



Improving Our Way of Life

Calexico City Council Approves Agreement with ERM

On August 16, 2011 the Calexico City Council approved the agreement for professional services with ERM-West, Inc. The ERM team will primarily be directed to the Phase 1B project. However, the City anticipates that the services of the ERM team will be called upon from time to time to assist the NRIP technical advisory committee (TAC) appointed by the California Mexico Border Relations Council and the consultant team that is currently working on completing the Phase 1A Strategic Plan. The scope of work for Phase 1B is to transform the 3-mile reach of the New River within the City of Calexico into a public amenity that meets public health and environmental objectives. As part of the finalization of contract negotiations with ERM, the City developed a more detailed scope of work and schedule. The goals and objectives for FY 10-11 are directed toward planning and studies, the goals and objectives for FY 11-12 are predominately directed toward construction activities.

July — August
2011

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Environmental Resources Management (ERM) is a leading global provider of environmental, health and safety, risk, and social consulting services. They deliver innovative solutions for business and government clients, helping them understand and manage their impacts on the world around them.

Project Scope

Planning

Organizational structure of involved entities: City and ERM Team Members:

- City of Calexico
- Consultants to the City of Calexico
- Funding Agencies: Caltrans, California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA), State Water Resources Control Board
- NGO, notably the Calexico New River Committee (CNRC)
- ERM Team

Administrative Process

Project management roles:

- City
- ERM Team
- CNRC

Decision making procedure

Task-by-task budgeting process

Plan Development

Phase 1A: Assistance with the Strategic Plan

Phase 1B: Calexico River Parkway and Bike Path Development Project – Preliminary Engineering

Phase 1A Objective

Assist the NRIP Technical Advisory Committee and its consultants, as needed, in completing the NRIP Strategic Plan.

Phase 1B Objective

Initiate and complete all preliminary engineering and planning in preparation for constructing a river parkway and bike paths within the channel of the New River reach that extends from the international border to State Highway 98—including internal and external tasks.



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New River Improvement Project Technical Workshop

The New River Improvement Project Technical Workshop will take place on September 13-14, 2011. This workshop will take place at the Cultural Arts Center in Calexico, CA. The Workshop will consist of several panels comprised of legal, technical, and engineering experts from Mexico and the United States to help guide remediation and implementation solutions to address New River water quality problems.

Wednesday, September 14th

Technical Workshop

Panel 1: Water Quality Remediation Options and Solutions

- Drainage, Waste Discharges, and Treatment of Wastewater in New River Watershed in Mexicali
- Trash Screens, Diversion and Disinfection in Border Area and Calexico — Calexico River Parkway
- TMDL Voluntary Compliance Program and Regulatory Programs — Wetland Treatment
- Selenium Alternatives and Other Pollutants

Panelists

- Stantec Consulting Services
- US EPA
- Universidad Autónoma de Baja California
- Mexican National Water Commission (CONAGUA)
- State Commission for Public Services in Mexicali (CESPM)
- CSU Humboldt
- State Water Resources Control Board
- USGS Salton Sea Science Office

Wednesday, September 14th

Technical Workshop

Panel 2: Getting It Done: Options and Approaches to Implementation

- Legal and Regulatory Constraints
- Funding and Financing
- Governance and Management

Panelists

- San Diego State University
- US EPA
- Ormat Technologies, Inc.
- Border Environment Cooperation Commission (BECC)
- State Water Resources Control Board
- International Boundary and Water Commission, U.S. Section
- International Boundary and Water Commission, Mexico Section

Colorado River Citizens Forum

The International Boundary Water Commission's Colorado River Citizens Forum will have its next regular meeting on September 7, 2011 in Yuma, AZ.

More Facts...There is a vast amount of background information, legal/regulatory documents, plans, and technical data derived from the work performed by the Technical Advisory Committee work groups:

Impairment Technical Memo: Background data on the current state of the river, focused on water quality and each of the constituents of concern in each of the river reaches. The body of the document is fairly brief including an Impairments summary and an attachment that describes each reach by each pollutant. This document is especially useful for understanding the current magnitude and nature of the water quality problems faced by the river.

Vision Technical Memo: This report focuses on the overall vision for the river and also the River Parkway that is proposed for the Calexico area and part of AB 1079. This report has excellent background information on the region and community as well.

Remediation Technical Memo: This is perhaps the most critical report because it does a great job addressing a summary of impairments, a summary of agencies involved in water quality in the New River, and all of the possible solutions that are either being done currently or being considered for the future. It is important to pay close attention particularly to the Existing and On-Going Solutions and all of the possible new solutions that the TAC is looking closely at.