

ASSEMBLY BILL 1079 (AB 1079)

A Strategy for Restoring the New River

Background

New River 101

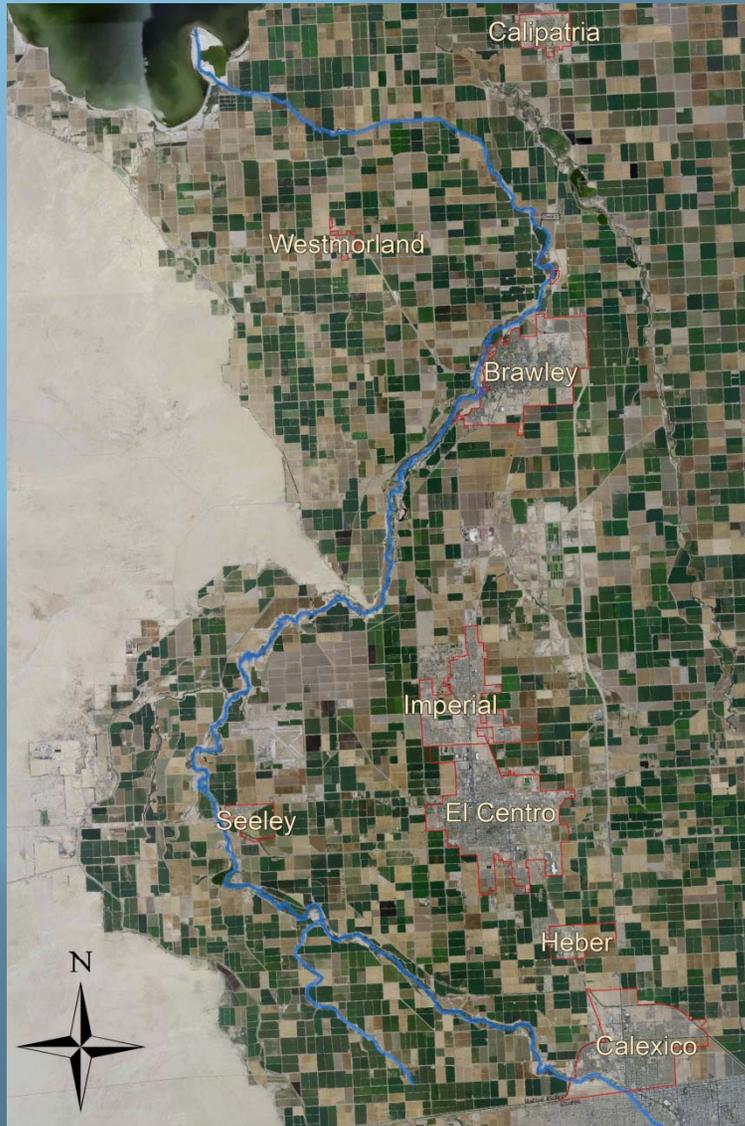
- ▣ More a drain than a river
- ▣ Originates in Mexicali Valley, Mexico
- ▣ Crosses into the USA at Calexico
 - Flow at border ~ 150,000 acre feet / year
 - Travels ~ 60 river miles to the Salton Sea
 - Total flow at Salton Sea ~ 450,000 acre feet / year
- ▣ Sources of flows
 - Urban, agricultural and industrial discharges
- ▣ Once considered the most polluted river in North America

