

Water Quality Report Card

Sediment in New River

Regional Water Board:	Colorado River Basin, Region 7
Beneficial Uses Affected:	WARM, WILD, RARE, REC-1, REC-2
Implemented Through:	ICFB, IID, Prohibition
Effective Date:	March 31, 2003
Attainment Date:	2015

STATUS Data Inconclusive

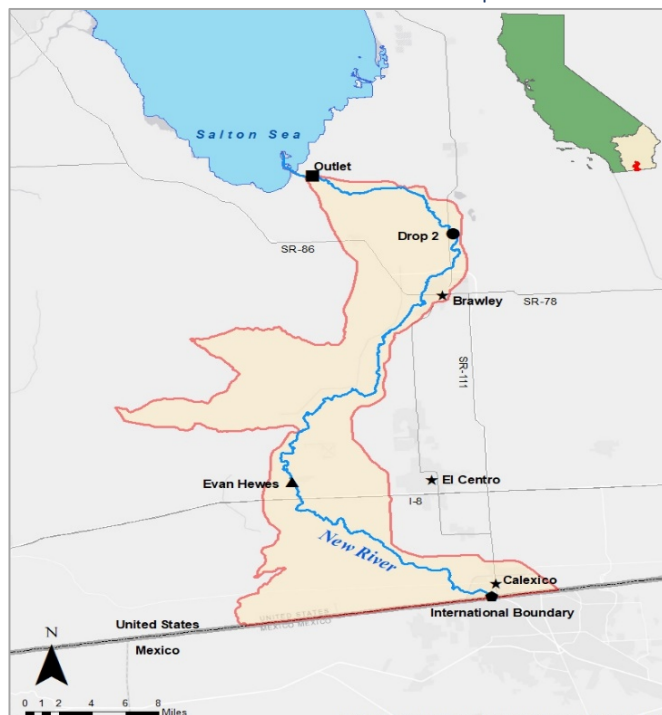
Pollutant Type: Nonpoint Source

Pollutant Source: Non-Point Source Runoff

Water Quality Improvement Strategy

The New River flows north into the U.S. from Mexico, beginning roughly 20 miles south of the border, and terminates at the Salton Sea in Imperial County. Discharges from Imperial Valley agriculture as well as Mexican agriculture and industry dominate the inflows. Because of these sources, the New River exceeds the water quality objectives for total suspended solids (TSS) set to protect warm water habitats, endangered species, and recreational beneficial uses. The [Sedimentation/Siltation Total Maximum Daily Load \(TMDL\)](#) was adopted in 2003 for the New River to address this impairment. An agricultural [sediment conditional prohibition](#) for the Imperial Valley was adopted by Region 7 to implement the TMDL and became effective in 2005. Imperial County Farm Bureau (ICFB) also has a voluntary [Sediment TMDL Compliance Program](#) for farmers to implement best management practices that reduce sediment inputs. Implementation is through controlling sediment, or TSS, from runoff by Imperial Valley farmers and has consisted of four phases over 12 years. The [Conditional Waiver](#) for agricultural discharges in Imperial Valley was adopted in 2015 and incorporated TMDL requirements. Imperial Irrigation District (IID) and ICFB created the coalition to implement the waiver requirements and started monitoring in 2016.

New River Watershed Map



Water Quality Outcomes

- The implementation of the Conditional Waiver is expected to improve water quality by controlling sediment loading. Current data are inconclusive due to high variability of sediment loading.
- Upstream monitoring sites (Evan Hewes and International Boundary) have always met the targets while downstream sites (Drop 2 and Outlet) are more variable.
- Region 7 is developing an Agricultural General Order of Waste Discharge Requirements that will require monitoring for all agricultural water quality constituents of concern and implementation of management practices.

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.

