

Total Maximum Daily Load Progress Report	
Regional Water Board	Colorado River Basin, Region 7
Beneficial uses affected:	RARE, REC-1, REC-2, WARM, WILD
Pollutant(s) addressed:	Trash
Implemented through:	3 rd Party (USIBWC and U.S. EPA)
Approval date:	September 24, 2007

New River Trash TMDL	
STATUS	<input type="checkbox"/> Conditions Improving
	<input type="checkbox"/> Data Inconclusive
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Improvement Needed
	<input type="checkbox"/> TMDL Achieved/Waterbody Delisted

TMDL Summary

The New River originates about twenty miles south of the International Boundary, in the Mexicali Valley, Mexico, and flows northward into the United States to its terminus at the Salton Sea in Imperial County, California. The New River is dominated by industrial and municipal wastewater treatment discharges and agricultural wastewater discharges from both Mexico and the Imperial Valley. The presence of trash violates the water quality objectives established to protect warm water ecosystems, endangered species, and recreational beneficial uses of the New River.

A [TMDL for trash in the New River](#) was completed by the Colorado River Basin Regional Board and approved by U.S. EPA in September 2007. Although the entire river is listed as impaired on the 303(d) List, this TMDL specifically addresses trash impairment immediately downstream of the International Boundary between the U.S. and Mexico. TMDL implementation relies on controlling trash pollution from Mexico. The Regional Board does not have jurisdictional authority over Mexico, and relies on cooperation from Mexico and the U.S. government to reduce trash that crosses the International Boundary. The TMDL is implemented in 2 phases over 3 years.

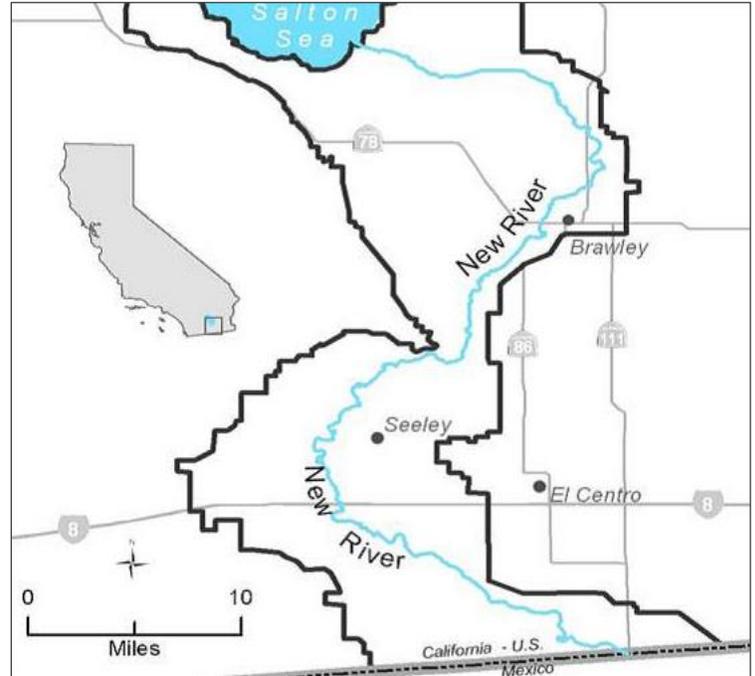
TMDL Reductions and Targets

Phase	Time Period	Reduction from Existing Conditions ^a	Allowable Load (tons/yr)
Existing Conditions	During TMDL Development	0%	–
Interim Numeric Target (Phase I)	Within 2 years of initial actions	75%	30
Final Numeric Target (Phase II)	Within 3 years of initial actions	100%	0

^a Percent reduction required at the end of each phase, starting with the current (2005) average of 120 tons/year.

New River Trash TMDL

New River Watershed



Water Quality Outcomes

- No implementation actions have been taken to date.
- Negotiations are ongoing to ensure coordination of International Boundary projects to bring the New River into compliance.
- Regional Board staff has requested the U.S. International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) and U.S. EPA (1) ensure Mexico does not violate the TMDL, (2) conduct water quality and trash monitoring, and (3) submit monitoring data and reports to the Regional Board.

New River

In 2007, more than 112,000 cubic feet of trash per day could be found in Mexicali drains and reaches.



Trash at the New River banks near the International Boundary. June 2006.



New River at the International Boundary. Mexico is across the border. June 2006.



Trash at the New River banks near the International Boundary next to a parking lot. June 2006.