Salton Sea Watershed

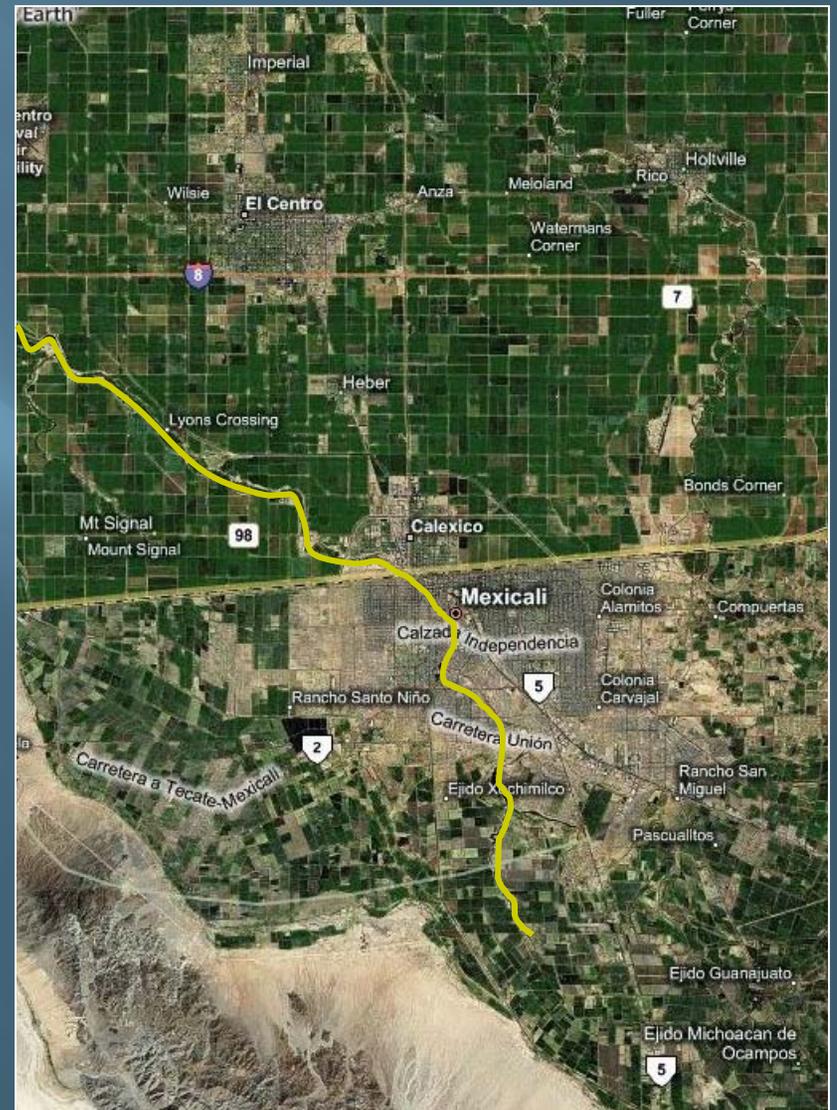


- Priority Watershed
- More than 8,000 square miles
- Watershed impaired
- Non-point source pollution
“Greatest Threat to Water Quality”
- Transboundary issues
- Important habitat
- Migratory birds, etc.
- Closed basin

From the Border to the Salton Sea



Mexicali-Calexico Area



The Problems

- ▣ Impairments
 - Pathogens
 - Nutrients
 - Pesticides
 - Metals
 - Trash
 - Sediment
- ▣ Multiple agencies, jurisdictions and interests
- ▣ Bi-national
- ▣ Cross border pollution

