



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
January 18, 2024

USIBWC Colorado River Citizens Forum Public Meeting on January 24

The United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) Colorado River Citizens Forum board is pleased to announce it will host an in-person and virtual public meeting on Wednesday, **January 24, 2024, from 4-6 p.m. PST.**

Jeremy Brooks, program manager of the Salton Sea Program, will give an update on the declining Salton Sea surface water levels and how this is exposing the lakebed, contributing to water and air quality challenges that impact human health and wildlife.

USIBWC Civil Engineer Jose Vela will present on the implementation status of Minute 323-related projects.

Wayne Belzer, an Environmental Engineer with the USIBWC, will give a description of the binational water quality study proposed by the International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico (IBWC) for the New River. IBWC is working with agencies from Calexico-Mexicali and intends to initiate the study this year.

The public meeting will be held in person at:

**Imperial County Board Chambers
940 West Main Street, Suite 211, El Centro, CA 92243.**

The meeting will also be held virtually. [Click here to join the meeting.](#) If possible, it may be helpful for you to test connectivity on your own prior to the meeting by clicking on the “Join” link and ensuring your camera and microphone are functioning. Or join by phone: Call-in number +1 872-240-1286. Conference Code: 178168807#

For those connecting via phone, the presentations will be available on the Colorado River Citizens Forum page before the start of the meeting. Click on the QR scan below to go to the site.

If you would like to speak during the public comment period, please sign up ahead of time by contacting Leslie Grijalva at leslie.grijalva@ibwc.gov or 915-832-4770 by noon on January 22, 2024.

News Media Contact:

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COLORADO RIVER CITIZENS FORUM

**Wednesday, January 24, 2024, 4–6 p.m. PST
Imperial County Board Chambers
940 West Main Street, Suite 211, El Centro, CA 92243**

Agenda

- **Welcome and Introductions** – Leslie Grijalva, Public Affairs Specialist, USIBWC
- **Opening Remarks** – Frank Fisher, Director of Public Affairs, USIBWC
- **IID/CNRA/USBR/CVWD Salton Sea Funding Agreement** - Jeremy Brooks, Salton Sea Program Manager
- **Extension of Cooperative Measures and Adoption of a Binational Water Scarcity Contingency Plan in the Colorado River Basin** - Jose Vela, Civil Engineer, USIBWC
- **New River Binational Water Quality Study** - Wayne Belzer, Environmental Engineer, USIBWC
- **Public Comment**
- **Board Discussion**
- **Suggested Future Agenda Items**

If you have a disability that you wish to self-identify confidentially that requires accommodation, please advise us ahead of time. For more information call 915-832-4770 or email leslie.grijalva@ibwc.gov.

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device: [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 288 170 069 54

Passcode: p8hyHQ

[Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#)

Or call in (audio only)

[+1 872-240-1286,178168807#](tel:+18722401286178168807) United States, Chicago



INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION

UNITED STATES SECTION

Citizens Forum Meeting

**Minute 323 - Extension of Cooperative Measures and
Adoption of a Binational Water Scarcity Contingency
Plan in the Colorado River Basin**

