



**Colorado River Regional  
Sewer Coalition (CRRSCo)  
Mission Change**

# Quick History

- **CRRSCo was established in 1997 by local and regional governments as a non-profit corporation to protect and enhance the Colorado River through the improvement of wastewater management practices to ensure a high quality of water for all users.**

- **In the early 2000's, significant sewer construction projects were underway and CRRSCo elicited the primary water providers in the region to help lobbying efforts and to create a water quality authority for the Lower Colorado River similar to the Chesapeake and Great Lakes regions.**

- **The largest sewer construction projects were completed by 2011 and CRRSCo established an agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation to create a water quality database that today SNWA is hosting and is still growing.**



# Recognized Water Quality Threats to the Lower Colorado River System

Through the direction of Gov. Napolitano in 2005 , the Clean Colorado River Coalition was established to identify water quality threats on the river and a report was issued in 2006 describing the major issues, including:

- Uranium
- Heavy Metals
- Nutrient Loading
- Perchlorate
- Salinity/Total Dissolved Solids
- Sedimentation
- Pathogens
- Endocrine Disrupting Compounds

Most of these concerns are still valid today and of course, new issues have risen.



# **CRRSCo Changing Mission**

Since a holistic, regional water quality approach has not been greatly emphasized by other concerns below Davis Dam, but has been piecemealed as part of individual studies or programs, the CRRSCo Board Members are proposing to redirect the mission of the organization by removing the limitation of securing sewer improvement funding and instead focus on advocating water quality monitoring.

**This changing focus includes proposed modifications to the organization's by-laws and a name change to:  
Clean Colorado River Sustainability Coalition.**

A second reason for a water quality focus is to better understand the ever changing aquatic ecosystem since the introduction of quagga mussels.

# Unusual Events in the Lower Colorado River Since Quagga Mussel Introduction

Although not all attributable to quagga mussel introduction, several unusual and first documented events have taken place in the lower Colorado River since 2007, such as:

- Improved water clarity
- Kio virus
- Death caused by *Naegleria fowleri*
- Explosion of aquatic invasive plant species below Davis Dam and in LH - ex) spiny/southern naiad, sago pondweed, watermilfoil.
- More new invertebrate species such as: New Zealand mud snails
- Identification or spreading of *Microcystis* and Golden algae
- Reported growth of leeches in Lake Havasu
- Super foaming event in 2011 below Lake Havasu (next slide)

The major point is that this highly modified river system is undergoing a series changes and water quality is an essential parameter that needs to be included to understand the system.

# Foam below Headgate Dam, Parker, AZ





# Partnering or Collaboration Building

CCRSCo's near term efforts for water quality will primarily be to continue helping to develop the database.

The group also would like to develop some regional coordinated effort to monitor both surface water and shallow groundwater quality in the Lower Colorado River Basin ...

OR

...at least, keep the lines of communication open for potential partnerships/collaborations with all interested groups to facilitate the purpose statement or mission of all parties concerned, such as LMEMWG.

The overall intent is to keep a sustainable level of water quality to the benefit of all water uses on the river.