

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD  
RESOLUTION NO. 2017-0056**

AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OR DESIGNEE TO PROCURE AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES TO IMPLEMENT PHASE 1 OF THE NEW RIVER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT STRATEGIC PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE CALEXICO AREA

WHEREAS:

1. The New River is a major tributary to the Salton Sea and is listed in the State's Clean Water Act Section 303(d) as impaired by a number of constituents, including trash, pathogen-indicator organisms, and pesticides from point and nonpoint sources of pollution; and therefore, it is a State priority for cleanup purposes; and
2. New River water quality poses a serious public health threat, particularly in the Calexico area because its pathogen impairment is severest there; and
3. The California-Mexico Border Relations Council (Council) adopted the New River Improvement Project Strategic Plan (Plan) in December 2011; and approved subsequent revisions to the Plan in February 2016, for the New River in the Calexico area, to address the public health threat that the condition of the River poses to people in the Calexico area. The Plan calls for implementation of structural and nonstructural recommendations to address New River impairments; and
4. The revised recommendations call for completing the design and environmental documentation (Phase 1) for the construction (Phase 2) of: (1) a trash screen at the International Boundary with Mexico; (2) encasing the River from a point downstream of the International Boundary to a point downstream from where the River crosses the west branch of the All American Canal; and (3) a pump-back system to take treated wastewater from the City of Calexico Wastewater Treatment Plant and discharging it into the New River channel at a point near and downstream from the International Boundary with Mexico; and
5. The Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board (Colorado River Basin Water Board) has made substantive progress in implementing the nonstructural recommendations, including development and implementation of Total Maximum Daily Loads for the New River and regulation of agricultural runoff in the Imperial Valley; but lack of funding has prevented progress in implementing the nonstructural recommendations; and
6. Senate Bill No. 859 (2015 Ch.368) was enacted into law on September 30, 2016; and it appropriated \$1.4 million from the Waste Discharge Permit Fund (WDPF) to the State Water Resources Control Board to provide grants or contracts for the development of planning, environmental, and design documents in furtherance of projects for eliminating public health and safety risks from wastewater, and agricultural and other drainage of urbanized areas for tributaries to the Salton Sea; and

7. A scope of work has been prepared for Phase 1, and the scope of work requires specialized engineering services that would result in plans, specifications, and cost estimates that are essential for proceeding with Phase 2 of the recommendations; and
8. The Council is working with the Colorado River Basin Water Board, the Imperial Irrigation District, Imperial County, City of Calexico and other key stakeholders to secure funding for Phase 2 and ensure that following completion of Phase 2 there is local and, as necessary federal, responsibility for operation and maintenance of the recommended infrastructure.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The State Water Board:

Pursuant to Senate Bill No. 859 (2015 Ch.368), the Executive Director or his/her designee is hereby authorized to (1) in consultation with the Council and coordination with the Colorado River Basin Water Board, issue the necessary request for engineering services proposal, and (2) negotiate execute, and amend, if necessary, an Agreement to pay for the services from the WDPF for an amount not to exceed \$1.4 million.

#### CERTIFICATION


The undersigned Clerk to the Board does hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the State Water Resources Control Board held on October 3, 2017.

AYE:           Chair Felicia Marcus  
                  Vice Chair Steven Moore  
                  Board Member Tam M. Doduc  
                  Board Member Dorene D'Adamo  
                  Board Member Joaquin Esquivel

NAY:           None

ABSENT:       None

ABSTAIN:     None

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeanine Townsend  
Clerk to the Board