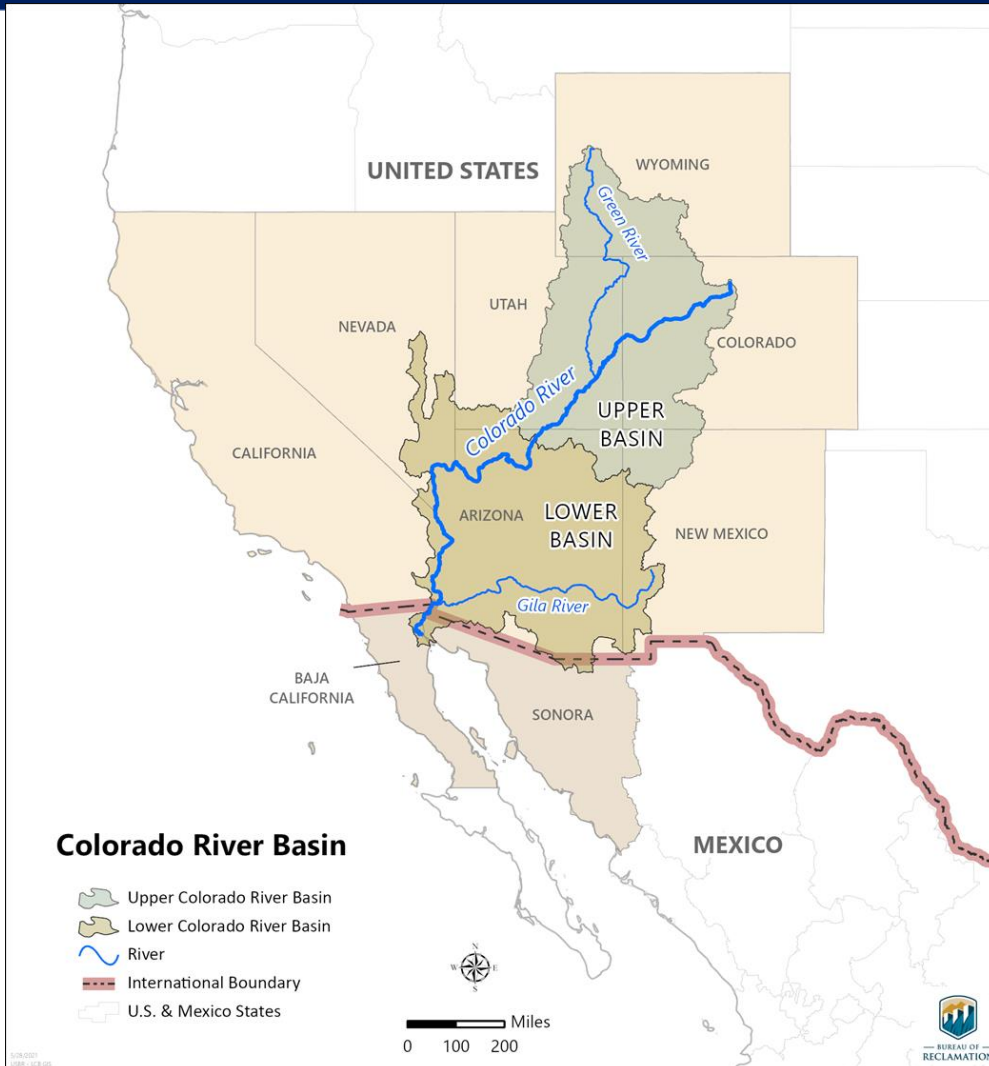
Jose A Vela, MSCE

Civil Engineer

Engineering Services Division



1944 WATER TREATY: COLORADO RIVER



- U.S. to deliver to Mexico a volume of 1.5 maf/year (1850 mcm/year)
- When there are surplus waters, Mexico may receive an additional 200 kaf
- In extraordinary drought, Mexico's allocation reduced in same proportion as to the U.S.
- Treaty does not define extraordinary drought



MINUTE 323 ON: COLORADO RIVER COOPERATION

Minute 323 in effect 2017-2026 and includes:

- Creation of Mexico's Water Reserve to store water in the US for future delivery
- **Shortage reductions**
- Water sharing during high reservoir conditions
- Recoverable water savings
- **Water conservation** and new water sources projects including desalination
- **Water for the environment**/habitat restoration
- Salinity
- Flow variability





Minute 323

On September 21, 2017, the Commissioners from the United States and Mexican Sections of the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) met and signed Minute 323 to extend the joint cooperative measures agreed to in Minute 319 for the Colorado River Basin, to address the continued effects of the April 2010 earthquake in the Mexicali Valley, and to adopt a Binational Water Scarcity Contingency Plan in the Colorado River Basin. Minute 323 includes the following:

- Extends joint Colorado River cooperative measures through December 31, 2026
- Provides \$31.5 M in US investment in water conservation projects in Mexico
- Mandatory cuts in Mexico of up to 500,000 acre-feet/year due to drought
- Recoverable water savings in Mexico of up to 150,000 acre-feet/year due to drought
- Covers other aspects such as environment, salinity, flow variability and new water sources, including desalination



Water Conservation Projects in Mexico

Types of projects include:

