Water Quality Report Card		Dissolved Oxygen in the New River	
Regional Water Board:	**Colorado River Basin, Region 7**	**STATUS**	☑ Conditions Improving ☐ Data Inconclusive ☐ Improvement Needed ☐ Targets Achieved/Water Body Delisted
Beneficial Uses Affected:	RARE, REC-1, REC-2, WARM, WILD		
Implemented Through:	3rd Party (USIBWC and USEPA)		
Effective Date:	November 2012		
Attainment Date:	2018	**Pollutant Type:**	☑ Point Source ☑ Nonpoint Source ☐ Legacy

Water Quality Improvement Strategy

The New River originates in Mexico, approximately twenty miles south of the International Boundary, and flows northward into the United States to its terminus at the Salton Sea in Imperial County, California. The New River is dominated by industrial and municipal wastewater discharges, and agricultural wastewater discharges from both Mexico and the Imperial Valley, located in Imperial County. The main pollutants of concern causing in-stream low dissolved oxygen (DO) concentrations are biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) and ammonia (NH_3). Low DO conditions exceed water quality objectives (WQOs) established to protect warm water ecosystems, endangered species, and recreational beneficial uses of the New River.

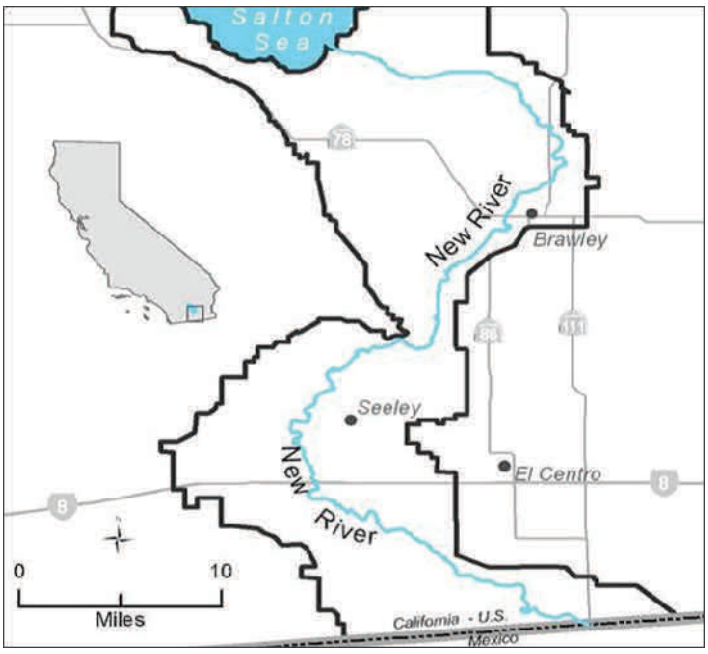
A TMDL for DO in the New River was completed by the Regional Water Board and approved by the USEPA in November 2012. The TMDL addresses impairment of low DO in the first half mile reach of the New River downstream of the International Boundary, caused mainly by wastewater discharges originating from Mexico. The Regional Water Board does not have jurisdictional authority over Mexico, and relies on cooperation from Mexico and the U.S. Government to reduce BOD and NH_3 concentrations that cross the International Boundary. The TMDL is implemented in two phases over six years and is expected to achieve applicable water quality standards for DO in the New River at the International Boundary by 2018.

TMDL Load Allocations[a]

Pollutant	Concentration (mg/L)	Mass/Day (kg/day)[b]
BOD	5.0	1529
NH_3	0.5	153

[a] Phase 1 (first three years) load allocations. If targets are not met by end of Phase 1, load allocations will be reassessed for Phase 2 (second three years).
[b] Load allocations are based on 2007 average flows of 125 cubic feet per second (cfs).

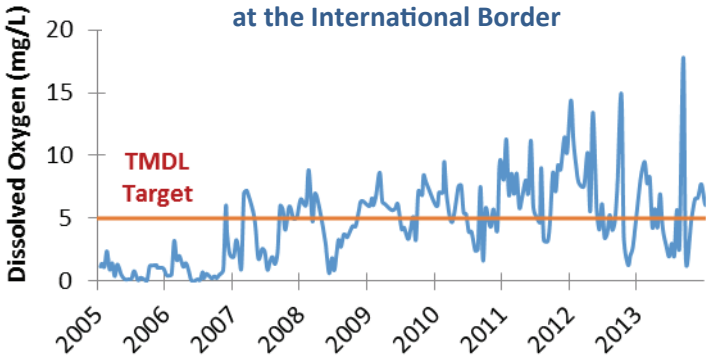
New River Watershed



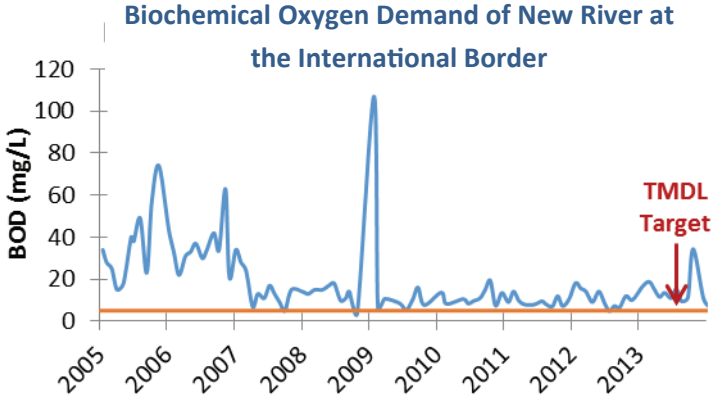
Water Quality Outcomes

- Water quality monitoring data show improved DO conditions in the New River; however, DO WQOs are not consistently being met.
- The Regional Water Board will continue to work with the United States International Boundary and Water Commission, and the USEPA to continue monitoring the water quality and the clean-up efforts in Mexico.
- Negotiations are ongoing to ensure coordination of International Boundary projects to bring the New River into compliance.

Dissolved Oxygen Concentrations of New River at the International Border



Biochemical Oxygen Demand of New River at the International Border



Updated December2015