



*Improving Our Way of Life*

## UC Davis to Provide Additional Services for New River Project

City Council approved in consent agenda the amendments to the existing contract with UC Davis. By taking this action City Council authorized the City Manager to amend the existing agreement between City of Calexico and the Calexico New River Committee approved April 5, 2011 to provide for additional scope of services to complete a number of tasks, including, but not limited to, stakeholder outreach and education, and completion of the strategic plan pursuant to AB 1079.

As a result of their collaboration in this project, UC Davis has come to provide the technical support that will enable the project's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to present a document that has one voice behind it and makes recommendations based on priority needs that have been identified. In recent months UC Davis has played an objective and neutral role in identifying and evaluating options and working through priority setting and dialogue around potential solutions. To that end, one major component of the work will be a series of three "symposia" where well prepared panels of engineering, water quality, planning and related professionals to review, critique, analyze and assist the TAC in evaluating the various options for each reach, this important component of the New River Improvement Project Strategic Plan is to take place in the month of September.

**May — June**

**2011**

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## TCWF Annual Environmental Health Conference

The CNRC Executive Director and Vice Chairman attended the two-day 2011 California Wellness Foundation Environmental Health Conference in Los Angeles, CA. According to the foundation's informational release the conference will bring together executive directors and key program staff from organizations addressing environmental health in California. This year's conference featured breakout sessions on topics covering program development, policy issues, and capacity building. Participants had the chance to learn from each other and other experts about trends, challenges and opportunities; strengthen professional relationships; and explore strategies for advancing policy and practice involving environmental health.

## Imperial County Farm Bureau 2011 Drained Meetings

The CNRC was invited on behalf of the New River Improvement Project steering committee to conduct presentations on the current New River Improvement Project Strategic Plan efforts. The Imperial County Farm Bureau conducts annual meetings to report on the TMDL Voluntary Compliance Program that prevents silt from draining into the New River. The CNRC informed about the efforts in place to carry out AB 1079, the IID provided presentations on the vegetation management and drain-house maintenance, the Regional Water Quality Control Board provided a presentation on the results of the TMDL program, and the Imperial Valley Growers Association provided a presentation on the Smoke Management Plan. The CNRC thanks the Imperial County Farm Bureau for this opportunity.



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### AB 939: Looks to Address Salton Sea Restoration Efforts

As previously informed in past editions of the CNRC Newsletter AB 939 pertained to the New River Improvement Project. This bill originally served as the vehicle for codifying the consensus recommendations in the New River Improvement Project's Technical Advisory Committee strategic plan as approved by the California-Mexico Border Relations Council. Given that AB 939 would have been amended in January 2012 to include the recommendations from the New River Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Strategic Plan which will be finalized in September 2011, it was not necessary to continue moving AB 939 this year. In order address the critical state of the Salton Sea, Assemblyman will amend AB 939 and turn it into Salton Sea legislation. A new vehicle will be identified in the next legislative session to codify the New River strategic plan, currently in development.

The proposed legislation would transfer to the local Salton Sea Authority the mandate and responsibilities of the Salton Sea Restoration Council, a body established by statute last year. The bill language is being amended into AB 939, currently in Senate Committee on Environmental Quality. After the amendments are processed, AB 939 is likely to be re-referred to Senate Natural Resources. Assemblyman Perez stated that the "Salton Sea restoration is a longstanding issue for the region, and the clock is ticking," said Pérez. "The longer we wait, the greater the risk to our local public health, the environment, and the economy. Given the budget recommendation to delay the Council for one year and the Governor's proposal to eliminate it, this bill seeks to directly empower local entities to pursue local options and explore local revenue streams, so we can start restoration efforts that are so critically needed."

### Safe Water for Our Communities with Policy Leadership

Starting July, the CNRC will implement a new outreach campaign titled "Safe Water for Our Communities with Policy Leadership." Thanks to the generous opportunity sponsored by the Regional Water Quality Control Board the CNRC will ensure that the water needs of our communities are identified, addressed, and funded by informing our community about the work currently performed through the IRWMP plans and the New River Improvement Project Strategic Plan.

With the assistance of community educators the CNRC will be performing the following activities in this program:

#### July – September 2011 (AB 1079)

- Meet with at least 10 Imperial Valley community groups and organizations on a monthly basis to educate them on the AB 1079 strategic plan work.
- At least twice a month conduct outreach to and educate four (4) Imperial Valley disadvantaged communities (Calexico, Calipatria, Seeley and Niland) on the AB 1079 strategic plan work.
- Provide technical assistance dealing with funding for AB 1079 New River Improvement Project.

#### July – December 2011 (IRWMP)

- Meet with at least 10 Imperial Valley community groups and organizations on a monthly basis to educate them on the IRWMP process.
- At least twice a month conduct outreach to and educate four (4) Imperial Valley disadvantaged communities (Calexico, Calipatria, Seeley and Niland) on the IRWMP process.
- Participate in at least (1) one monthly meeting of the Imperial Valley IRWMP management group and sub-committees; conduct periodic status update presentations to the IRWMP on the AB 1079 strategic plan work.

### CNRC Executive Director to represent New River Improvement Project on I.V. IRWMP

The New River Improvement Project's Technical Advisory Committee designate the CNRC Executive Director as their representative in the Imperial Valley Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) Water Forum. This action will enable IRWMP forum members to learn about the New River Improvement Project Strategic Plan, but most importantly it will place the New River Improvement Project in the IRWMP project list as well.