Canal Lining





System operational improvements



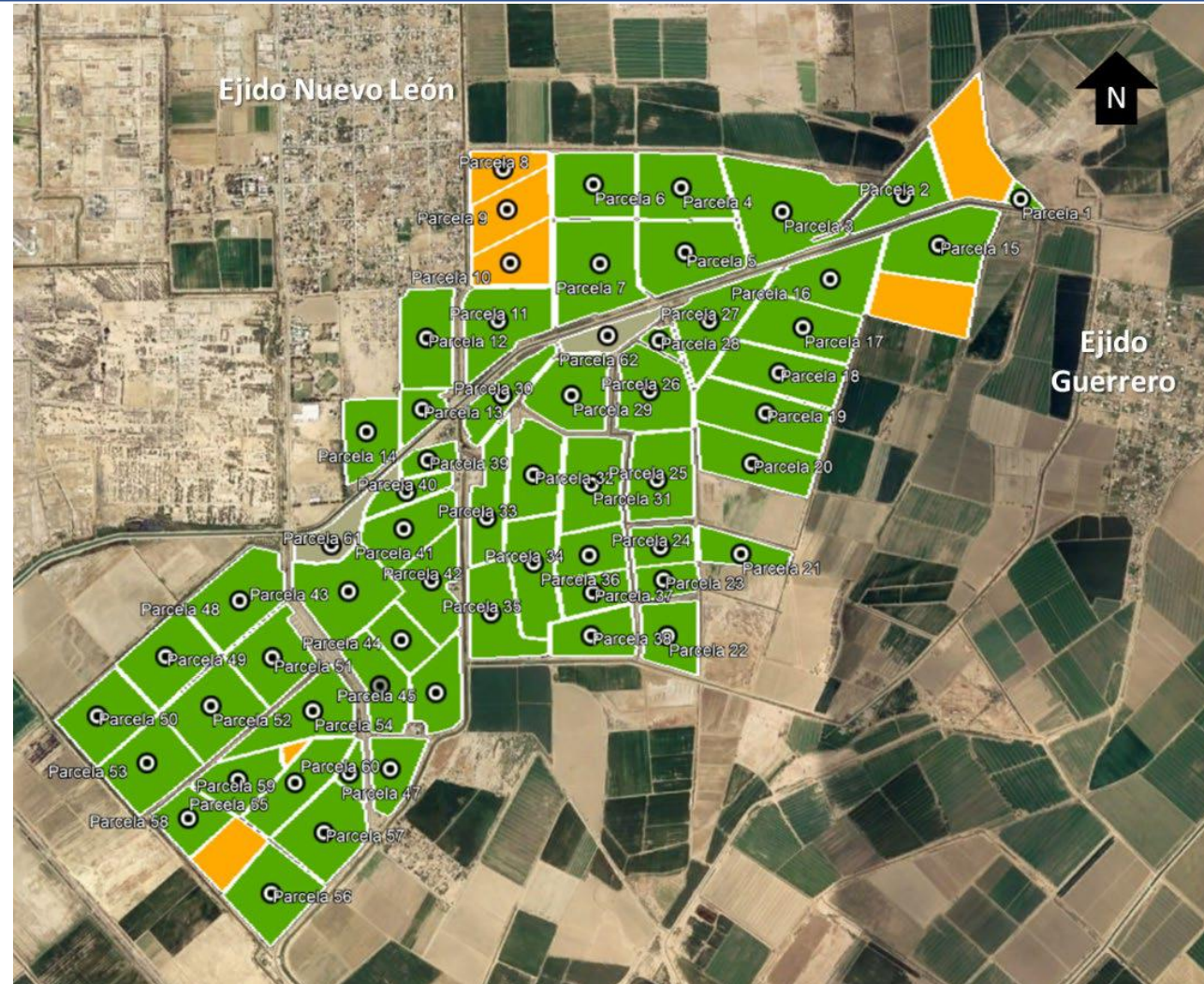


On Farm conservation



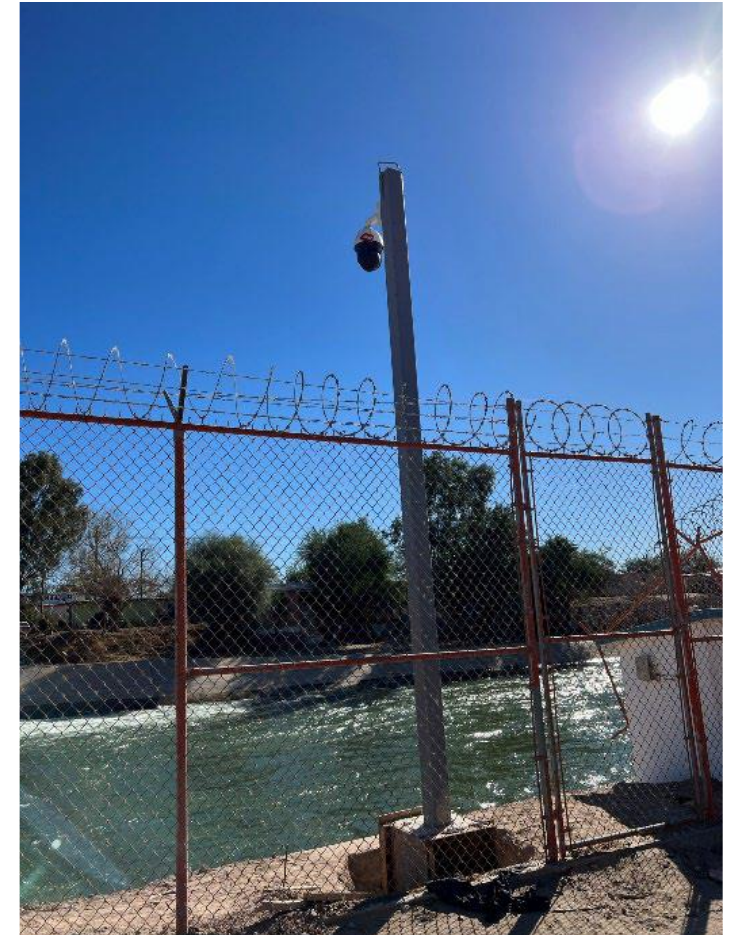


Following





Modernization and technical improvements to irrigation districts



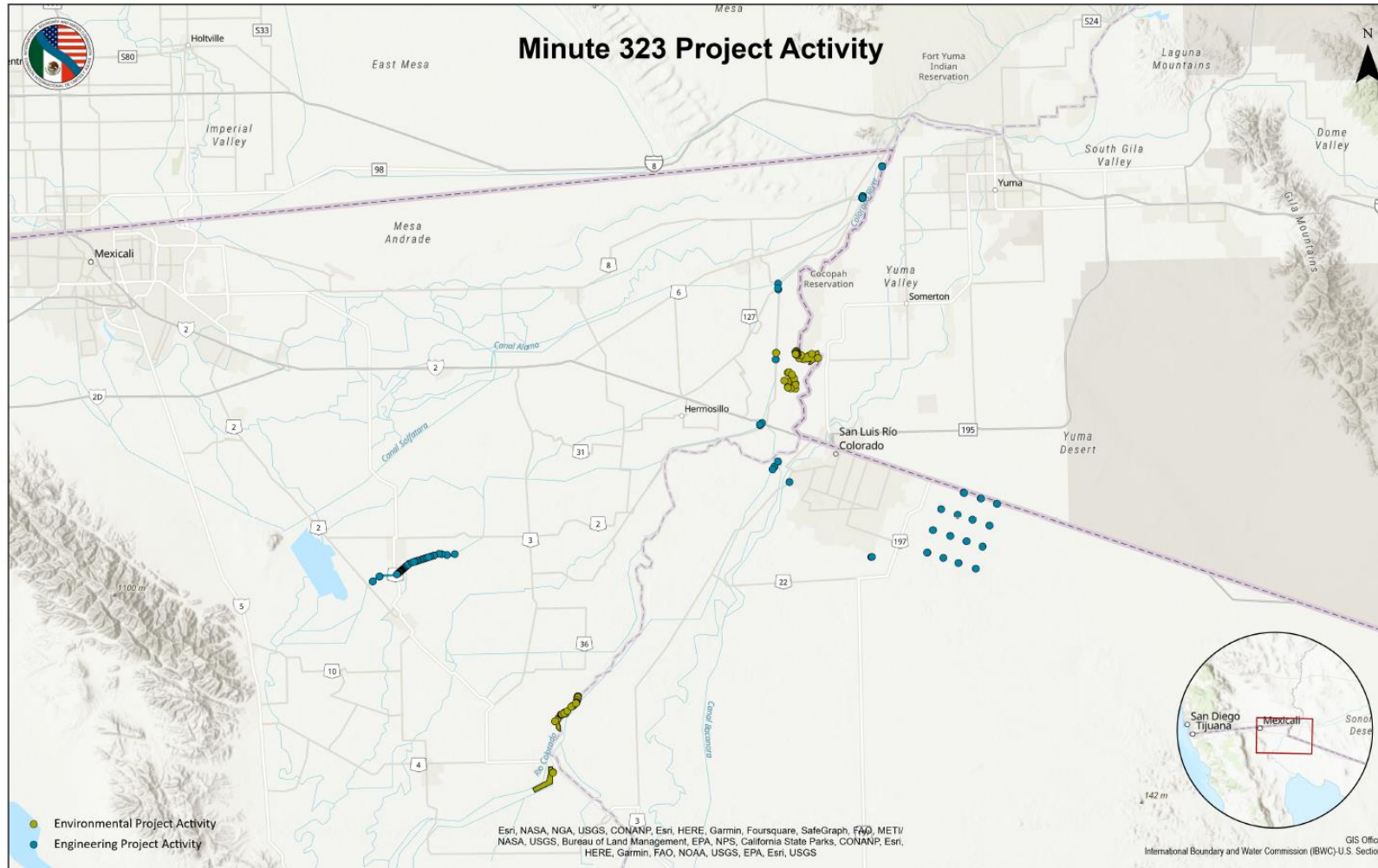


Creation of wetlands and wastewater effluent reuse





INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION UNITED STATES SECTION





Payment Status to IBWC Mexican Section as of December 2023

Project Name	Contract Amount (Pesos)	Total Paid (Pesos)	Total Paid (Dollars)
CILA Administration Expenses	\$6,978,490.00	\$6,978,490.00	\$358,457.68
CILA-MXL-INV-18-21	\$669,833.56	\$451,403.13	\$22,837.93
CILA-MXL-INV-10-2022	\$669,833.56	\$669,833.55	\$34,122.87
CILA-MXL-INV-9-2022	\$4,596,065.81	\$4,596,065.81	\$234,784.34
CILA-MXL-LPN-14-2022	\$56,031,599.77	\$56,031,599.77	\$2,911,498.59
CILA-MXL-LPN-13-2022	\$2,660,343.74	\$2,660,343.75	\$141,638.99
CILA-MXL-LPN-12-2022	\$24,730,504.37	\$23,636,751.16	\$1,116,829.16
CILA-MXL-LPN-32-2022	\$12,162,130.91	\$12,162,130.91	\$595,141.25
