



California Regional Water Quality Control Board

Colorado River Basin Region



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Matthew Rodriguez
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Imperial Valley Residents, Business Owners Invited to Comment on Strategies Addressing New River Problems

Three public meetings in November will allow comments on alternatives to clean up the New River.

A technical advisory committee, which has been working on a plan to clean up the New River, will host three public meetings in Imperial County on November 21 and 22, 2011, to receive public comments on alternatives to address the New River pollution. The meetings are a result of AB 1079, authored by Assemblyman Manuel Perez (D-Cathedral City), which calls for the development of a strategic plan for the New River. Since AB 1079 was signed into law in October 2009, the technical advisory committee has substantially completed work on the plan. The meetings will be held on Monday, November 21 and Tuesday, November 22, in the cities of Calexico, El Centro and Brawley, as listed in the following schedule:

Calexico

- Monday, November 21, 2011, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. (Presentations at 6:30 p.m.)
- **City of Calexico, Cultural Arts Center**
- 421 Heffernan Street, **Calexico**, CA 92231

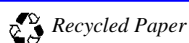
El Centro

- Tuesday, November 22, 2011, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. (Presentations at 1:30 p.m.)
- Imperial Irrigation District, Board Room
- 1285 Broadway Avenue, El Centro, CA 92243

Brawley

- Tuesday, November 22, 2011, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. (Presentations at 6:30 p.m.)
- Hidalgo Society
- 410 South Cesar Chavez Street, Brawley, CA 92227

California Environmental Protection Agency



The committee membership is made up of local residents, non-governmental groups, and regional and state officials. The meetings build on previous public meetings held in February 2011, and are designed to allow the public to comment on the plan. "We are looking forward to any comments we might receive from residents, farmers, and business owners interested in the future of the New River," said Jose Luis Olmedo, a member of the Committee and Executive Director of Comité Cívico del Valle.

The Technical Advisory Committee has formulated a series of strategic actions to address the New River water quality problems. Brief presentations on the alternatives to clean up the river will begin at 1:30 p.m. at the El Centro meeting and at 6:30 p.m. at both the Brawley and the Calexico meetings.

The New River Improvement Project Strategic Plan process is being funded by a \$400,000 grant from the State Water Quality Control Board. Additional funding for the New River Improvement Project designated by AB 1079 includes \$800,000 from Proposition 84, and \$3.2 million from the federal Transportation Equity Act, a grant program administered in California by Caltrans.

For more information about the New River Improvement Project, visit <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/Border/NewRiver/>. Ideas for the future of the New River can be emailed to newriver@calepa.ca.gov, faxed to (916) 324-0908, or mailed to:

New River Improvement Project
California Environmental Protection Agency
Border Affairs Section
1001 I Street, 24th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

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