

Water Quality Report Card		Trash in the New River	
Regional Water Board:	Colorado River Basin, Region 7	STATUS	<input type="checkbox"/> Conditions Improving
Beneficial Uses Affected:	RARE, REC-1, REC-2, WARM, WILD		<input type="checkbox"/> Data Inconclusive
Implemented Through:	3 rd Party (USIBWC and USEPA)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Improvement Needed
Effective Date:	September 2007		<input type="checkbox"/> Targets Achieved/Water Body Delisted
Attainment Date:	2010	Pollutant Type:	<input type="checkbox"/> Point Source <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nonpoint Source <input type="checkbox"/> Legacy

Water Quality Improvement Strategy

The New River originates in Mexico, approximately twenty miles south of the International Boundary, 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 discharges, and agricultural wastewater discharges from both Mexico and the Imperial Valley, located in Imperial County. The presence of trash exceeds water quality objectives established to protect warm water ecosystems, endangered species, and recreational beneficial uses of the New River.

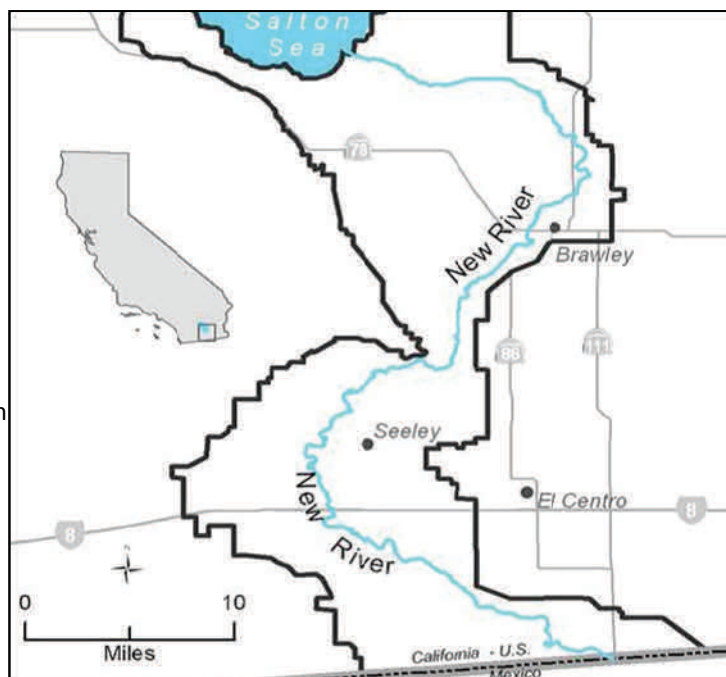
A [TMDL for trash in the New River](#) at the International Boundary was completed by the Regional Water Board and approved by the USEPA in September 2007. Although the entire River is listed as impaired for trash on the 303(d) List, this TMDL specifically addresses trash impairment immediately downstream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

TMDL Reduction 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 Watershed

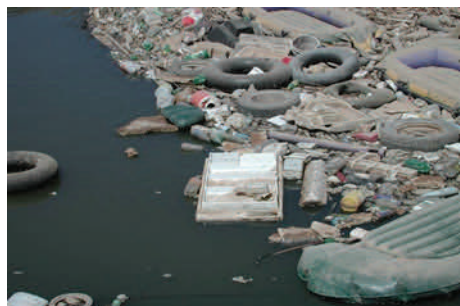


Water Quality Outcomes

- No assessment of trash has been taken to date since the adoption of the TMDL by the USEPA.
- Negotiations are ongoing to ensure coordination of International Boundary projects to bring the New River into compliance.
- The Regional Water Board has requested the USEPA to ensure Mexico does not violate the TMDL, to conduct water quality and trash monitoring, and to submit monitoring data and reports to the Regional Water Board.
- There are no next steps for the Regional Water Board at this time. TMDL implementation relies on controlling trash in the TMDL area through cooperation from the US Government and Mexico. To date, the US Government (USEPA and USIBWC) has not completed the TMDL implementation requested actions to assess and ensure control of trash.

Photo Documentation of Trash in the New River

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



Trash in the New River near the International Boundary. June 2006.



New River at the International Boundary with Mexico. June 2006.



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

Updated December 2015