

Water Quality Report Card

Sediment in New River

Regional Water Board: Colorado River Basin, Region 7

Beneficial Uses Affected: RARE, REC-1, REC-2, WARM, WILD

Implemented Through: ICFB-IID Coalition

Effective Date: March 31, 2003

Attainment Date: 2030

STATUS **Data Inconclusive**

Pollutant Type: Nonpoint Source

Pollutant Source: Irrigated Agriculture

Water Quality Improvement Strategy

The New River originates south of the international boundary in Mexico, and flows north to the Salton Sea in Imperial County, California. Dominated by discharges from Mexicali and Imperial Valley agriculture, the New River exceeds water quality standards (WQS) for total suspended solids (TSS) and is listed as impaired for sediment on the USEPA Clean Water Act 303(d) list. To address the impairment, the Colorado River Basin Regional Water Board (RWB) adopted an [Imperial Valley General Order for Irrigated Agricultural Lands](#) (Order) in December 2021. The Order includes the [State Board precedential requirements](#) with enhanced management practice implementation, monitoring, reporting, accountability, and backstop measures. The Order is in the beginning phase of implementation. RWB staff will work with the coalition and agricultural community to address recurring exceedances of TSS.

New River Watershed Map



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.

Water Quality Outcomes

- 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.

Water Quality - Total Suspended Solids in the New River

