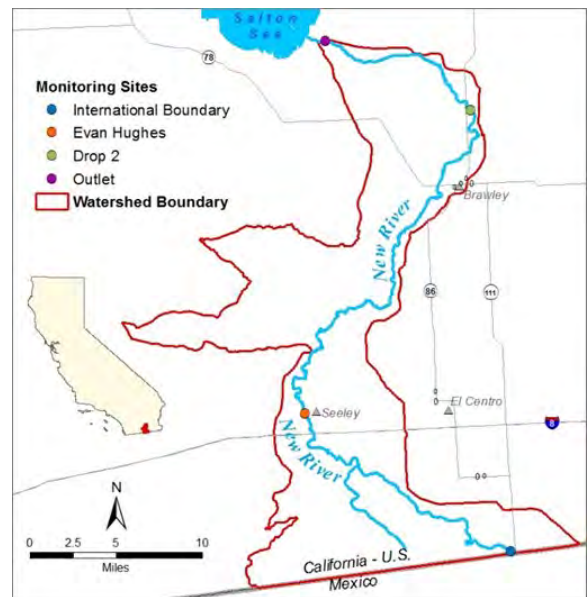


Water Quality Report Card		Pathogens in New River	
Regional Water Board:	Colorado River Basin, Region 7	STATUS	<input type="checkbox"/> Conditions Improving
Beneficial Uses Affected:	REC-1, REC-2		<input type="checkbox"/> Data Inconclusive
Implemented Through:	NPDES Permits, 3 rd Party (USIBWC)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Improvement Needed
Effective Date:	August 14, 2002 (TMDL)	Pollutant Type:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Point Source <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nonpoint Source <input type="checkbox"/> Legacy
Attainment Date:	2005	Pollutant Source:	Wastewater Discharges
			Nonpoint Source Runoff

Water Quality Improvement Strategy

The New River originates about 20 miles south of the International Boundary (IB) in the Mexicali Valley, Mexico, and flows north into the U.S. to its terminus at the Salton Sea in Imperial County, California. In 2006, the New River was placed on the 303(d) List as impaired for pathogens. Bacteria, which are pathogen-indicator organisms, impair the entire segment of the New River in the United States. Impairment is most severe at the IB due to discharges of waste from Mexico, which account for approximately one-third of the river's total flow. Bacterial concentrations in the New River exceed the water quality objectives established to protect recreational beneficial uses of the river. To address the pathogen impairment, the Regional Water Board adopted the [New River Pathogen TMDL](#), which became effective in August 2002. TMDL implementation calls for controlling pathogens in wastewater discharges in the U.S. and at the IB. Because the Regional Water Board lacks jurisdictional authority over Mexico, implementation relies on cooperation between Mexico and the U.S. governments to reduce waste and bacterial concentrations that cross into the U.S. at the IB.

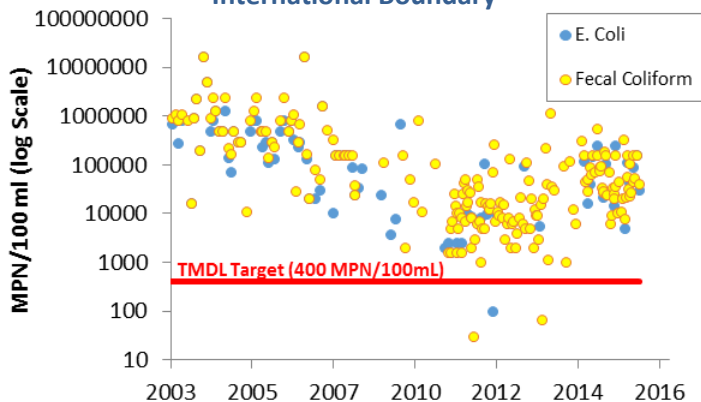
New River Watershed



Water Quality Outcomes

- After the Las Arenitas Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) began operations in Mexico in March 2007, water quality monitoring data demonstrate significant reductions in *E. coli* concentrations at all monitoring sites.
- Water quality monitoring data demonstrate significant reductions in *E. coli* and fecal coliform loading from Mexico at the IB.
- In 2015, infrastructure failures in Mexicali, Mexico were responsible for discharges of raw and partially-treated sewage in the New River, and for high numbers of *E. coli* and fecal coliform at the International Border.
- *E. coli* was not sampled in the downstream locations of the New River after June 2013 due to resource limitations. Monitoring will resume in mid-2016 through the [Agricultural Conditional Waiver Program](#).
- Negotiations between U.S. and Mexico, and associated agencies, are ongoing to ensure coordination of IB projects to bring the New River into compliance.

Fecal Coliform and *E. coli* Concentrations at the International Boundary^a



^a As the primary pollutant source is outside Regional Water Board jurisdiction, pathogen concentrations at the IB are considered the baseline loading for pathogens in the New River.

E. coli Concentrations in New River

