
For Immediate Release:
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Organizers Decide to Change Site of Water District Public Meeting To Larger Venue for Expected Crowd in Sierra Vista

COCHISE COUNTY – The Organizing Board of the proposed Upper San Pedro Water District will move the Tuesday, Feb. 2, meeting in Sierra Vista to a larger venue after a big turnout in Tombstone to discuss the formation of the District.

The Sierra Vista public meeting now is scheduled for Tuesday at the Windemere Hotel ballroom from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., with a brief presentation at 5:45 p.m. The Windemere is at 2047 S. Highway 92 in Sierra Vista and the telephone number is 520-459-5900. The meeting originally was to be held at the Cochise County Foothills Complex.

Staff members will redirect people who show up at the Cochise County Foothills Complex Tuesday to the Windemere Hotel.

The decision to change the site was made after a large turnout of interested citizens at the initial public meeting Thursday, Jan. 28, in Tombstone, during which engaging discussions took place.

The series of meetings are an opportunity to discuss preliminary plans for the District and to hear details about the District's proposed goals and projects, funding sources, economic implications, and comparison to a "no action" alternative.

The District would serve to protect the area's water supply for its dependent communities and economies. The District also would retain local control over water management actions in the Sierra Vista Subwatershed and serve to protect the Upper San Pedro River.

The formation of the District and a seven-member board of directors are planned to be on the November 2010 election ballot.

The importance of the San Pedro River's water supply to the region's residents, environment and economy – in particular Fort Huachuca – has been an ongoing concern. Local communities were authorized by the Arizona Legislature in 2007 to form a Water District to preserve the river and the environment and the people and economies that depend on it.

A total of five meetings, the first of which was in Tombstone, are scheduled in communities within the proposed District boundaries. Residents are encouraged to attend to learn more about the proposed District and to ask questions and provide feedback on the set of draft plans the Organizing Board has prepared. The set of draft plans include a water resources plan, financial plan, organizational plan, and an election plan.

The meeting schedule is Sierra Vista on Tuesday; Bisbee on Feb. 10; Huachuca City on Feb. 23; and Hereford/Palominas on March 1. All meetings are scheduled from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., with a brief presentation at 5:45 p.m.

Residents are strongly encouraged to attend and learn about the District's proposed plans.

The meetings also will be a chance for residents to comment on the types of "action elements" the District board would pursue.

A second round of public meetings is planned for April and May to report back to the public on input received, how the input has been considered, how the input will be incorporated into the planning process, and to discuss the Organizing Board's recommendations.

The Comprehensive Water Resources Draft Plan can be viewed at www.azwater.gov/AzDWR/StatewidePlanning/SWAG/. Additional information can be viewed after **Jan. 28 at www.sanpedrowaterdistrict.org**. To submit comments in writing, please contact Melissa Benton, 2540 N. Tucson Blvd., Tucson, AZ 85716; phone 520-327-6077; fax 520-327-4687; or e-mail melissa@gordleydesign.com. Written comments are requested by March 15, 2010.

Meetings sites and contact information on the public meetings follow:

Tuesday, Feb. 2

Sierra Vista:

Windemere Hotel ballroom

2047 S. Highway 92

Sierra Vista, AZ 85635

520-459-5900

Wednesday, Feb. 10

Bisbee:

Bisbee Senior Center

300 Collins Rd.

Bisbee, AZ 85603

520-432-2167

Tuesday, Feb. 23

Huachuca City:

Huachuca City Community Center

500 N. Gonzales Blvd.

Huachuca City, AZ 85616

520-456-1354

Monday, March 1

Hereford/Palominas:

Palominas Elementary School

10385 E. Highway 92

Hereford, AZ 85615

520-366-6204

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