

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION**

RESOLUTION NO. R7-2010-0023

SUPPORTING THE REQUEST BY THE
CITY OF CALEXICO AND THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
FOR
CLEANUP AND ABATEMENT FUNDS FOR
FISCAL YEAR 2009/2010 TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT
THE NEW RIVER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT IN ACCORDANCE WITH
PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE SECTION 71103.5 (AB 1079 (PEREZ), C. 382, STATS. 2009)

- WHEREAS,** The New River, which traverses the international border between Mexicali, Mexico, and Imperial County, California, United States, poses an imminent and severe threat to the public health of residents of the city of Calexico, California, and adjacent communities in Imperial County; and
- WHEREAS,** Since the 1940s, the New River has been a significant pollution and human health problem, primarily because of extremely high concentrations of fecal coliform bacteria; and
- WHEREAS,** The New River is listed as an impaired river by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency pursuant to Section 303(d) of the federal Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1313(d)) due to low dissolved oxygen and the presence of chlordane, chlorpyrifos, copper, DDT, diazinon, dieldrin, mercury, nutrients, pathogens, PCBs, sediment, selenium, toxaphene, toxicity, trash, and volatile organic compounds; and
- WHEREAS,** The New River is a major contributor of pollution to the Salton Sea, and failure to address water quality problems in the New River are impeding the ability of the state to implement laws and programs designed to restore and protect this important environmental and wildlife habitat resource and ecosystem; and
- WHEREAS,** The New River condition in this border area is also an aesthetic nuisance for the city of Calexico residents and has historically inhibited the city's socio-economic well-being and growth; and
- WHEREAS,** The California Legislature enacted the California River Parkway Act of 2004 (Act), which is codified in Public Resources Code sections 5750-5756; and
- WHEREAS,** In enacting this Act, the Legislature declared, among other things, the importance of river parkways in directly improving the quality of life by providing important recreational, open space, wildlife, flood management, water quality, and urban waterfront revitalization benefits to communities in the State; and
- WHEREAS,** The Legislature further declared that the State can improve the quality of life by assisting public agencies and nonprofit organizations in establishing, developing, and restoring river parkways; and

WHEREAS, In furtherance of these legislative declarations regarding the significant benefits provided by river parkways, the Act established in the office of the Secretary of Natural Resources the California River Parkways Program to be administered by the secretary; and

WHEREAS, The Act directs the secretary for Natural Resources to make grants available to public agencies and nonprofit organizations for river parkway projects from moneys appropriated to the secretary;

WHEREAS, The Act's grant funds to be appropriated by the secretary for Natural Resources to the city of Calexico for the purposes contemplated in AB 1079 are unavailable due to the lack of bond sales that finance the California River Parkways Program; and

WHEREAS, The residents of the city of Calexico and the Imperial Valley have waited too long to have the New River Improvement Project come to a standstill now;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) recognizes that the city of Calexico's and the California Environmental Protection Agency's shared objective of developing the New River Improvement Project, which will ensure a safe and healthy community and improve the water quality of the New River and Salton Sea ecosystem, requires the full cooperation of the Regional Water Board; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Regional Water Board supports the application by the city of Calexico and the California Environmental Protection Agency for Cleanup and Abatement Funds from the State Water Resources Control Board for the purposes previously mentioned.

I, Robert Perdue, Executive Officer, do hereby certify the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of the resolution adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region, on March 18, 2010.



ROBERT PERDUE
Executive Officer