

The River Unites Us Festival

2026 EDITION

*The Return of Water:
Sustaining the Delta's Future*





The **Colorado River Delta** is part of our history and unites families on **both** **sides of the U.S.-Mexico** **border.**

On **October 14** we will gather at **Laguna Grande** ecological restoration site to celebrate more than a decade of restoration work carried out by **communities, organizations, and governments** in Mexico and the United States.

REGISTRATION | LOCATION



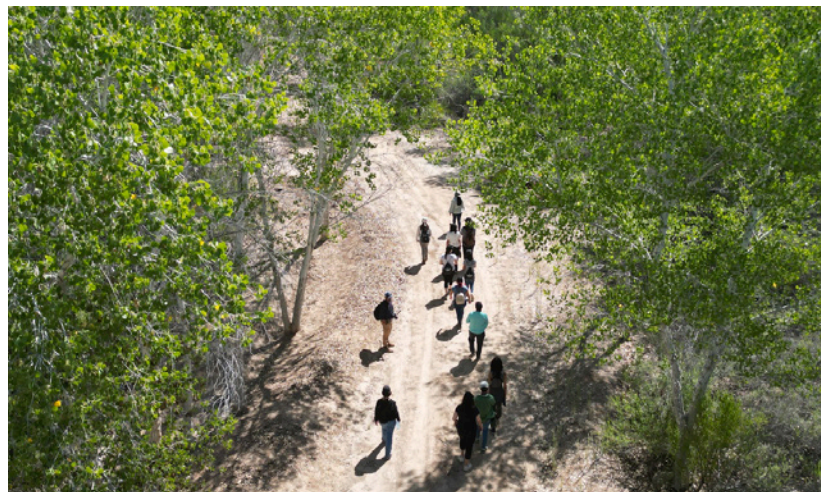
Laguna Grande

Sonoran Institute Mexico

Welcome to the largest riparian forest on the Colorado River in Mexico. At Laguna Grande, an hour south of Mexicali, you will walk along the banks of one of the river's main tributaries, among birds and native plants, and if you look closely, you may find signs of the beavers that have returned to the area.

A kayak tour lets you experience Laguna Grande from the water, taking in one of Mexicali's singular landscapes while you learn about the aquatic biodiversity of this ecosystem.

Since 2006, Sonoran Institute and Pronatura Noroeste have restored this site, together with the region's communities.



The Raise the River coalition

The Colorado River is the most important water source in western North America: it rises in the Rocky Mountains, runs through seven U.S. states and two Mexican states, and empties into the Upper Gulf of California. Nearly 40 million people and close to 5.5 million acres (2.2 million hectares) of farmland on both sides of the border depend on it. Over the past eight decades, the overuse of water in both countries, amplified by climate change, has drastically reduced its flow.

In response to this challenge, Raise the River coalition. Its current members include Sonoran Institute, Pronatura Noroeste, Restauremos El Colorado, The Nature Conservancy, National Audubon Society, and The Redford Center.



We love the Delta

We carry out on-the-ground restoration and generate the scientific evidence that, in cooperation with the governments of both countries, has made it possible to return water to the Delta at key moments.

What we have achieved together



+ 350 thousand

native trees planted



1,350 + acres

restored, home to birds and wildlife



Water returns to the sea

The Colorado River has reconnected with the Gulf of California several times since the 2014 pulse flow.

www.reviveelrio.org



The Festival

The 'The River Unites Us' Festival began in 2021 as an annual celebration of this progress. The 2026 edition is framed around "The Return of Water: Sustaining the Delta's Future", a reflection on what we have achieved so far and on the challenges that remain.



Year after year, the river unites us.

Schedule for the day



8:00 - 9:00

Arrivals and Registration

9:00 - 9:15

Welcome remark

9:15 - 10:00

Panel discussion with special guests

10:00 - 12:00

Simultaneous tours

12:00 - 12:20

Closing and group photo

12:00 - 14:00

Closing lunch

**Don't forget to bring a thermos,
a hat, and sunscreen.**

Tours

Find your group's color and name before you arrive. Each one is named after a bird or animal native to the Delta, and that will be your companion for the whole day. Your group will participate in two of three stations: Interpretive Center, Trail Walk, or Kayak Tour*.

Have your phone with you? The Photography Workshop is open: it starts every 25 minutes, so you can join whenever you like during your tour, with no need to wait for a turn or stay with your group.

Stations: Interpretive Center · Trail · Photography Workshop · Kayak*



** Subject to advance registration.*

Meet Cupari

Cupari is our mascot, inspired by Yuma Ridgway's rail, an emblematic bird of the Colorado River Delta wetlands. We introduced Cupari at the 2025 Raise the River Festival, following a public vote for naming our mascot, in which more than 300 people participated.

Today, Cupari joins us as an educational, friendly companion, especially for children and families.

