Water Quality Report Card

Sediment in New River

Regional Water Board: Colorado River Basin, Region 7

Beneficial Uses Affected: RARE, REC-1, REC-2, WARM, WILD

STATUS Conditions Improving

Implemented Through: IVILC Coalition

Pollutant Type: Nonpoint Source

Pollutant Source: Irrigated Crop Production

Effective Date: March 31, 2003

Attainment Date: 2030

Water Quality Improvement Strategy

The New River originates south of the International Boundary, in Mexico, and flows north to the Salton Sea in Imperial County, California. Dominated by discharges from Mexicali and Imperial Valley agriculture, the New River exceeds water quality standards for sediments and is impaired on the 303(d) list. To address the impairment, the Regional Water Board (RWB) adopted an Imperial Valley General Order for Irrigated Agricultural Lands (Order) in December 2021. The Order includes the State Board precedential requirements with enhanced management practice implementation, monitoring, and reporting, accountability, and backstop measures. RWB staff are working with the coalition and agricultural community to address recurring exceedances of TSS.

TMDL Waste Load Allocations/Load Allocations

Phase	Time Period	Reduction from Existing Conditions[a]	Target (TSS mg/L)
Phase 1	2003-2006	5%	229
Phase 2	2007-2009	7%	213
Phase 3	2010-2012	4%	204
Phase 4	2013-2015	2%	200

[a] Percent reductions indicate the reduction required in TSS at the end of each phase, starting with the (2002) average concentration of 306 mg/L.

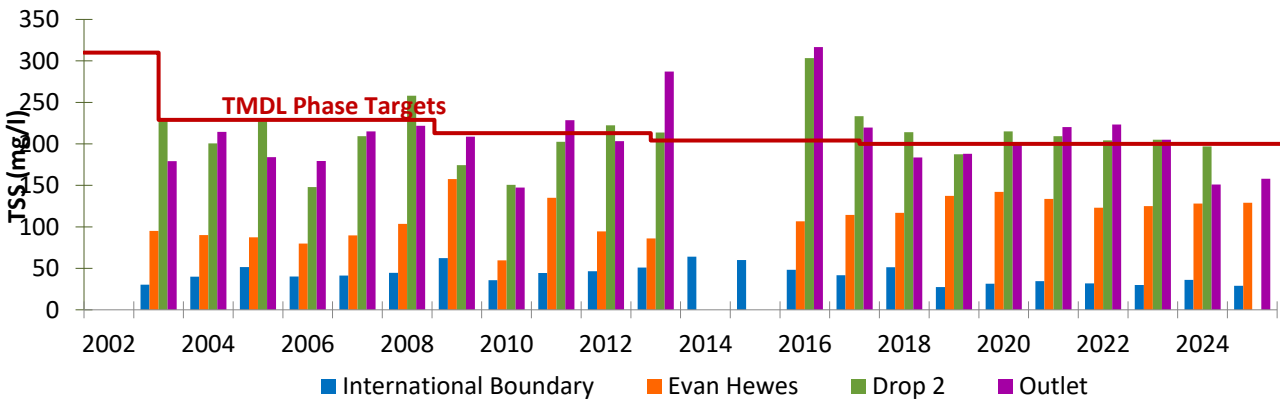
New River Watershed Map



Water Quality Outcomes

- *Water quality data show that sediment concentrations in the New River are improving and have met the target in 2024.*
- *Upstream monitoring sites (Evan Hewes and International Boundary) have always met the targets while downstream sites (Drop 2 and Outlet) are more variable and are not consistently being met yet.*

Water Quality



Released October 2026