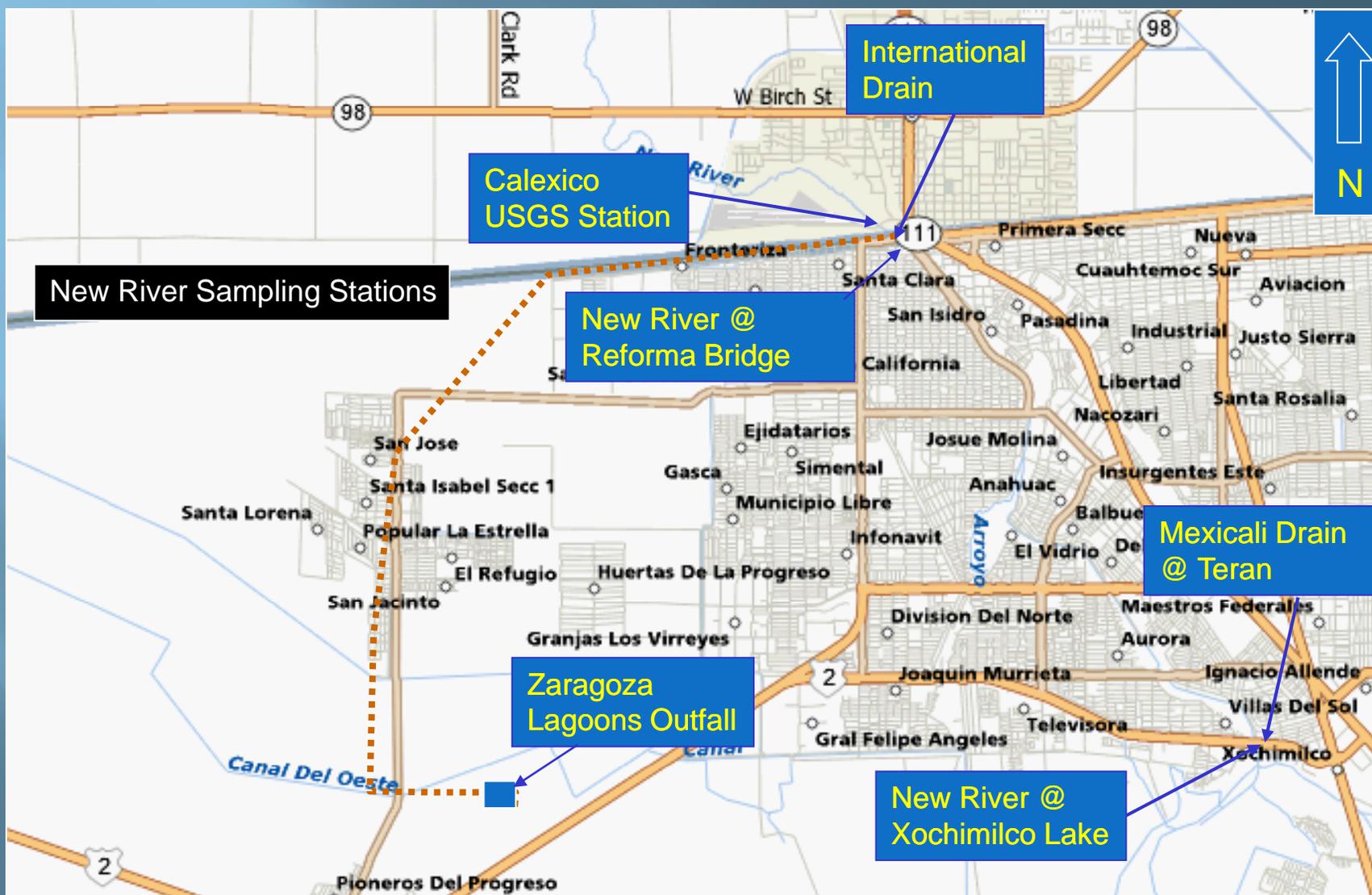
Mexicali Wastewater Treatment

- ▣ Improvements in wastewater treatment reducing the amount of sewage (\$84.5 million):
 - 11 emergency repairs (\$7.5 million)
 - Mexicali I Projects (\$51 million)
 - ▣ Sewer main rehabilitation (~20 miles)
 - ▣ Telemetry equipment
 - ▣ Completed in 2004
 - Mexicali II Projects (\$26 million)
 - ▣ 20 million gallons/day (mgd) pumping plant
 - ▣ 20 mgd force main
 - ▣ 20 mgd treatment plant
 - Binational Monitoring Program

Las Arenitas WWTP



Binational Monitoring Program



Analysis at the Border

Examples of Improved Conditions

- ▣ Examples of Improved Conditions
 - ▣ Fecal, E. Coli bacteria from Mexico reduced from >1,000,000 to approximately 100 – 60,000/100 ml
 - ▣ Amount of nutrients from Mexico reaching the Salton Sea reduced by half
 - ▣ Five times as much oxygen in the water

- ▣ Still more to do
 - ▣ Pesticides
 - ▣ Metals
 - ▣ Trash

Primary Sources of Pollution

- ▣ From Mexico
 - Trash
 - Metals from industry
 - Raw Sewage
 - Agriculture Runoff
 - Pathogens
- ▣ From the U.S.
 - From agriculture
 - ▣ Nutrients
 - ▣ Sediment
 - ▣ Pesticides
 - Urban runoff

AB 1079

Assembly Bill 1070 (AB 1079)

- ▣ Authored by Assemblymember V. Manuel Perez, 80th District
- ▣ Signed into law in 2009
- ▣ Establishes a Technical Advisory Committee to prepare a Strategic Plan that will identify restoration and/or clean-up options.
- ▣ Requires the California-Mexico Border Relations Council to adopt the Strategic Plan.

