



Improving Our Way of Life

U.S.—Mexico Environmental Program: Border 2020

The mission of the Border 2020 Program is to protect the environment and public health in the border region. The draft Border 2020 is the latest environmental program implemented under the 1983 La Paz Agreement. This program builds on current Border 2012 Environmental Program, emphasizing community and local stakeholder participation. On October 5, 2011 a public comment session took place at the Calexico Council Chambers, at this U.S. EPA officials provided a presentation on the initial projects that are included in the 2020 plan. After the conclusion of this presentation the public had the opportunity to share projects that should be considered for the plan. The primary request by the attendees was to include the New River Improvement Project/Strategic Plan in the Border 2020 Program. Juanita Salas and Antonio Ortega spoke in support of including the New River Improvement Project in the Border 2020 Plan on behalf of U.S. Congressman Bob Filner and California Assemblyman Manuel Perez. The CNRC, Calexico Councilman John Moreno, Calexico Mayor Luis J. Castro, and local grassroots' leader Luis Olmedo also spoke in support of the New River Strategic Plan. U.S. EPA officials acknowledged the need to have the New River be a priority.

**September
October**

2011

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Written comments must be submitted no later than November 30, 2011

Comments can be submitted by mail or fax to:

US-Mexico Border Program
US Environmental Protection Agency
Office of International and Tribal Affairs (MC-2650R) (Room 31137)
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, DC 20460
Fax: (202) 565-2411

Comments can also be submitted on EPA's U.S.-Mexico Border website at:

<http://www.epa.gov/border2012> or emailed to: border2020.comments@epa.gov

CNRC Board of Directors welcome CA Senator Juan Vargas

At the October 19, 2011 CNRC Board Meeting State Senator Juan Vargas accepted an invitation to be part of the CNRC's Board of Directors. Scott Hinkle, Chula Vista representative, stated that it was an honor for Senator Juan Vargas to be invited to participate in this effort and stated that the Senator is committed to support this effort at the State Capitol. Scott Hinkle added that Eduardo Garcia, Coachella City Mayor, will also be actively attending the monthly CNRC board meetings on behalf of Senator Juan Vargas. Chairman Jose Carrillo thanked Scott Hinkle for attending the CNRC board meeting and thanked the office of Senator Vargas for accepting the CNRC's invitation. The CNRC appreciates the support and political effort of our elected officials who have a seat on the CNRC board of directors and unite to help resolve a long overdue remediation project for the New River.



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UPDATE: New River Improvement Project

The purpose of this update is to provide a progress report on the implementation of the New River Improvement Project (NRIP) in Calexico. The portion of the NRIP in Calexico involves transforming parts of the three-mile reach of the New River that flows through and adjacent to the City from the international border to State Rte 98 into a publically accessible parkway comprised of recreational areas and bicycle and pedestrian paths.

City of Calexico Project Management Team

The City formulated a local project management organization and team designed to assist the City's contract administrator in managing the Parkway project (Phase 1B). This management team is comprised of the Executive Director of the Calexico New River Committee (Miguel Figueroa) and two consultants to the City (Lee Shull, John McCaull).

Current Status of NRIP Phases 1A and 1B Projects

As previously informed the Calexico City Council approved the agreement for professional services with ERM-West, Inc. The ERM team primarily is directed to the Phase 1B project. 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. Both project phases were initiated in 2010 and are progressing well.

Phase 1A: As of the date of this newsletter, the first draft of the NRIP Strategic Plan has been completed, will be subjected to peer review by the TAC and other stakeholders in Nov/Dec 2011, and finalized by the end of 2011. It is important to note that the Strategic Plan has subdivided the 66-mile reach of the New River into four (4) separate reaches (i.e., development areas). Reach #1 is the three-mile area extending from the international border to State Highway 98, which is the identical area comprising the NRIP Phase 1B area. The Calexico Parkway project is described in the NRIP Strategic Plan.

Phase 1B. The ERM team is currently formulating their initial scope of work for the Phase 1B project. It is anticipated that ERM will soon be submitting task orders to the City for approval and implementation.

Calexico River Parkway Project Kick Off Meeting, Carlsbad, CA

ERM hosted a daylong NRIP team kick-off meeting on October 13, 2011. This meeting included the key ERM team subcontractors, the City of Calexico and several of the City's consultants.

"River Parkway: Bike and Pedestrian Path Project" Team:

Kevin Bryan, ERM; Truong Mai, ERM; Luis Estrada, City of Calexico; Miguel Figueroa, CNRC; Lee Shull, CYA; John McCaull, Attorney; Kevin B. Colson, LGC Geotechnical; Julio Zambrano, ERM; Sara Katz, Katz & Associates; Robert R. Gehrke, RBF Consulting; Paul L. Findley, RBF Consulting; and Tim Gnibus, HDR.

The meeting included the following items of discussion:

General project history; City of Calexico concerns; TAC update; Project funding sources and utilization; Project description and boundaries; Project year-one task prioritization; and Comments and action items.

4th Annual Imperial County Environmental Health leadership Summit

The 4th Annual Environmental Health Leadership Summit will take place on November 17, 2011 at San Diego State University IV Campus in Calexico, CA. The purpose of this summit is to bring together environmental health and justice advocates, government agencies, and community residents to identify strategies to address environmental issues in Imperial County through education, collaboration and community participation. This year's key-note speaker will be Jared Blumenfeld, Administrator for EPA Region 9.

Online registration is available at <http://ejleadershipsummit.org> or for more information at (760) 351-8761, this event is hosted by Comite Civico del Valle.