

## **APPENDIX A: NEW RIVER WATER QUALITY OBJECTIVES AND BENEFICIAL USES**

Basin plan numeric and narrative water quality objectives (WQOs) for DO for surface waters in the Colorado River Basin Region and, in particular, for the New River at the International Boundary, were established by the Regional Board to protect beneficial uses. Documented violations of WQOs confirm that beneficial uses of the Region's surface waters have been and continue to be impaired. Table A1 summarizes WQOs for all surface waters in the Colorado River Basin Region, including the New River. Table A2 provides WQOs specific to the New River at the International Boundary. Table A3 summarizes beneficial uses of the New River that are impaired by low DO.

**Table A1: WQOs - General Surface Water Objectives**

<b>Parameter</b>	<b>General Surface Water Objectives</b>
<b>Aesthetic Qualities</b>	All waters shall be free from substances attributable to wastewater of domestic or industrial origin or other discharges which adversely affect beneficial uses not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Settling to form objectionable deposits;</li> <li>❖ Floating as debris, scum, grease, oil, wax, or other matter that may cause nuisances: and</li> <li>❖ Producing objectionable color, odor, taste, or turbidity.</li> </ul>
<b>DO</b>	The DO concentration shall not be reduced below the following minimum levels at any time: WARM.....5.0 mg/L
<b>Suspended Solids</b>	Discharges of wastes or wastewater shall not contain suspended or settleable solids in concentrations which increase the turbidity of receiving waters, unless it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Regional Board that such alteration in turbidity does not adversely affect beneficial uses.
<b>Biostimulatory Substances</b>	Waters shall not contain biostimulatory substances in concentrations that promote aquatic growths to the extent that such growths cause nuisance or adversely affect beneficial uses. Nitrate and phosphate limitations will be placed on industrial discharges to New and Alamo Rivers and irrigation basins on a case-by-case basis, taking into consideration the beneficial uses of these streams.
<b>Turbidity</b>	Waters shall be free of changes in turbidity that cause nuisance or adversely affect beneficial uses.

(Water Quality Control Plan, Colorado River Basin Region, as amended to date)

**Table A2: WQOs - Specific Surface Water Objectives for New River**

<b>Specific Surface Water Objectives for New River</b>			
<p>Minute No. 264 of the Mexican-American Water Treaty titled “<i>Recommendations for Solution of the New River Border Sanitation Problem at Calexico, California - Mexicali, Baja California Norte</i>” was approved by the Governments of the United States and Mexico effective on December 4, 1980. Minute No. 264 specifies qualitative and quantitative standards for the New River at the International Boundary. Therefore, as indicated by the Basin Plan, the Regional Board views the Minute No. 264 standards as interim standards and intends to pursue long-range quantitative standards for the New River at the International Boundary beyond those contained in Minute No. 264.</p>			
<b>Numeric Specific Surface Water Objectives</b>			
<b>Parameter</b>	<b>New River at Boundary<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Lagoon Discharge Canal</b>	<b>New River Upstream of Discharge Canal</b>
<b>BOD</b>		30 mg/L filtered (monthly grab sample)	30 mg/L unfiltered (monthly 12-hr. composite sample) <sup>2</sup>
<b>COD</b>		70 mg/L filtered	100 mg/L unfiltered (monthly 12-hr. composite sample) <sup>2</sup>
<b>DO</b>	5.0 mg/L (daily grab sample)		
<b>Parameter</b>	<b>Narrative Specific Surface Water Objectives</b>		
<b>Untreated Domestic and Industrial Wastes</b>	The waters of the River shall be free of untreated domestic and industrial waste waters.		
<b>Toxic Substances</b>	The waters of the River shall be free from substances that may be discharged into the River as a result of human activities in concentrations which are toxic or harmful to human, animal or aquatic life or which may significantly impair the beneficial uses of such waters.		
<p>1. For necessary and adequate monitoring, samples should be taken of the New River waters at the International Boundary monthly or more frequently if necessary, and these should be analyzed for BOD, COD, and DO. Samples should also be analyzed for toxic substances as considered necessary.</p> <p>2. Twelve consecutive hourly samples once a month (24-hour composite to be taken as needed to establish correlation with 12-hour composite).</p>			

(Water Quality Control Plan, Colorado River Basin Region, as amended to date)

**Table A3: Designated Beneficial Uses of the New River**

Designated Beneficial Uses	Description
<b>Warm Freshwater Habitat (WARM)</b>	Uses of water that support warm water ecosystems including, but not limited to, preservation or enhancement of aquatic habitats, vegetation, fish, or wildlife, including invertebrates.
<b>Wildlife Habitat (WILD)</b>	Uses of water that support terrestrial ecosystems including, but not limited to, the preservation and enhancement of terrestrial habitats, vegetation, wildlife (e.g., mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, invertebrates), water, and food sources.
<b>Preservation of Rare, Threatened, or Endangered Species (RARE)<sup>1</sup></b>	Uses of water that support habitats necessary, at least in part, for the survival and successful maintenance of plant or animal species established under state or federal law as rare, threatened or endangered.
<b>Contact Recreation (REC I)<sup>2</sup></b>	Uses of water for recreational activities involving body contact with water, where ingestion of water is reasonably possible. These uses include, but are not limited to, swimming, wading, water-skiing, skin and scuba diving, surfing, white water activities, fishing, and use of natural hot springs.
<b>Non-Contact Recreation (REC II)</b>	Uses of water for recreational activities involving proximity to water, but not normally involving contact with water where ingestion of water is reasonably possible. These uses include, but are not limited to, picnicking, sunbathing, hiking, beachcombing, camping, boating, tide pool and marine life study, hunting, sightseeing, or aesthetic enjoyment of the above activities.
<b>Freshwater Replenishment (FRSH)</b>	Uses of water for natural or artificial maintenance of surface water quality or quantity.
<p>1. Rare, endangered, or threatened wildlife exists in or utilizes some of these waterway(s). If the RARE beneficial use may be affected by a water quality control decision, responsibility for substantiation of the existence of rare, endangered, or threatened species on a case-by-case basis is upon the California Department of Fish and Game on its own initiative and/or at the request of the Regional Board; and such substantiation must be provided within a reasonable time frame as approved by the Regional Board.</p> <p>2. Although some fishing occurs in the downstream reaches, the presently contaminated water in the river makes it unfit for any recreational use. An advisory has been issued by the Imperial County Health Department warning against the consumption of any fish caught from the river and the river has been posted with advisories against any body contact with the water.</p>	

(Water Quality Control Plan, Colorado River Basin Region, as amended to date)