CILA-MXL-INV-11-2023	\$982,553.73	\$981,643.56	\$57,773.09
Fallowed Land Project	\$1,833,498.72	\$0.00	\$1,833,498.72
		Total Paid (Pesos)	Total Paid (Dollars)
		\$108,168,261.64	\$7,306,582.63

Current total number of water conservation projects in Mexico: 9

Total amount requested by IBWC Mexican Section \$7,306,582.63



COLORADO RIVER MINUTE

- US Lower Basin to conserve an additional volume of 3 million acre-feet for 2023-2026
- Mexico expected to conserve a complementary share
- US to invest \$50 M - \$60 M for this additional conservation in Mexico
- Minute to be signed by spring 2024



Colorado River at Rockwood Weir



QUESTIONS?

Jose Vela

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[@usibwc](https://twitter.com/usibwc)



New River Binational Water Quality Study



History

- Binational toxic substances study done in 1996
- Wastewater Characterization study done in 2003
- Currently developing a comprehensive binational study to assess the New River water quality.
 - Report would be used to compare with the 2003 study to report on progress of regional projects.
 - Satisfies stakeholder request to conduct a study.
 - Requested by the IBWC commissioners in order to develop a Principal Engineers Joint Report for recommendation of a new minute.
 - Provide for new binational standards to replace Minute 264 signed in 1980.



USIBWC New River Monitoring

Qualitative Standards			
Applicable at indicated sampling location			
Monthly Average Values			
Sampling Location	New River at Boundary	Lagoon Discharge Canal	New River upstream of Discharge Canal
<u>Parameters</u>			
BOD		30 mg/l filtered	30 mg/l unfiltered
COD		70 mg/l filtered	100 mg/l unfiltered
pH	6.0 to 9.0		
DO	5.0 mg/l		
Fecal Coliforms			30,000 CFU
			No sample to exceed 60,000 CFU



Study development

- Used the 2019 Tijuana River and canyons study as a model for the New River
 - Binational study
- Multiple agency collaboration from both countries
- Sampling sites in Mexico and the US
- Metals, semi volatile organics, nutrients, bacteria
- One year study with seasonal collections

