



TEXAS COLORADO RIVER WATER IMPACT ON SOCIETY

Nayeli V. Medina, Dr. Robert Cavazos

Tarleton State University, Stephenville, TX

The objective of this study will be to examine waterborne contaminants (chemicals) within the Colorado River and the societal effects contamination has had on the surrounding neighboring communities of the Colorado River. Previous studies have documented that waterways are becoming increasingly toxic as a result of runoff coming from urban cities and the agricultural use of pesticides/herbicides affecting the environment and society. Current literature does not examine societal perspectives over water toxicity issues, specifically those living near the Colorado River. Sixty-eight surveys were collected during a five a day study. We see based on the statistical results residents do value and see the Colorado River as the main producer of water for the local community. While some residents do acknowledge that certain issues plague the Colorado River, based on the surveys people refuse to acknowledge any of these issues are a direct result of climate change. The sociological research revealed that the Colorado River is an important producer to the local community. In addition, based on the region these surveys were conducted on, people believed that pesticide use and drought were the biggest environmental issues that plagued the Colorado River. Yet, when asked about global warming which has contributed to the increase in temperature rises that has led to ongoing droughts, residents were hesitant to say that global warming was the main cause of the droughts that have taken into effect in the Colorado River over the recent years. Residents that have taken the survey seem to contradict themselves, as they believe in a drought yet don't believe in global warming issues. Future research is needed to help further understand the sociological aspects of the surrounding community and their concerns on the water contaminants and pollution that affect the Colorado River. A further collection of data and surveys need to be done to obtain a higher population that will yield a higher statistical outcome this will greatly help gain further knowledge on the surrounding communities in central Texas that utilize the Texas Colorado River.