

**AMENDMENT TO  
RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 116-54  
OFFERED BY MR. VARGAS OF CALIFORNIA**

Page 1220, after line 11, insert the following:

1                   **TITLE VI—NEW RIVER**  
2                   **RESTORATION**

3 **SEC. 26001. SHORT TITLE.**

4           This title may be cited as the “California New River  
5 Restoration Act of 2020”.

6 **SEC. 26002. DEFINITIONS.**

7           In this title:

8                   (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-  
9 trator” means the Administrator of the Environ-  
10 mental Protection Agency.

11                   (2) MEXICAN.—The term “Mexican” refers to  
12 the Federal, State, and local governments of the  
13 United Mexican States.

14                   (3) NEW RIVER.—The term “New River”  
15 means that portion of the New River, California,  
16 that flows north within the United States from the  
17 border of Mexico through Calexico, California,  
18 passes through the Imperial Valley, and drains into  
19 the Salton Sea.

1           (4) PROGRAM.—The term “program” means  
2           the California New River restoration program estab-  
3           lished under section 26003.

4           (5) RESTORATION AND PROTECTION.—The  
5           term “restoration and protection” means the con-  
6           servation, stewardship, and enhancement of habitat  
7           for fish and wildlife to preserve and improve eco-  
8           systems and ecological processes on which they de-  
9           pend.

10 **SEC. 26003. CALIFORNIA NEW RIVER RESTORATION PRO-**  
11 **GRAM ESTABLISHMENT.**

12           (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after  
13           the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall  
14           establish a program to be known as the “California New  
15           River restoration program”.

16           (b) DUTIES.—In carrying out the program, the Ad-  
17           ministrator shall—

18           (1) implement projects, plans, and initiatives  
19           for the restoration and protection of the New River  
20           that are supported by the California-Mexico Border  
21           Relations Council, in consultation with applicable  
22           management entities, including representatives of  
23           the Calexico New River Committee, the California-  
24           Mexico Border Relations Council, the New River Im-  
25           provement Project Technical Advisory Committee,

1 the Federal Government, State and local govern-  
2 ments, and regional and nonprofit organizations;

3 (2) undertake activities that—

4 (A) support the implementation of a  
5 shared set of science-based restoration and pro-  
6 tection activities identified in accordance with  
7 paragraph (1);

8 (B) target cost-effective projects with  
9 measurable results; and

10 (C) maximize conservation outcomes with  
11 no net gain of Federal full-time equivalent em-  
12 ployees; and

13 (3) provide grants and technical assistance in  
14 accordance with section 26004.

15 (c) COORDINATION.—In establishing the program,  
16 the Administrator shall consult, as appropriate, with—

17 (1) the heads of Federal agencies, including—

18 (A) the Secretary of the Interior;

19 (B) the Secretary of Agriculture;

20 (C) the Secretary of Homeland Security;

21 (D) the Administrator of General Services;

22 (E) the Commissioner of U.S. Customs  
23 and Border Protection;

24 (F) the Commissioner of the International  
25 Boundary Water Commission; and

1 (G) the head of any other applicable agen-  
2 cy;

3 (2) the Governor of California;

4 (3) the California Environmental Protection  
5 Agency;

6 (4) the California State Water Resources Con-  
7 trol Board;

8 (5) the California Department of Water Re-  
9 sources;

10 (6) the Colorado River Basin Regional Water  
11 Quality Control Board;

12 (7) the Imperial Irrigation District; and

13 (8) other public agencies and organizations with  
14 authority for the planning and implementation of  
15 conservation strategies relating to the New River.

16 (d) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the program in-  
17 clude—

18 (1) coordinating restoration and protection ac-  
19 tivities, among Mexican, Federal, State, local, and  
20 regional entities and conservation partners, relating  
21 to the New River; and

22 (2) carrying out coordinated restoration and  
23 protection activities, and providing for technical as-  
24 sistance relating to the New River—

1 (A) to sustain and enhance fish and wild-  
2 life habitat restoration and protection activities;

3 (B) to improve and maintain water quality  
4 to support fish and wildlife, as well as the habi-  
5 tats of fish and wildlife;

6 (C) to sustain and enhance water manage-  
7 ment for volume and flood damage mitigation  
8 improvements to benefit fish and wildlife habi-  
9 tat;

10 (D) to improve opportunities for public ac-  
11 cess to, and recreation in and along, the New  
12 River consistent with the ecological needs of  
13 fish and wildlife habitat;

14 (E) to maximize the resilience of natural  
15 systems and habitats under changing watershed  
16 conditions;

17 (F) to engage the public through outreach,  
18 education, and citizen involvement, to increase  
19 capacity and support for coordinated restora-  
20 tion and protection activities relating to the  
21 New River;

22 (G) to increase scientific capacity to sup-  
23 port the planning, monitoring, and research ac-  
24 tivities necessary to carry out coordinated res-  
25 toration and protection activities; and

1 (H) to provide technical assistance to carry  
2 out restoration and protection activities relating  
3 to the New River.

4 **SEC. 26004. GRANTS AND ASSISTANCE.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the program, the  
6 Administrator shall provide grants and technical assist-  
7 ance to State and local governments, nonprofit organiza-  
8 tions, and institutions of higher education, to carry out  
9 the purposes of the program.

10 (b) CRITERIA.—The Administrator, in consultation  
11 with the organizations described in section 26003(c), shall  
12 develop criteria for providing grants and technical assist-  
13 ance under this section to ensure that such activities ac-  
14 complish one or more of the purposes identified in section  
15 26003(d)(2).

16 (c) COST SHARING.—

17 (1) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of  
18 the cost of a project for which a grant is provided  
19 under this section shall not exceed 55 percent of the  
20 total cost of the activity, as determined by the Ad-  
21 ministrator.

22 (2) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—The non-Federal  
23 share of the cost of a project for which a grant is  
24 provided under this section may be provided in the  
25 form of an in-kind contribution of services or mate-

1       rials that the Administrator determines are integral  
2       to the activity carried out using assistance author-  
3       ized by this title.

4       (d) REQUIREMENTS.—Sections 513 and 608 of the  
5 Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1372;  
6 1388) shall apply to the construction of any project or  
7 activity carried out, in whole or in part, under this title  
8 in the same manner those sections apply to a treatment  
9 works for which a grant is made available under the Fed-  
10 eral Water Pollution Control Act.

11       (e) ADMINISTRATION.—The Administrator may enter  
12 into an agreement to manage the implementation of this  
13 section with the North American Development Bank or  
14 a similar organization that offers grant management serv-  
15 ices.

16 **SEC. 26005. ANNUAL REPORTS.**

17       Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment  
18 of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Administrator  
19 shall submit to Congress a report on the implementation  
20 of this title, including a description of each project that  
21 has received funding under this title and the status of all  
22 such projects that are in progress on the date of submis-  
23 sion of the report.