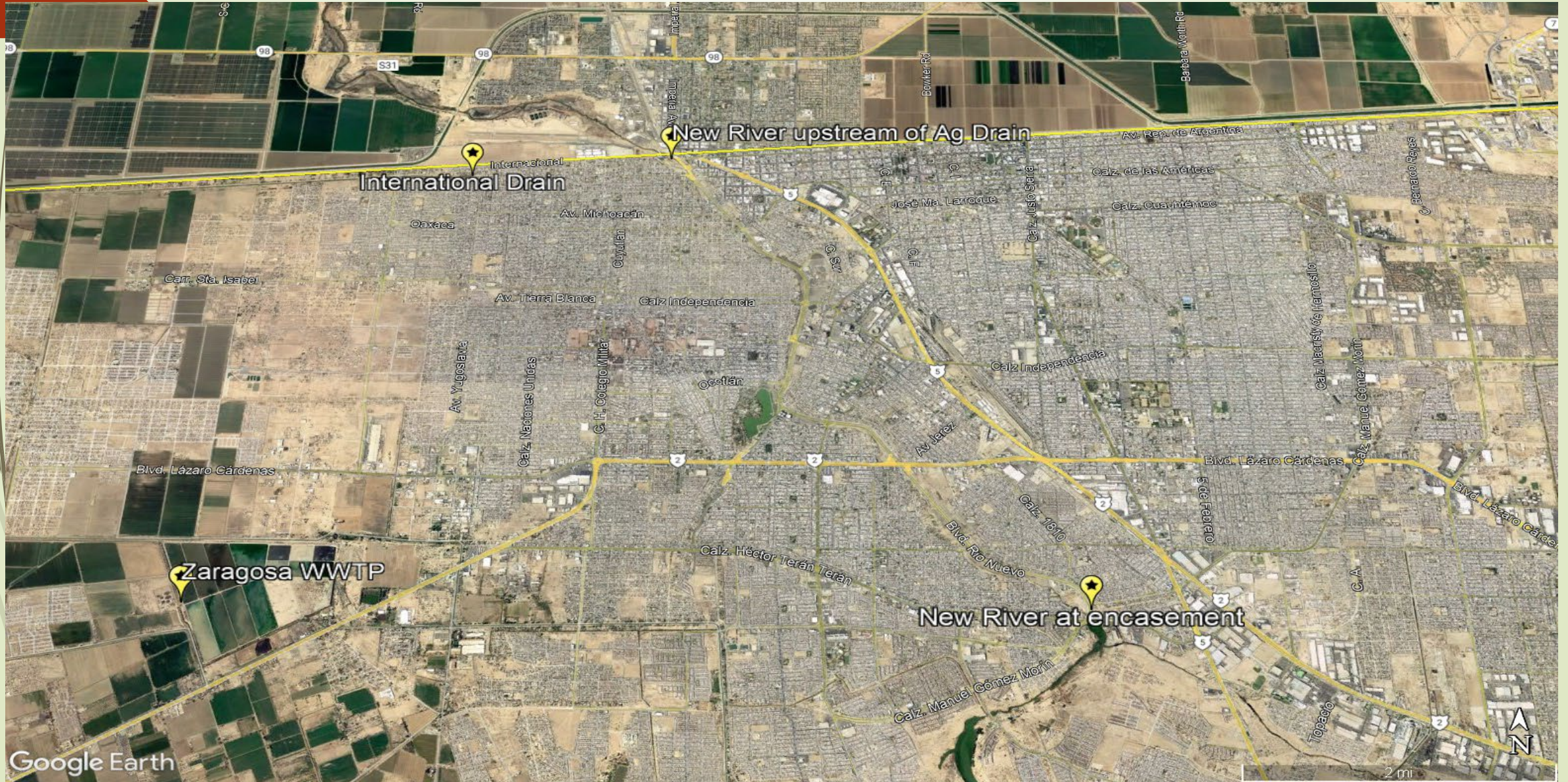
Monitoring Locations

Monitoring Sites			
Name	Country	Coordinates (Lat/Lon)	Notes
Zaragoza Effluent	MEX	32.606, -115.551	Minute 264
International Drain	MEX	32.661, -115.524	USIBWC Routine Site
New River at International Boundary	US	32.666, -115.503	Minute 264
New River Upstream of Discharge Canal/ Ag Drain/ New River at Madero Bridge	MEX	32.664, -115.499	Minute 264
New River at End of Encasement, Mexicali	MEX	32.607, -115.448	New Site
New River at Hwy98 Bridge	US	32.679, -115.542	New Site
Morelos Dam	MEX / US	32.702, -114.73	New Site
Calexico WWTP Effluent	US		New Site

