



INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION  
UNITED STATES AND MEXICO

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## **IBWC TO CONDUCT YEAR-LONG WATER QUALITY STUDY IN THE NEW RIVER**

The U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) awarded a \$679,313.67 contract to EGC-AGEISS Joint Venture of San Antonio, Texas, to collect water and sediment samples in the New River in the United States and Mexico and at Morelos Dam on the Colorado River.

The sampling program was developed by the U.S. and Mexican Sections of the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) with input from local stakeholders to analyze the water quality in the New River as it travels through Mexicali, Baja California, Mexico, and Calexico, Calif., on its way to the Salton Sea.

An additional site was selected at Morelos Dam, between Los Algodones, Baja California, and Yuma County, Ariz., as the Colorado River diverted at the dam is used by irrigators in Mexico who discharge into arroyos and drains that empty into the New River.

The data will be used to assess the water and sediment to determine if there are any potential impacts to the environment and human health. The results will be used to discuss the current monitoring conducted under IBWC Minute 264 and consider revisions under a new Minute to improve conditions in the New River. Additionally, regional stakeholders have requested this study to better inform the public on the river's water quality.

The sampling program will begin in November and continue for one year. The study will analyze water and sediment samples on a routine basis for bacteria, industrial pollutants, pesticides, metals, and more. The samples will be collected by a binational team from both countries at four sites in Mexico and four sites in the United States. The team will be comprised of both sections of the IBWC, the contractor, and the National Water Commission of Mexico.

At the conclusion of the study, the IBWC will develop a report of the results, assess the data, and provide conclusions. The report and data will be publicly available through the websites of both IBWC sections.

“This binational effort will give IBWC and communities the science and facts we need to make educated decisions about the future of this critical but polluted waterway,” said **Dr. Maria-Elena Giner, USIBWC Commissioner**. “We appreciate the support of Congressman Dr. Raul Ruiz as well as the many other federal, state, and local stakeholders concerned about the New River.”

“This Wastewater Characterization Study is the first step towards a new agreement between the United States and Mexico to address the ongoing pollution in the New River,” said **Congressman Raul Ruiz, M.D. (CA-25)**.

The text of Minute 264 can be found here: <https://www.ibwc.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Min264.pdf>

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