

# **New River Improvement Project Strategic Plan**

**Salton Sea Authority Meeting**

**May 21, 2020**

# AB 1079

- Authored by Assemblymember V. Manuel Perez, 80<sup>th</sup> District
- Co-sponsored by the Calexico New River Committee
- Signed into law on October 11, 2009
- Establishes a Technical Advisory Committee to prepare a Strategic Plan that will identify restoration and/or clean-up options for river.
- Requires the California-Mexico Border Relations Council to adopt the Strategic Plan.

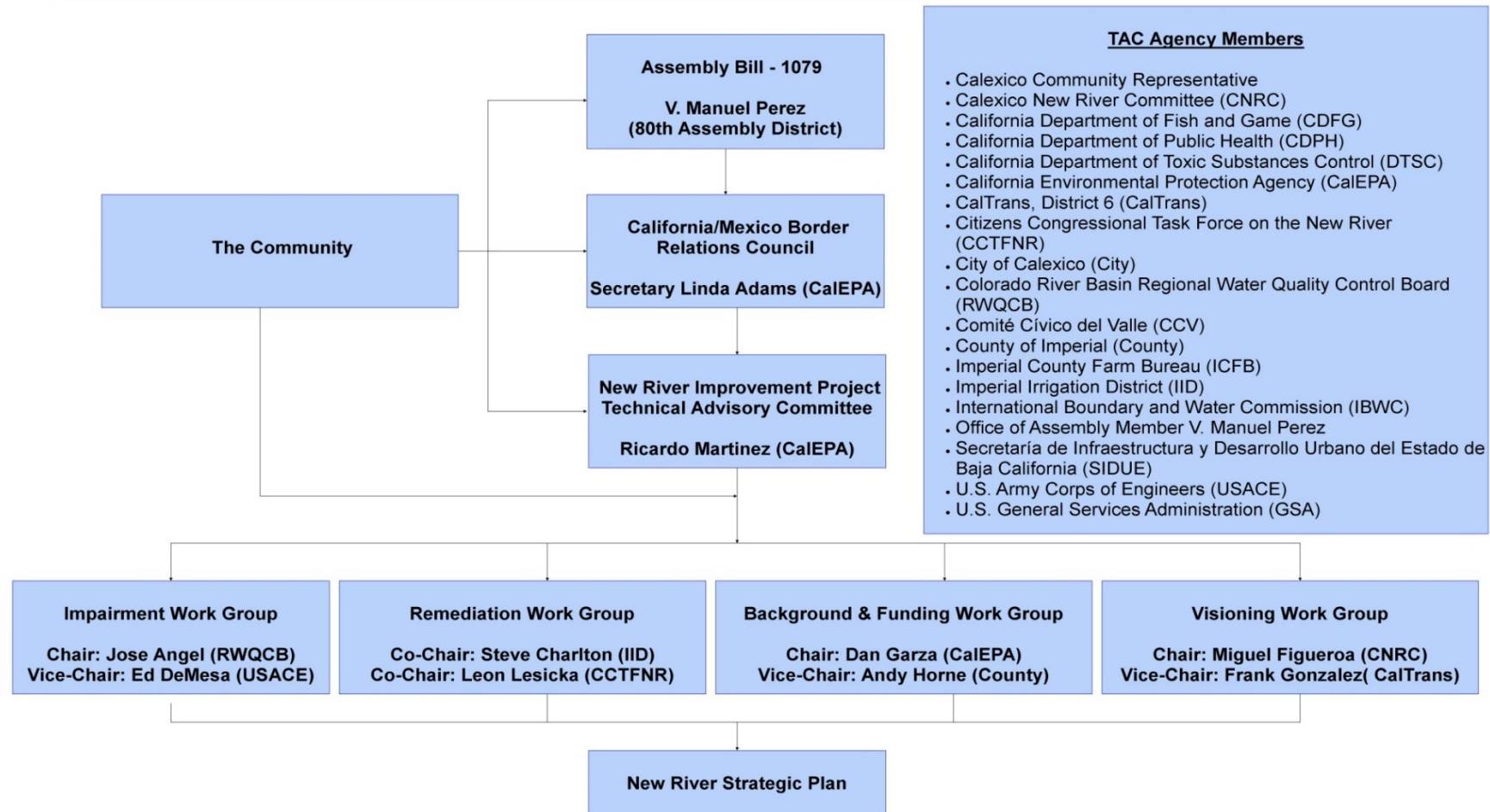


# The New River Improvement Project

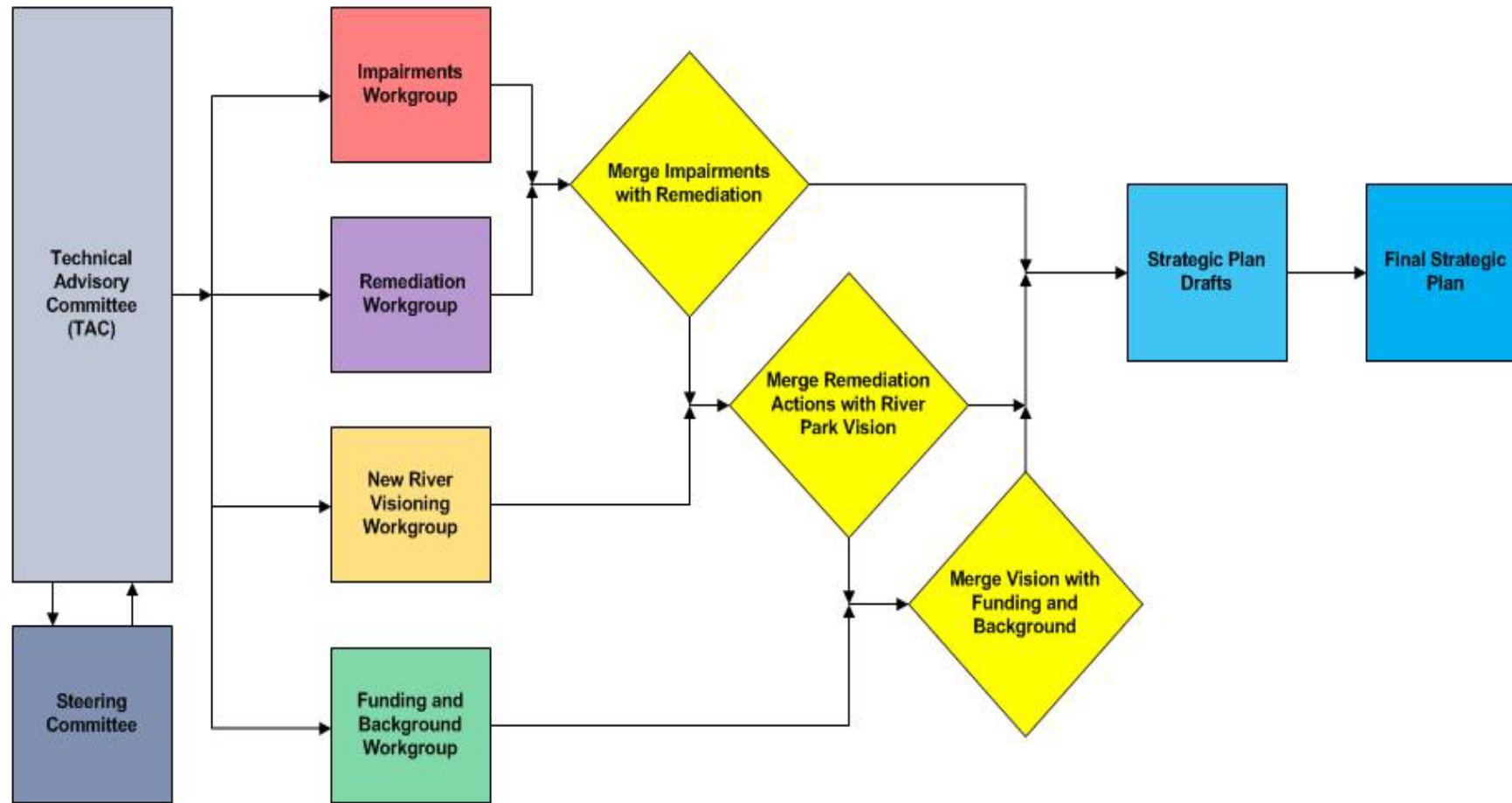
A Project of the California Mexico Border Relations Council and the City of Calexico



