



**CALEXICO NEW RIVER
COMMITTEE**

Improving Our Way of Life

CNRC hosts award ceremony to honor local students

The Calexico New River Committee's school project enabled our young generations to know how they can engage themselves and be part of the current efforts to remediate the most polluted river in North America. Students from different grade levels shared their thoughts, recommendations, and concerns through essays and drawings. The CNRC hosted an award ceremony for the winners at the Enrique Camarena Memorial Library located at 850 Encinas Avenue in Calexico, CA.

An open invitation was made to the parents and family members of the students that were honored at the ceremony. A number of local dignitaries attended the ceremony and presented the winners with their prizes, among those who attended were the Honorable Mayor of Calexico John Moreno, Calexico City Councilman Bill Hodge, County of Imperial representative Andy Horne, and Rebecca Terrazas-Baxter from the office of CA Assemblyman V. Manuel Perez. We will recognize your work and present you with your contest prize, we encourage that you bring your parents for this special celebration. A group of local dignitaries will be in attendance to recognize the effort of our local students. The event was filmed by Rock the Border Productions and will be uploaded to our website.

The CNRC would like to thank the principals and teachers from Blanche Charles Elementary, De Anza 9th Grade Academy, Aurora High School, Calexico High School, San Diego State University I.V. Campus, and Imperial Valley College for encouraging students to be proactive and support the efforts to remediate the impaired condition of the New River.

March

April

2011

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Drawing Contest Winners

Elementary

1st - Noe Herrera

2nd - Camila Martinez

3rd - Isaac Ramirez

Junior High

1st - Karina Cambero

2nd - Julio Gomez

3rd - Miguel Verdugo

High School

1st - Amethyst Morales

2nd - Efren Obeso

3rd - Mayra Ortega

Essay Contest Winners

4th Grade

1st - Matthew Tabarez

2nd - Mariela Ponce

3rd - Benny Ruiz

5th Grade

1st - Jennifer Hernandez

2nd - Robert Moreno

3rd - Anai Lemus

6th Grade

1st - Amber Martinez

2nd - Jesus Carrillo

3rd - Miguel Flores

Junior High

1st - Brigette Acuna

2nd - Juan Coronel

3rd - Karina Cambero

High School

1st - Andrea Pineda

2nd - Guillermo Aguilar

3rd - Arlette Zazueta

College

1st - Oswaldo Guerrero

2nd - Erika Hermosillo

3rd - Austen Peek



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To access New River water quality data please use the Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board's link
http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb7/water_issues/programs/new_river/dataindex.shtml

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CNRC Award Ceremony continued: The Office of Assemblyman V. Manuel Pérez, 80th Assembly District, awarded all winners a certificate from the California State Assembly in recognition for sharing their thoughts and vision for a healthy environment and a clean New River. Highlights from the ceremony are displayed below.



New River Improvement bill by Manuel Pérez Takes Step Forward

PRESS RELEASE

(SACRAMENTO) – A bill related to the New River Improvement Plan made progress today in the State Assembly, it was approved in Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxics Committee. AB 939 by Assemblymember V. Manuel Pérez (D-Coachella) helps to ensure coordination among the various funding and planning agencies involved in the effort.

“It is essential that as we move forward from planning to implementation we do not face technical hurdles that slow our progress on the ground,” said Pérez. “AB 939 will ensure that once the New River plan is approved, we are poised to act to address this serious public health issue that has undermined the health and wellbeing of Imperial Valley communities for decades.”

AB 939 consolidates all of the technical definitions pertaining to the New River Improvement Project into one public resources code, creating a clearly defined statutory program. Eventually, the bill will serve as the vehicle for codifying the consensus recommendations in the Project’s Technical Advisory Committee strategic plan as approved by the California-Mexico Border Relations Council. A plan draft is expected in June.

“The people of the Imperial Valley appreciate that Assemblyman Pérez is continuing to show leadership on this issue,” said Miguel Figueroa of the Calexico New River Committee. “This bill is the next important step needed to implement the recommendations we are all working on to ensure a brighter future for the New River and those who live adjacent to it.” John McCaull of the Calexico New River Committee attended today’s hearing, testifying in support of the bill.

In 2009, Pérez successfully authored AB 1079 (Chapter 382, Statutes of 2009) authorizing the New River Improvement Project, a collaboration of the California-Mexico Border Relations Council, the California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA), and the City of Calexico to develop a strategic plan for the clean-up of the New River, California’s most polluted river.

The Project has thus far secured nearly \$5.2 million in support from the State Water Resources Control Board, Federal Transportation Funding, and the State California River Parkways Funding. The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) tasked with developing the strategic plan has been meeting since the summer of 2010. Earlier this year, the TAC held three public hearings in Brawley, Calexico, and El Centro to gather public input.

AB 939 passed on a 5-1 vote and now advances to the Assembly Floor. To read the full text of the bill, go to www.leginfo.ca.gov.