



The New River Improvement Project



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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Imperial Valley Residents and Business Owners to Learn About the Progress and Process of the New River Improvement Project

Three public meetings in February will help guide comprehensive cleanup of New River

Sacramento, Calif. -- Officials from the California Environmental Protection Agency will host three public meetings in Imperial County on February 23 and 24 to share work in progress on the New River Improvement Project and to obtain public comments on the future of the New River. The meetings are a result of AB 1079, authored by Assemblyman Manuel Perez (D-Coachella), which calls for the development of a strategic plan for the New River. Since AB 1079 was signed into law in October 2009, work has been progressing in forming a technical advisory committee, work groups and work plans to complete the strategic plan. The meetings will be held on Wednesday, February 23, and Thursday, February 24, in the cities of Brawley, El Centro and Calexico as listed in the following schedule:

Brawley

- Wednesday, February 23, 2011, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. (Presentations at 6:30 p.m.)
- American Citizens Club
890 B Street, Brawley, CA 92227

El Centro

- Thursday, February 24, 2011, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. (Presentations at 1:30 p.m.)
- Imperial Irrigation District, Board Room
1285 Broadway Ave., El Centro, CA 92243

Calexico

- Thursday, February 24, 2011, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. (Presentations at 6:30 p.m.)
- City of Calexico, Cultural Arts Center
421 Heffernan St., Calexico, CA 92231

Cal/EPA's Deputy Secretary for Environmental Justice, Tribal and Border Affairs, Ricardo Martinez, chairs the Technical Advisory Committee. According to Martinez, the public meetings are the first chance the public has to learn about the work that is underway, to understand the process in place to complete the strategic plan and to provide comments to the committee about the planning process and the future of the New River. "We are looking forward to any comments we might receive from residents, farmers and business owners interested in the future of the New River," Martinez said.

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New River Improvement Project Public Meetings
February 18, 2011
Page 2

The Technical Advisory Committee has formed four action-oriented work groups to develop the background and options necessary to complete the strategic plan. The four work groups include: Impairments, Remediation, Funding and Background and New River Visioning. Each of the four work groups has specific work to share with the public.

The New River Improvement Project Strategic Plan process is being funded by a grant of \$400,000 from the State Water Resources Control Board. Additional funding for the New River Improvement Project designated by AB 1079 includes \$800,000 from Proposition 84 funding and \$3.2 million from the federal Transportation Equity Act, a grant program administered in California by the Department of Transportation.

For more information on the New River Improvement Project, go to: www.calepa.ca.gov/border/newriver. Ideas for the future of the New River can be emailed to newriver@calepa.ca.gov, faxed to 916-324-0908, or mailed to:

New River Improvement Project
California Environmental Protection Agency
Border Affairs Unit
1001 I Street, 25th Floor
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