



July – August 2009

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EPA Secretary Linda Adams tours the New River

The Calexico New River Committee would like to sincerely thank EPA Secretary Linda Adams, CA Senator Denise Ducheny, CA Assemblymember Manuel Perez, CA Assemblymember Mary Salas and City of Calexico Mayor David Ouzan for visiting Calexico and touring the New River. This is a remarkable effort that will help improve public and environmental health conditions in our county.

The presence of EPA Secretary Linda Adams in Calexico on August 4th and 5th of this year marked an important milestone in an effort that spans over 50 years of work by this community to eliminate the negative impact of the New River. This important event brought the attention to the state and federal funding recently secured for the clean up of the New River and will create the momentum that is needed to secure additional funds for the New River Improvement Project.

The CNRC will also like to recognize



Calexico, CA - EPA Secretary Linda Adams, CA Senator Denise Ducheny and CA Assemblyman Manuel Perez

the participation of the following distinguished guests:

- Representatives from the California State Assembly Speaker's Office
- Members of the Calexico City Council
- Calexico City Manager Victor Carrillo
- Imperial County CEO Ralph Cordova
- El Centro Councilman Efrain Silva

The California Department of Public Health visits Calexico residents

On July 21st and 22nd the CNRC welcomed the Site Assessment Section (SAS) of the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). The purpose of meeting with residents is to conduct a needs assessment of the communities living adjacent to the New River. A public availability meeting was one way to identify the needs of the community. Through these gatherings CDPH determined how they can address those needs; assist

the community in finding appropriate resources and/or solutions for those needs. The CNRC also recommended that this visit could provide support to the community with capacity-building and update health education materials with a specific focus on contamination of the New River. It is important to note that SAS does not have authority to make federal or state regulations; however, they assist communities

and agencies in addressing health concerns about exposure to contaminants. To do this, they first evaluate whether exposure to contamination is occurring. If current exposure exists, SAS works with agencies to reduce or eliminate the exposure. All work is conducted in collaboration with the affected community.

To read the news article on this important story please visit our website.

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USIBWC APPOINTS COLORADO RIVER CITIZENS FORUM BOARD

The U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission established the Colorado River Citizens Forum in 2003 to facilitate the exchange of information between the USIBWC and members of the public about Commission activities in Yuma County, Arizona and Imperial County, California. The CRCF is intended to bring together community members, enabling the early and continued two-way flow of information, concerns, values, and needs between the

USIBWC and the general public, environmentalists, government agencies, irrigation districts, municipalities, and other interested parties.

United States Commissioner C.W. Bill Ruth has appointed the following board members:

- Elston Grubaugh, Wellton-Mohawk Irrigation and Drainage District
- Stella Mendoza, Imperial Irrigation District
- Marcos Moore, Jr., Arizona Farm Bureau
- Wade Noble, attorney for various Arizona irrigation districts
- N.W. Bill Plummer, water resources consultant
Sam F. Spiller, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Nancy Wright, California Regional Water Quality Control Board
- Kevin Eatherly, Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area
- Miguel Figueroa, Calexico New River Committee

City of Calexico adopts New River resolution

The City of Calexico adopted a resolution that strengthens the efforts to create and implement an improvement project for the New River. This resolution is in support of providing cost share funding to the state of California for the development of a strategic plan prepared by the California Mexico Border Relations Council to assist the city in development and implementation of the New River improvement project.

The California State Budget Act of 2009, as amended by Chapter 1 of the 2009-10 Fourth Extraordinary Session, appropriated eight hundred thousand dollars (\$800,000) to the City of Ca-

lexico for environmental review, engineering design, and associated planning necessary to develop a river parkway plan and river improvement project for the New River.

The state moneys were appropriated in order to secure and serve as matching funds for four million dollars (\$4,000,000) allocated pursuant to the 2005 Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU, Public Law 109-59) to the City of Calexico for the development of bicycle paths and public park space adjacent to the New River. With this resolu-

tion the City of Calexico recognizes the need for, and supports, the development of a coordinated and comprehensive state strategy to deal with the residual and projected pollution so that the New River and associated river channel can be enhanced to a condition that will allow the residents of Calexico and Imperial County to utilize them as recreational and natural assets as contemplated in the California River Parkways Act of 2004.

The CNRC recognizes the actions of all stakeholders that have provided their support and time in developing what will be the solution to the pollution in Imperial County.

Support our project with a tax deductible donation at
www.calexiconewriver.org