originating in Mexico.
5. Designates federal ownership of the international outflow interceptor pipeline ensuring a continued ability to safely move and treat wastewater that flows through the heart of Nogales and north into the U.S.