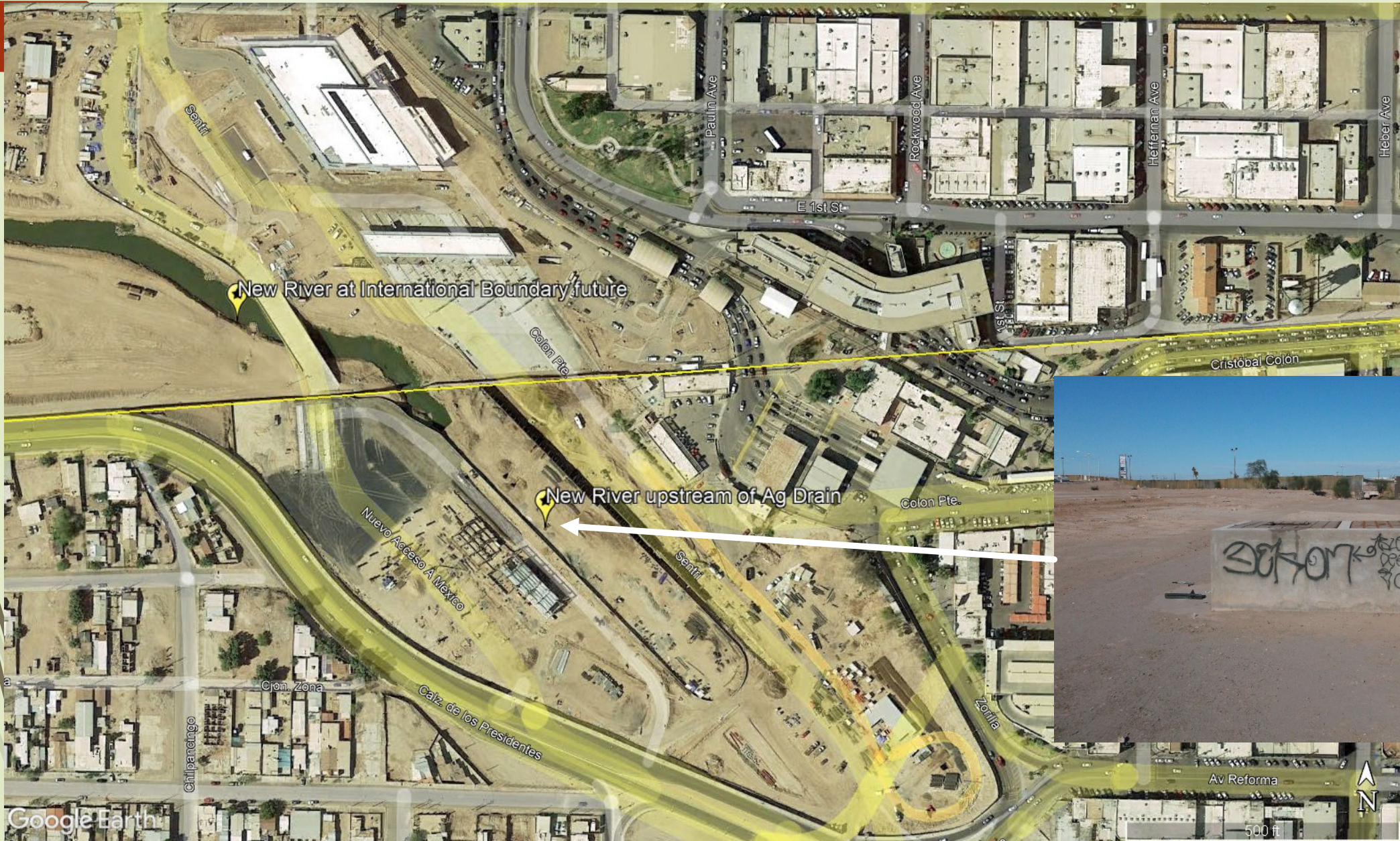
Morelos Dam



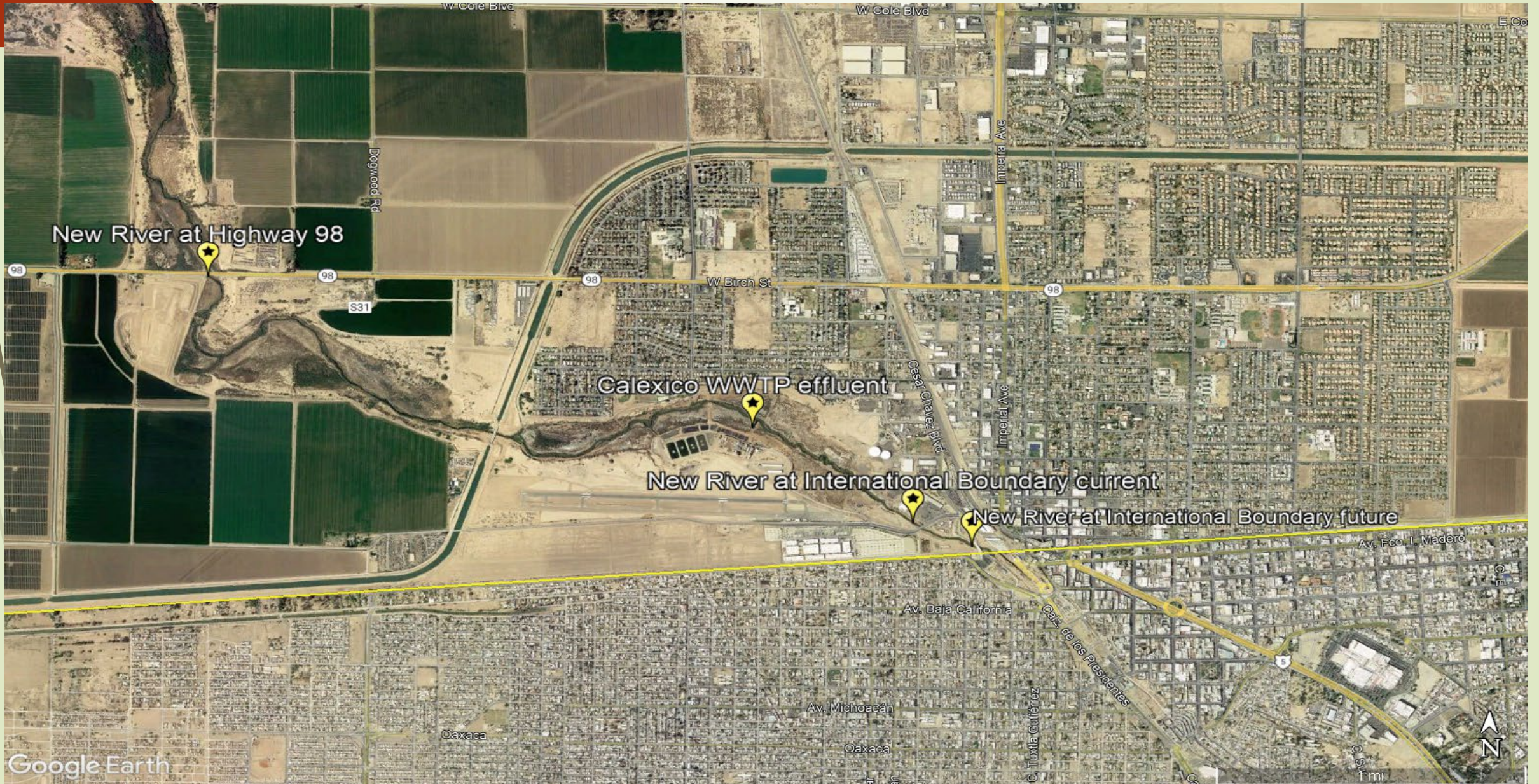
Mexican Sampling Sites



Mexican Sampling Sites



US Sites





New River at International Boundary



Calexico WWTP



New River at Highway 98

US Sampling Sites

Group	Testing Parameters for Water	Frequency	
Field	Visual Observations [1]	Monthly	
	Flow Rate	Monthly	
	Conductivity	Monthly	
	Temperature	Monthly	
	pH	Monthly	
	Dissolved Oxygen	Monthly	
	Turbidity	Monthly	
	Conventional / Nutrients	TSS	Monthly
		Ammonia (as N)	Monthly
		Nitrogen, Total	Monthly
Phosphorus, Total (as P)		Monthly	
CBOD		Monthly	
BOD ₅		Monthly	
COD		Monthly	

Group	Testing Parameters for Water	Frequency	
Bacteria	Fecal Coliform	Monthly	
	Norovirus and Entrovirus	Monthly	
	E. coli	Monthly	
Metals	Surfactants, Anionic, Methylene Blue Active Substances (MBAS)	Monthly	
	Heavy Metals	Monthly	
	Mercury (Total and Methyl)	Monthly	
	Pesticides	Organochlorine Pesticides	Quarterly
		Organophosphorus Pesticides	Quarterly
Organics	PAHs	Quarterly	
	PCB Congeners	Quarterly	
	Volatile Organic Compounds	Quarterly	