Technical Advisory Committee

- ▣ CalEPA Secretary Chairs Border Council
- ▣ Appointed the Technical Advisory Committee
- ▣ Committee developed a charter with the following work groups:
 - ▣ Impairments Workgroup
 - ▣ Remediation Workgroup
 - ▣ Visioning Workgroup
 - ▣ Background/Funding Workgroup

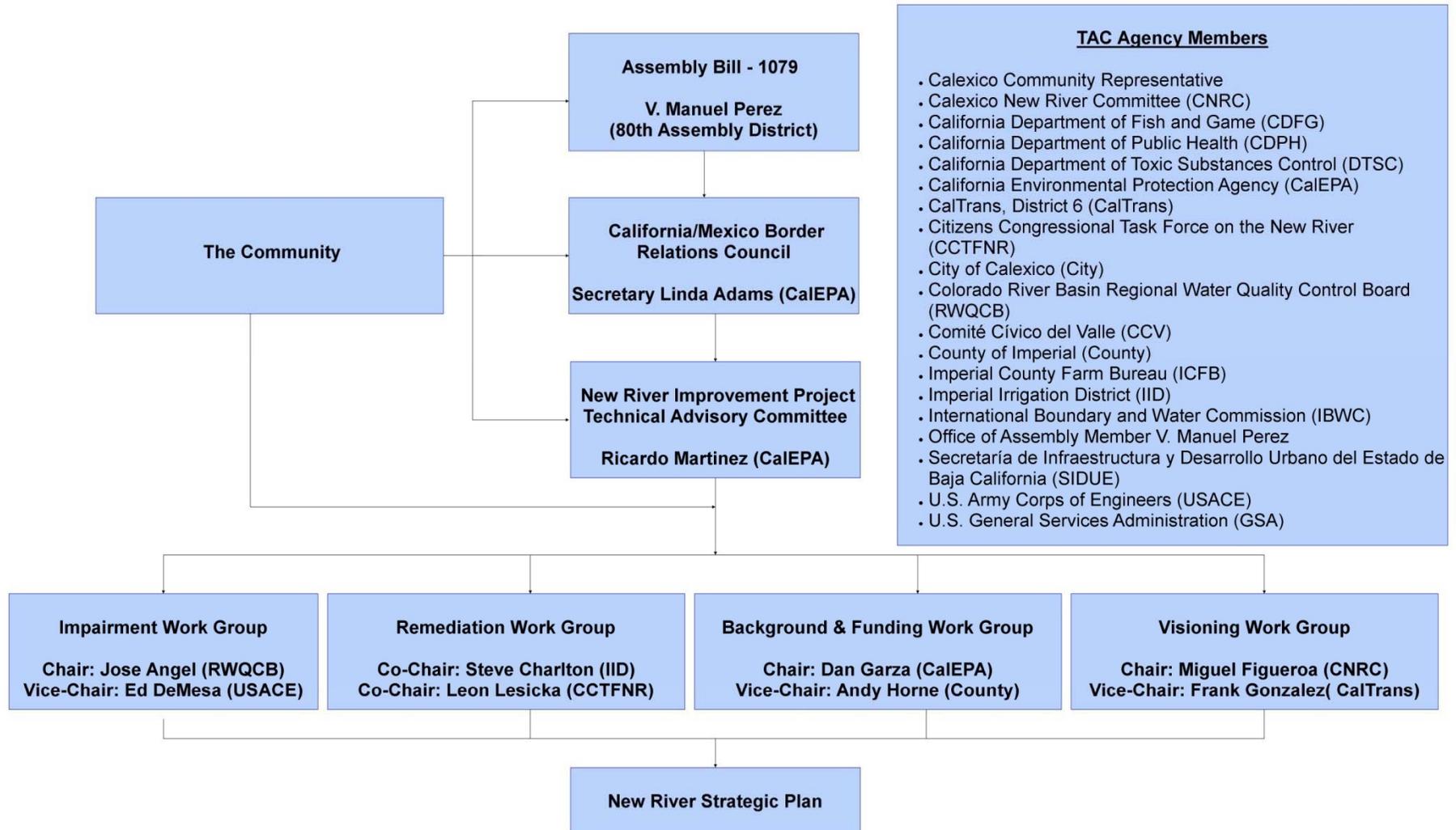


The New River Improvement Project



A Project of the California Mexico Border Relations Council and the City of Calexico

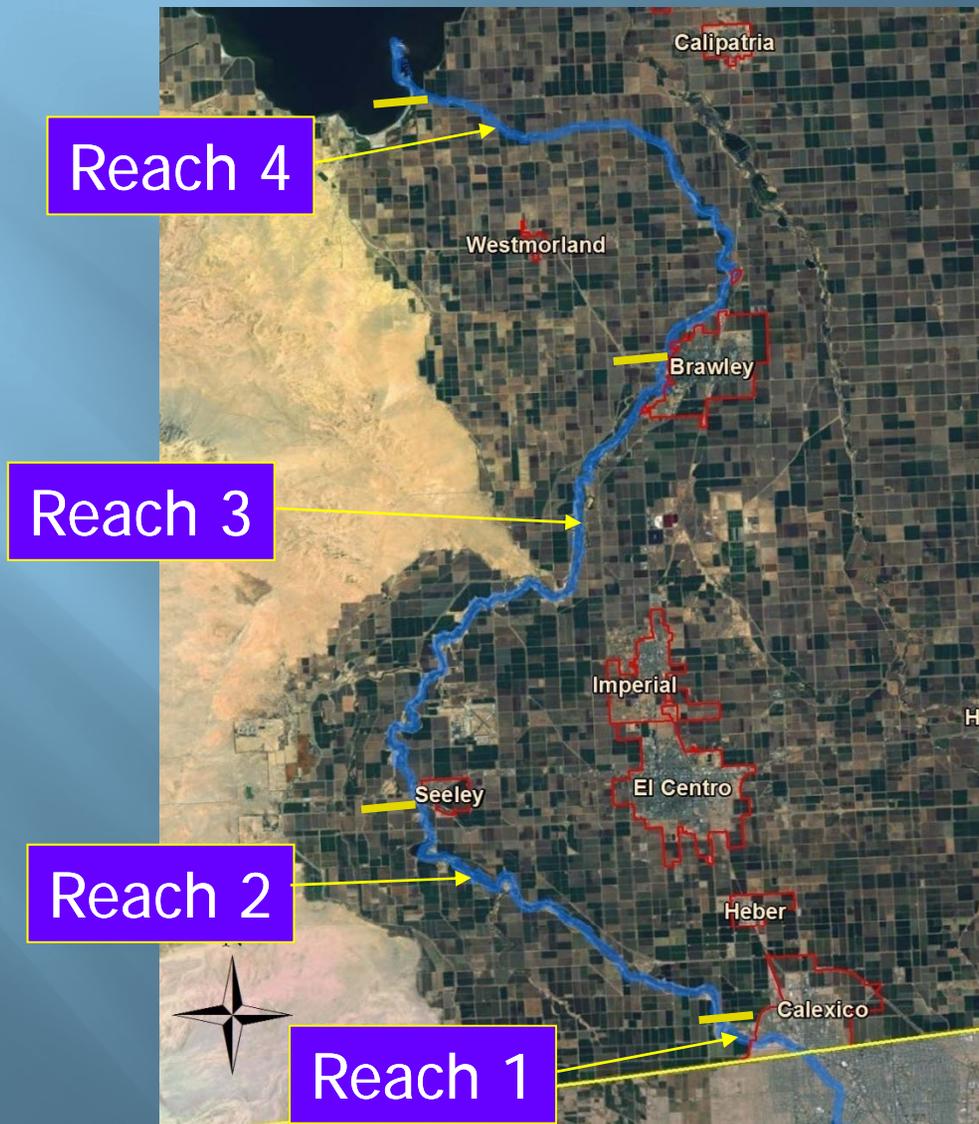
New River Improvement Project—Technical Advisory Committee



