

# Our Home

## THE COLORADO RIVER BASIN

Welcome to the Colorado River Basin, a landscape where every stream and wash eventually makes its way to the Colorado. Covering seven states in the U.S., two in Mexico and the lands of more than thirty tribes, this arid region is home to 40 million people that rely on its water every day.

NEVADA



○ Cities & Towns



CALIFORNIA

○ Los Angeles

○ San Diego

○ Tijuana

○ Mexicali  
○ Las Arenitas  
Rio Hardy Estuary

BAJA CALIFORNIA

Gulf of California

ARIZONA

○ Phoenix

○ Tucson

○ Nogales AZ

○ Nogales SON

SONORA

MEXICO

WYOMING

○ Cheyenne

○ Ft. Collins

○ Denver

○ Colorado Springs

COLORADO

○ Santa Fe

○ Albuquerque

NEW MEXICO

## CONSERVING AND PROTECTING THE MIGHTY RIVER

From restoring the Delta to championing water conservation, Sonoran Institute works to bring communities together to address the challenges people and nature experience in the face of climate change.



**Growing Water Smart** Cities and towns throughout the Basin are growing fast and face hotter, drier climates. Our workshops host elected officials, planners and community leaders to set policies that conserve water.



**Santa Cruz River** Many southern Arizonans rely on the Colorado River for their drinking water supply. Once the water has been used at home it is highly treated at treatment plants and released to the river. We protect and track the health of the Santa Cruz River, which flows year-round thanks to this process. The river provides homes for wildlife and a beautiful place for recreation.



**Las Arenitas** Half of all the water used in Mexicali comes here to be treated. Artificial wetlands naturally help purify wastewater, and the aquatic plants and trees provide homes to over 140 resident and migratory bird species. Some of this water flows into Río Hardy benefitting tourism, agriculture, and native communities such as the Cucupá.

**Laguna Grande** Home to more than 500 acres of revived cottonwood, willow and mesquite forests, this restoration site is the largest and densest riparian forest along the river in Mexico. Visiting families and schoolchildren enjoy our Laguna Grande Interpretive Center and nature walks.

**Estuary** While the estuary has faced many dry decades, Sonoran Institute's efforts result in flowing water to the sea, improved water quality, and increased habitat for diverse bird and marine species. We are reconnecting the river to the sea drop by drop!



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