## New River Improvement Project—Technical Advisory Committee



# New River Improvement Project Work Plan



# New River Improvement Project Strategic Plan

## Overall Vision: New River to Salton Sea

The New River is a healthy river corridor that serves as an asset to the people, communities, agricultural industry and ecosystems it passes through, and a beneficial contribution to the environment of the Salton Sea.



# **Visions Reach by Reach**

## **Overall Vision: New River to Salton Sea**

The New River is a healthy river corridor that serves as an asset to the people, communities, agricultural industry and ecosystems it passes through, and a beneficial contribution to the environment of the Salton Sea.

## **Calexico Reach: From the International Border to Highway 98**

A restored and transformed river parkway serves as a safe and accessible recreational corridor, and an aesthetic and environmental amenity for the existing and future development of the Calexico area.

# Visions Reach by Reach

## **Seeley Reach: From Highway 98 to Evan Hewes Highway at Seeley**

Improved water quality, habitat and river corridor conditions in the New River support and benefit the local communities it passed through, the river's aquatic and riparian ecosystems, and the agricultural activities in the Imperial Valley.

## **Brawley Reach and Salton Sea Reach: From Evan Hewes Highway to Brawley, and then on the Salton Sea**

Improved water quality, and river corridor conditions in the New River support and benefit the local communities, aquatic and riparian ecosystems, and agricultural activities, while contributing water resources for the health and restoration of the Salton Sea delta and ecosystems.

# Severe Impact Pollutants

New River Reach	COCs	Impaired Beneficial Use(s)
Reach 1—International Border to Highway 98 (Calexico Reach)	Pathogens	REC-I, REC-II
	Low dissolved oxygen	REC-I, REC-II, WARM
	Trash	REC-I, REC-II, WARM, WILD
	Toxicity	WARM, WILD, RARE
	Selenium	WARM, WILD, RARE
Reach 2—Highway 98 to Evan Hewes Highway (Seeley Reach)	Pathogens	REC1, REC2
	Low dissolved oxygen	REC-I, REC-II, WARM
	Toxicity	WARM, WILD, RARE
	Selenium	WARM, WILD, RARE
Reach 3 – Evan Hewes Highway to New River Drop 2 (Brawley Reach)	Pathogens	REC-I, REC-II
	Toxicity	WARM, WILD, RARE
	Selenium	WARM, WILD, RARE
	Sediment/silt	REC-I, REC-II, WARM, WILD, RARE
Reach 4 – New River Drop 2 to its outlet to Salton Sea (Salton Sea Reach)	Pathogens	REC-I, REC-II
	Toxicity	WARM, WILD, RARE
	Selenium	WARM, WILD, RARE
	Sediment/silt	REC-I, REC-II, WARM, WILD, RARE



# R1: Infrastructure Improvements





# R1: Infrastructure Improvements

## Trash Screen/ Diversion Structure

- Fully automated
- Remove 1 ton/day of domestic trash

## Bypass Encasement

- Commence near International Boundary
- Outfall east of All-American Canal

## Pump Back System

- 5.0 million gallons/day
- Tertiary treated wastewater from Calexico Waste Water Treatment Plant