The Strategic Plan

- The Strategic Plan must contain the following elements:
 - **Quantification of** current and projected New River water quality **impairments** and their threat to public health.
 - **Prioritization of the actions necessary** to protect public health and to meet New River water quality objectives and other environmental goals, such as improving the quality of water flows into the Salton Sea.
 - **Identification of potential funds** for the implementation of the project, and potential lead agencies that would be responsible for environmental review of activities related to the cleanup and restoration of the New River.
 - **A plan for a river parkway.**

New River in USA



NPS Results to Date

- ▣ 97% farmers have signed on to TMDL program
- ▣ ICFB program featured in USEPA brochure “TMDLs and Agriculture in the West”
- ▣ ICFB received Governor’s Environment and Economic Leadership award (2004)
- ▣ Cooperative partnership
- ▣ Water quality improvements (~ 30% silt load reduction)



IMPERIAL
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TMDL

Total Maximum Daily Load

Voluntary Compliance Program

NOTICE

**Farm Water
Quality
Management**

Plan Update Deadline:
September 1, 2004

1000 Broadway - El Centro , CA 92243 - 760.352.3831 - Fax 760.352.0232 - info@ivtmdl.com

"To inform, educate and demonstrate how to reduce impairments in drainwater"

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61 °F

another quality **conveyfor**group production

Ditch BMPs (cont'd)