Its name joins "Cu" from Cucapah, "pa" from palmoteador, and "ri" from río (river).

It symbolizes the bond we weave between community, nature, and water.



Raise the River

Communications contacts

Alianza Revive el Río Colorado

Michelle Morelos — michelle@reviveelrio.org

National Audubon Society

Joey Kahn — jkahn@audubon.org

The Nature Conservancy

Lindsay Schlageter — lindsay.schlageter@tnc.org

Kelli Harrington — kharrington@tnc.org

Daniela Nuñez — dnunez@tnc.org

Pronatura Noroeste

Natalia Torres — ntorres@pronatura-noroeste.org

Raise the River and The Redford Center

Lynne Bairstow — lbairstow@redfordcenter.org

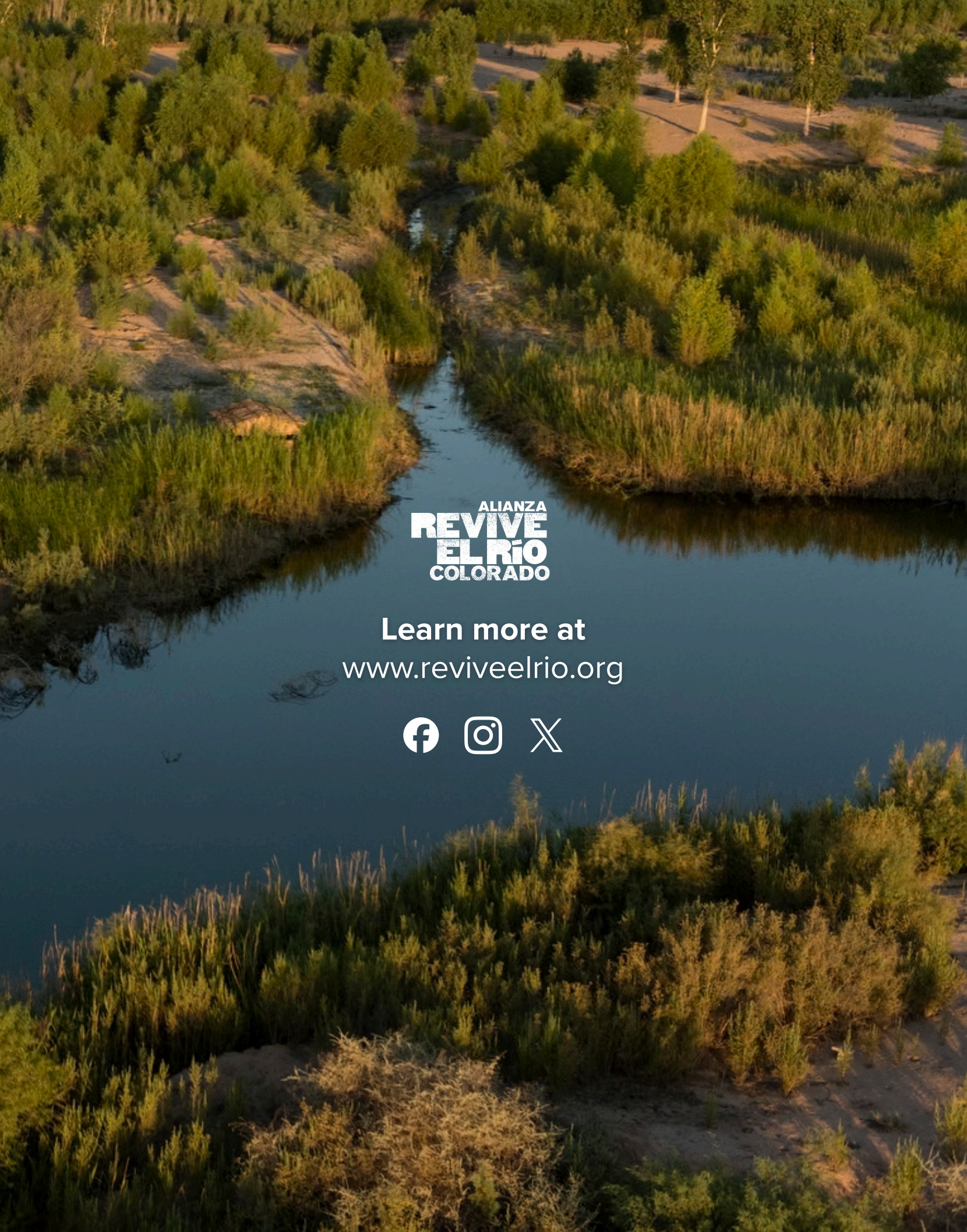
Restauremos El Colorado

Wendy García — wendy@restauremoselcolorado.org

Bertha Alicia Sandoval — basanfra@restauremoselcolorado.org

Sonoran Institute México

Masiel García — mgarcia@sonoraninstitute.org



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Learn more at
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