	Semi-volatile Organic Compounds	Quarterly	
	Pyrethroid Pesticides	Quarterly	
	Neonicotinoid Pesticides	Quarterly	
	Carbamate Pesticides	Quarterly	
	PBDEs	Quarterly	
	Nonylphenols and Nonylphenol ethoxylates	Quarterly	
	Remaining Priority Pollutants	Monthly	

Testing Parameters for Sediment

Parameter Group	Type of Sample	Sampling Frequency
Sediment Grain Size	Grab	quarterly
Total Organic Carbon	Grab	quarterly
Heavy Metals (Total)	Grab	quarterly
Mercury (Total and Methyl)	Grab	quarterly
PAHs	Grab	quarterly
PCB Congeners	Grab	quarterly
Nonylphenols and Nonylphenol ethoxylates	Grab	quarterly
Organochlorine Pesticides	Grab	quarterly
Organophosphorus Pesticides	Grab	quarterly
Pyrethroid Pesticides	Grab	quarterly
PBDEs	Grab	quarterly



Next Steps



- ▶ Study is ready to be implemented
 - ▶ U.S. government is still under a continuing resolution, funding for the study is pending
- ▶ Coordinate start date with Mexico and study participants
- ▶ 1 year study duration
- ▶ Develop final binational report of data in both English and Spanish



Questions

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