

AMENDMENT TO
RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 117-9
OFFERED BY MR. VARGAS OF CALIFORNIA

Page 1549, after line 8, insert the following:

1 SEC. 12022. CALIFORNIA NEW RIVER RESTORATION.

2 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

3 (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-
4 trator” means the Administrator of the Environ-
5 mental Protection Agency.

6 (2) MEXICAN.—The term “Mexican” refers to
7 the Federal, State, and local governments of the
8 United Mexican States.

9 (3) NEW RIVER.—The term “New River”
10 means that portion of the New River, California,
11 that flows north within the United States from the
12 border of Mexico through Calexico, California,
13 passes through the Imperial Valley, and drains into
14 the Salton Sea.

15 (4) PROGRAM.—The term “program” means
16 the California New River restoration program estab-
17 lished under subsection (b).

18 (5) RESTORATION AND PROTECTION.—The
19 term “restoration and protection” means the con-

1 servation, stewardship, and enhancement of habitat
2 for fish and wildlife to preserve and improve eco-
3 systems and ecological processes on which they de-
4 pend.

5 (b) CALIFORNIA NEW RIVER RESTORATION PRO-
6 GRAM ESTABLISHMENT.—

7 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days
8 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Adminis-
9 trator shall establish a program to be known as the
10 “California New River restoration program”.

11 (2) DUTIES.—In carrying out the program, the
12 Administrator shall—

13 (A) implement projects, plans, and initia-
14 tives for the restoration and protection of the
15 New River that are supported by the California-
16 Mexico Border Relations Council, in consulta-
17 tion with applicable management entities, in-
18 cluding representatives of the Calexico New
19 River Committee, the California-Mexico Border
20 Relations Council, the New River Improvement
21 Project Technical Advisory Committee, the Fed-
22 eral Government, State and local governments,
23 and regional and nonprofit organizations;

24 (B) undertake activities that—

1 (i) support the implementation of a
2 shared set of science-based restoration and
3 protection activities identified in accord-
4 ance with subparagraph (A);

5 (ii) target cost-effective projects with
6 measurable results; and

7 (iii) maximize conservation outcomes
8 with no net gain of Federal full-time equiv-
9 alent employees; and

10 (C) provide grants and technical assistance
11 in accordance with subsection (c).

12 (3) COORDINATION.—In establishing the pro-
13 gram, the Administrator shall consult, as appro-
14 priate, with—

15 (A) the heads of Federal agencies, includ-
16 ing—

17 (i) the Secretary of the Interior;

18 (ii) the Secretary of Agriculture;

19 (iii) the Secretary of Homeland Secu-
20 rity;

21 (iv) the Administrator of General
22 Services;

23 (v) the Commissioner of U.S. Customs
24 and Border Protection;

1 (vi) the Commissioner of the Inter-
2 national Boundary Water Commission; and

3 (vii) the head of any other applicable
4 agency;

5 (B) the Governor of California;

6 (C) the California Environmental Protec-
7 tion Agency;

8 (D) the California State Water Resources
9 Control Board;

10 (E) the California Department of Water
11 Resources;

12 (F) the Colorado River Basin Regional
13 Water Quality Control Board;

14 (G) the Imperial Irrigation District; and

15 (H) other public agencies and organiza-
16 tions with authority for the planning and imple-
17 mentation of conservation strategies relating to
18 the New River.

19 (4) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the program
20 include—

21 (A) coordinating restoration and protection
22 activities, among Mexican, Federal, State, local,
23 and regional entities and conservation partners,
24 relating to the New River; and

1 (B) carrying out coordinated restoration
2 and protection activities, and providing for tech-
3 nical assistance relating to the New River—

4 (i) to sustain and enhance fish and
5 wildlife habitat restoration and protection
6 activities;

7 (ii) to improve and maintain water
8 quality to support fish and wildlife, as well
9 as the habitats of fish and wildlife;

10 (iii) to sustain and enhance water
11 management for volume and flood damage
12 mitigation improvements to benefit fish
13 and wildlife habitat;

14 (iv) to improve opportunities for pub-
15 lic access to, and recreation in and along,
16 the New River consistent with the ecologi-
17 cal needs of fish and wildlife habitat;

18 (v) to maximize the resilience of nat-
19 ural systems and habitats under changing
20 watershed conditions;

21 (vi) to engage the public through out-
22 reach, education, and citizen involvement,
23 to increase capacity and support for co-
24 ordinated restoration and protection activi-
25 ties relating to the New River;

1 (vii) to increase scientific capacity to
2 support the planning, monitoring, and re-
3 search activities necessary to carry out co-
4 ordinated restoration and protection activi-
5 ties; and

6 (viii) to provide technical assistance to
7 carry out restoration and protection activi-
8 ties relating to the New River.

9 (c) GRANTS AND ASSISTANCE.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the program,
11 the Administrator shall provide grants and technical
12 assistance to State and local governments, nonprofit
13 organizations, and institutions of higher education,
14 to carry out the purposes of the program.

15 (2) CRITERIA.—The Administrator, in consulta-
16 tion with the organizations described in subsection
17 (b)(3), shall develop criteria for providing grants and
18 technical assistance under this subsection to ensure
19 that such activities accomplish one or more of the
20 purposes identified in subsection (b)(4)(B).

21 (3) COST SHARING.—

22 (A) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share
23 of the cost of a project for which a grant is pro-
24 vided under this subsection shall not exceed 55

1 percent of the total cost of the activity, as de-
2 termined by the Administrator.

3 (B) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—The non-Fed-
4 eral share of the cost of a project for which a
5 grant is provided under this subsection may be
6 provided in the form of an in-kind contribution
7 of services or materials that the Administrator
8 determines are integral to the activity carried
9 out using assistance authorized by this section.

10 (4) REQUIREMENTS.—Sections 513 and 608 of
11 the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C.
12 1372; 1388) shall apply to the construction of any
13 project or activity carried out, in whole or in part,
14 under this section in the same manner those sections
15 apply to a treatment works for which a grant is
16 made available under the Federal Water Pollution
17 Control Act.

18 (5) ADMINISTRATION.—The Administrator may
19 enter into an agreement to manage the implementa-
20 tion of this subsection with the North American De-
21 velopment Bank or a similar organization that offers
22 grant management services.

23 (d) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Not later than 180 days
24 after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually
25 thereafter, the Administrator shall submit to Congress a

- 1 report on the implementation of this section, including a
- 2 description of each project that has received funding under
- 3 this section and the status of all such projects that are
- 4 in progress on the date of submission of the report.