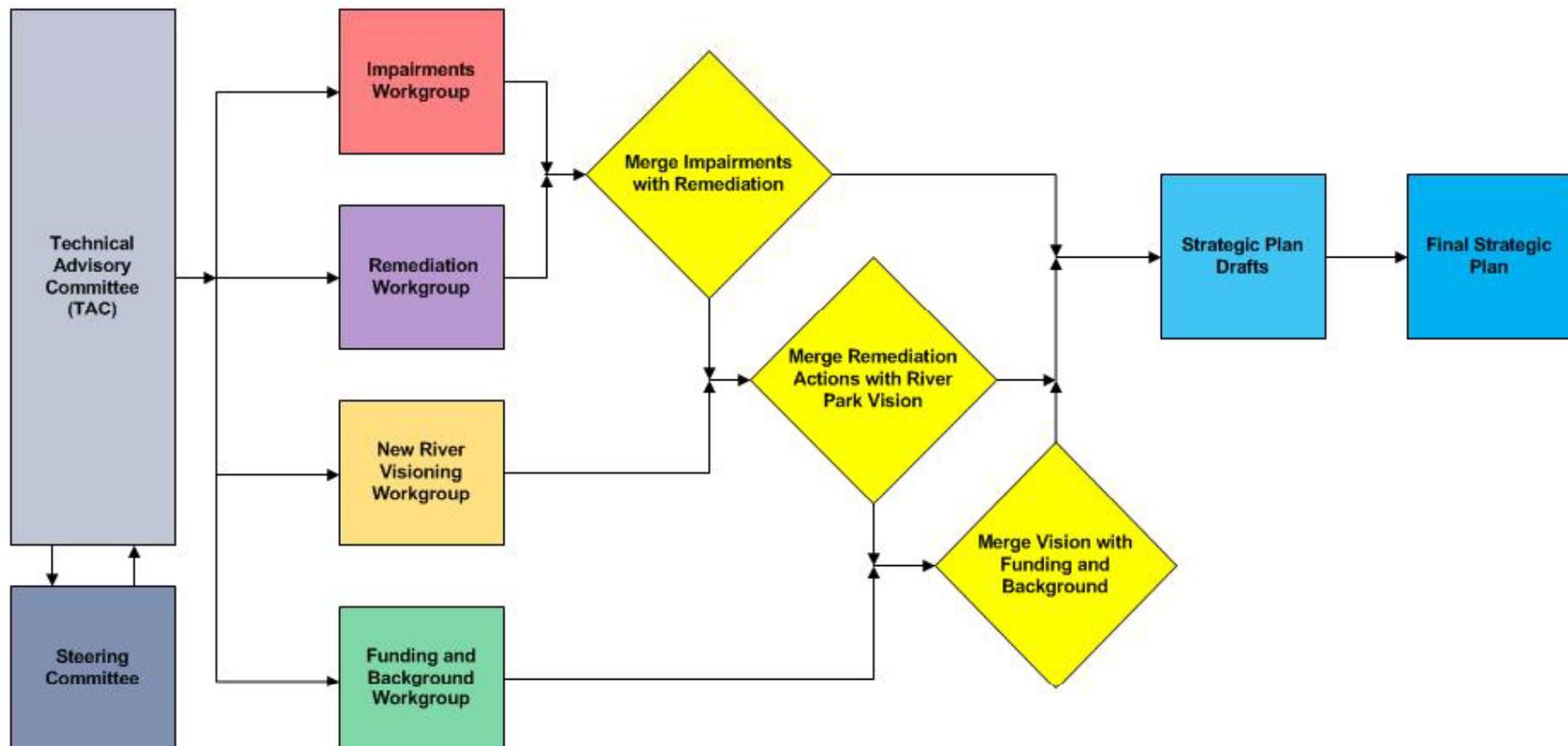


Field BMPs



Developing the Strategic Plan

New River Improvement Project Work Plan

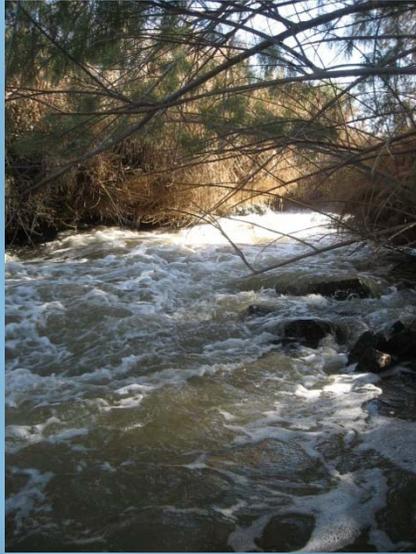


Funds Available to Implement AB 1079

- In the Legislation
 - \$800,000 from Prop 84
 - \$3.2 million, Federal Transportation Equity Act
 - Requires the \$800,000 state match

- State Water Resources Control Board
 - \$400,000 from Cleanup and Abatement Fund
 - Separate from legislation but sought because of delays in bond sales
 - Approved in April 2010 for City of Calexico
 - City to fund preparation of plan

Examples of Remediation



Rip-Rap provides aeration and restoring oxygen necessary for aquatic life.



Agricultural best management practices reduce sediment and prevent some contaminants from reaching the river.



Wastewater treatment helps to significantly reduce the amount of pathogens (bacteria and viruses) that cross the border.



Wetlands can slow the river's flow, capturing sediment, absorbing metals, reducing nutrients and pathogens.

Images of the New River

Now

The Future?



Collaboration is the Key

- ▣ People Understanding People
- ▣ Finding the Positive Qualities That Make Each Area Valuable to Restore
- ▣ Sharing Information
- ▣ Agreeing to Communicate Perspectives
- ▣ Identifying and prioritizing projects
- ▣ Jointly finding funding

Where to Submit Your Ideas or Comments

Calexico New River Improvement Project Technical Advisory Committee

Email: newriver@calepa.ca.gov

Phone: 916-324-2568

FAX: 916-324-0908

Mail: New River Improvement Project
California Environmental Protection Agency
Border Affairs Section
1001 I Street, 24th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

For more information: www.calepa.ca.gov/border/newriver

Analysis at the Border (post-2007)

Issue	Pre Binational Projects	Post Binational Projects
Fecal, E. Coli	> 1,000,000	~ 100 – 60,000
Dissolved Oxygen	< 1.0 mg/L	~ 5.0 mg/L
Nutrients (PO4)	40% of Load to Salton Sea	20% of Load to Salton Sea
VOCs	Some detected	Non-detect
Trash	> 150 cu yds/year	> 150 cu yds/year
Pesticides	Detected	Still a problem

Avg Flow ~ 80-100 MGD

New River in Mexico