CEQA to be completed by City of Calexico

## R2 – R4: Wetlands

- Remove nutrients
- Produce oxygen
- Remove CO<sub>2</sub>
- Recreational opportunities
  - Bird watching
  - Some fishing
- Habitat
- Two pilot projects
  - Imperial
  - Brawley
- Shank Site Wetlands Dec 2011



# R2 – R4: Wetlands

- Imperial Wetlands  
(top picture)

- Brawley Wetlands  
(bottom picture)



## R2 – R4: Aeration Devices

- May significantly increase dissolved oxygen
- Structures may be very simple or complex
  - Boulders, rip-rap, etc. (minimal cost).
  - Concrete drop structures or cascading structures (large capital cost)
  - Mechanical surface aerators, bubble aerators, circulators (moderate capital cost plus O&M cost).
- Potential locations:
  - Ideally, located as close to Border as possible where sufficient head and/or velocity are available.

# R1 – R4: Non-Structural Programs

## ICFB Voluntary TMDL Program

- Water Quality Improvement Plans
  - Owner, grower
  - Location, acreage
  - Planned crops
  - Management Practices
- Significant reduction at the field level
  - Over 97% participation rate
  - Valley-wide BMP implementation
  - > 30% Load reduction in Alamo River
  - > 20% Load reduction in New River
- Administers the Voluntary Program
  - Enroll farmers into the program
  - Assists with Farmers Water Quality Improvement Plans
  - Ensures farmers are in good standing with Program
  - Conducts outreach and education
  - Manages all Program data and website
  - Submits Plans and data to Regional Board



# Calexico New River Parkway

## DESCRIPTION

- The Calexico New River Parkway (CNRP) project is a multi-benefit implementation project that addresses one of the key priorities listed within the State's Watershed Restoration Grant Program; Protect and Restore Cross-border Urban Creeks and Watersheds.
- The CNRP encompasses a 1.5-mile reach of the New River extending from approximately 600 yards downriver of the California-Mexico international border in Calexico to the All-American Canal.
- It is the first parkway development project of the larger comprehensive and multi-phased New River restoration effort called in the NRIP.
- Both the NRIP and the CNRP are guided by a NRIP Strategic Plan that was developed pursuant to the passage of Assembly Bill 1079.

# Calexico New River Parkway

## PROJECT PHASES

- Planning Phase: Planning and design of a 1.5-mile Class I bicycle pathway/pedestrian walkway and other parkway amenities, including all required studies for CEQA and NEPA compliance; plans are 100% completed and were approved by Caltrans and CNRA in April 2017.
- Phase 1B: Implementation of the first 0.75 miles of the Class I bicycle pathway/pedestrian walkway and other parkway amenities; approximately \$2MM funds already secured.
- Project Schedule: Construction Management/Project Construction
  - Advertisement: April 2020
  - Approval of Contract: Summer 2020
  - Completion: Fall/Winter 2020-2021



# Calexico New River Parkway

- Phase 1A and Phase 2

- The final 0.75 miles of parkway in the CNRP area would ensure completing 100% of CNRP.
- City of Calexico to acquire 1.25 acres of land that it does not currently own via a previously requested land swap under negotiation with current property owner .
- Implementation of Phase 1.3 pursuant to the 100% plans approved by Caltrans and the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA).



# Opportunities

- Request Revisions to New River Improvement Strategic Plan
  - Incorporate improvement infrastructure projects to reaches of the Plan
  - Imperial County proposed Water/Disinfection Facility
- City of Calexico, Imperial County and Imperial Irrigation District Memorandum of Understanding signed October 2017.
- Sacramento March 4-5, 2020
  - Assembly Budget Subcommittee on Resources and Transportation
  - Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee
  - Assembly and Senate Subcommittees approve Governor's budget requests of \$18 million General Fund and \$10 million Proposition 68 funds to support the New River Improvement Project.



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