Introduced by Assembly Member V. Manuel Pérez

February 15, 2013

An act to amend Section 71100 of, and to add Section 71103.6 to, the Public Resources Code, relating to the environment.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST


Existing law requires the California-Mexico Border Relations Council, contingent upon the execution of an agreement with the City of Calexico to provide the necessary funding, to develop a strategic plan (New River Improvement Project strategic plan) to guide the implementation of the New River Improvement Project containing specified elements.

This bill would require the Natural Resources Agency and the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) to establish and administer the New River Watershed Water Quality, Public Health, and River Parkway Development Program to coordinate the funding and implementation of the recommendations from the New River Improvement Project strategic plan. The bill would require a state agency awarding or granting funds for the implementation of the plan to integrate and align the contractual and administrative requirements for grants, loans, contracts, and other forms of financial support
consistent with specified guidelines. The bill would also require the
agency and CalEPA to provide technical assistance for the establishment
of a joint powers authority to oversee the environmental review,
permitting, funding, and operation of a water treatment and conveyance
facility for the New River in Calexico for projects associated with the
New River to ensure that the grants, loans, or other forms of financial
support are expended in a manner consistent with the New River
Improvement Project strategic plan.

State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 71100 of the Public Resources Code is
amended to read:

71100. The following definitions govern the construction of
this part:

(a) “Agency” means the Natural Resources Agency.

(b) “CalBECC” means the California Border Environmental
Cooperation Committee established on July 22, 1994, by the
Governors of California, Baja California, and Baja California Sur.

(c) “CalEPA” means the California Environmental Protection
Agency.

(d) “California-Baja California border region” means the region
described in Chapter IV of the US-Mexico Border XXI Program,

(e) “Fund” means the California Border Environmental and
Public Health Protection Fund established pursuant to Section
71101.

(f) “New River Improvements Project strategic plan” or
“plan” means the strategic plan developed pursuant to subdivision
(c) of Section 71103.5.

(g) “New River Watershed Water Quality, Public Health, and
River Parkway Development Program” or “program” means the
program established pursuant to Section 71103.6.
SEC. 2. Section 71103.6 is added to the Public Resources Code, to read:

71103.6. (a) The agency and CalEPA shall jointly establish and administer the New River Watershed Water Quality, Public Health, and River Parkway Development Program to coordinate the funding and implementation of the recommendations of the New River Improvement Project strategic plan developed and approved pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 71103.5. The program shall be established and implemented in accordance with the policies specified in subdivision (f) of Section 5808.1 and only to the extent that funding is available to implement the program.

(b) A state agency awarding or granting funds for the implementation of the plan shall integrate and align the contractual and administrative requirements for grants, loans, contracts, and other forms of financial support consistent with the most recent California River Parkways and Urban Streams Restoration grant programs guidelines issued by the agency and the Department of Water Resources.

(c) The agency and CalEPA shall, in cooperation with relevant federal agencies, the City of Calexico, the County of Imperial, and other interested parties, provide technical assistance for the establishment of a joint powers authority pursuant to a joint powers agreement entered into in accordance with the Joint Exercise of Powers Act (Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 6500) of Division 7 of Title 1 of the Government Code), to oversee the environmental review, permitting, funding, and operation of a water treatment and conveyance facility for the New River in Calexico, as described in the plan.

SEC. 2. Section 71103.6 is added to the Public Resources Code, to read:

71103.6. A state agency awarding or granting funds for projects associated with the New River shall ensure that the grants, loans, or other forms of financial support are expended in a manner consistent with the New River Improvements Project strategic plan.