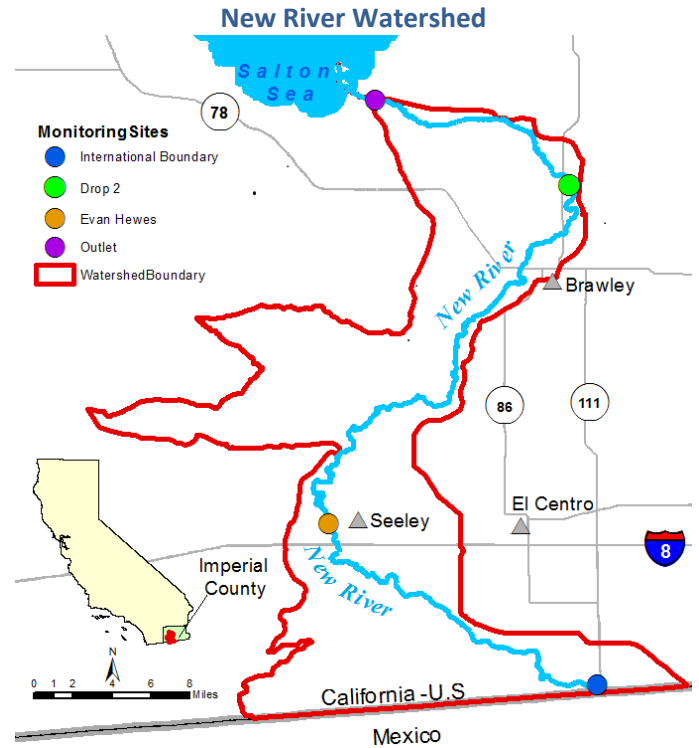


Water Quality Report Card		Pathogens in New River	
Regional Water Board:	Colorado River Basin, Region 7	STATUS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conditions Improving
Beneficial Uses Affected:	REC-1, REC-2		<input type="checkbox"/> Data Inconclusive
Implemented Through:	NPDES Permits, 3 rd Party (USIBWC)		<input type="checkbox"/> Improvement Needed
Effective Date:	August 14, 2002	Pollutant Type:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Point Source <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nonpoint Source <input type="checkbox"/> Legacy
Attainment Date:	2005		Pollutant Source:

Water Quality Improvement Strategy

The New River originates about 20 miles south of the International Boundary (IB) in the Mexicali Valley, Mexico, and flows north into the U.S. to its terminus at the Salton Sea in Imperial County, California. In 2006, the New River was listed as impaired for pathogens on the USEPA Clean Water Act 303(d) List. We infer the presence of pathogens from high *E. coli* and fecal coliform bacteria concentrations, common indicators of fecal contamination. *E. coli* and fecal coliform impair the entire segment of the New River in the United States, exceeding the water quality objectives (WQOs) established to protect recreational beneficial uses of the river. Impairment is most severe at the IB due to discharges of waste from Mexico, which account for approximately one-third of the river's total flow. To address the pathogen impairment, the Colorado River Basin Regional Water Board adopted the [New River Pathogen TMDL](#), which became effective in August 2002. TMDL implementation calls for controlling pathogens in wastewater discharges in the U.S. and at the IB. Because the Regional Water Board lacks jurisdictional authority over Mexico, implementation relies on cooperation between Mexico and the U.S. governments to reduce waste and bacterial concentrations that cross into the U.S. at the IB.



Water Quality Outcomes

- After the Las Arenitas Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) began operations in Mexico in March 2007, water quality monitoring data demonstrate significant reductions in *E. coli* and fecal coliform concentrations at New River at IB monitoring site and in *E. coli* concentrations at all monitoring sites.
- Although conditions are improving data show that New River bacteria WQOs have not been met.
- Recent infrastructure failures in Mexicali, Mexico were responsible for discharges of raw and partially-treated sewage in the New River, and for high numbers of *E. coli* and fecal coliform at the International Border between 2015-2018.
- Negotiations between U.S. and Mexico, and associated agencies, are ongoing to ensure coordination of IB projects to bring the New River into compliance.

E. Coli Concentrations in New River

