

Visualizing the Future

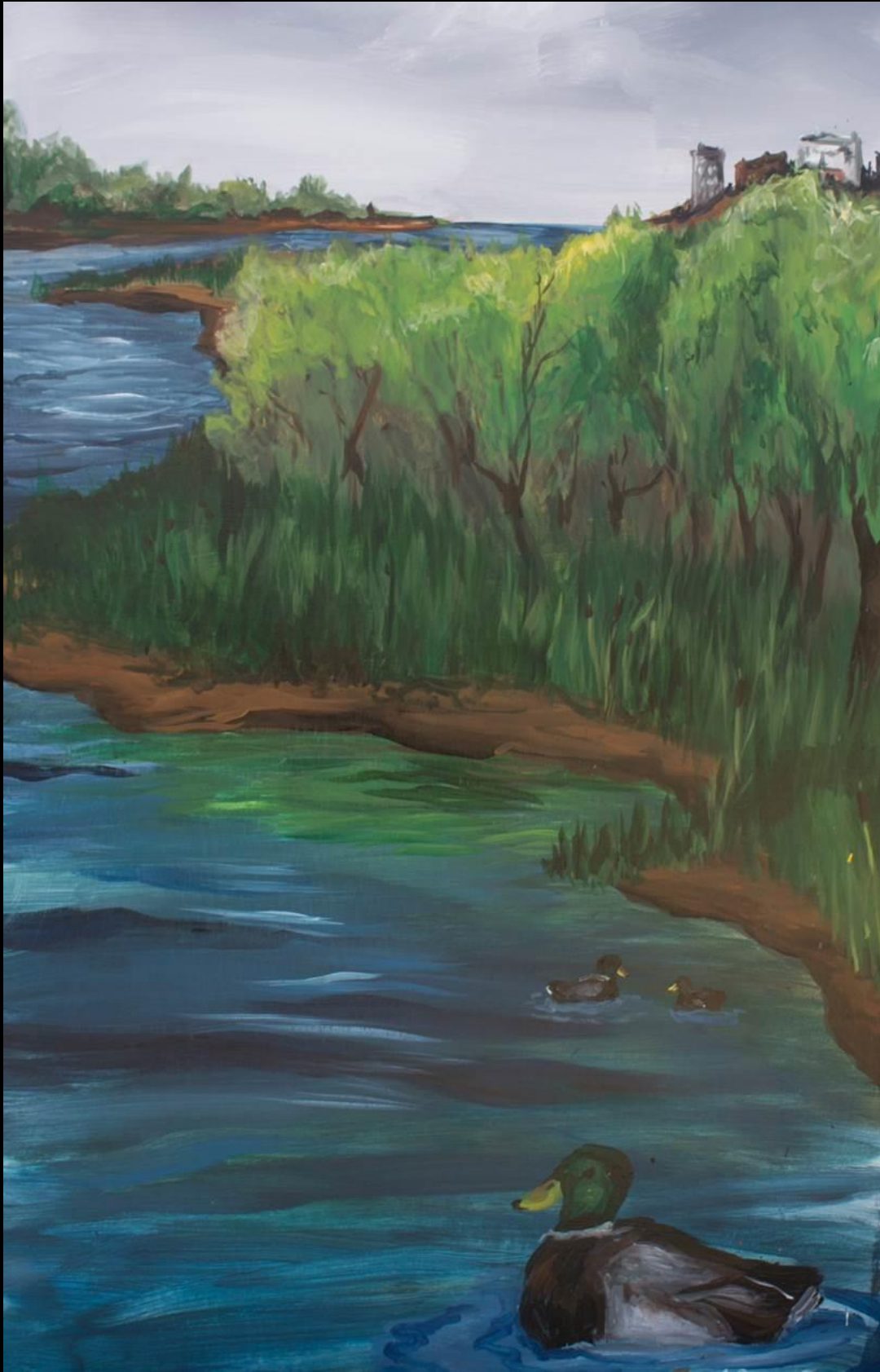
The *Climate Understanding and Resilience in the River Valley* (CURRV) project assessed the potential local effects of climate change associated with sea level rise and flooding from the Tijuana River.

The murals illustrate four different possible futures, or scenarios, that scientists developed through CURRV. Each of the four scenes highlights the habitats and wildlife that would be characteristic of each scenario.

The paintings are interpretations of the science behind the scenarios. Scenarios are not predictions. Each scenario is an alternative representation of how the future may unfold.

Paintings by Audrey Carver
Latex paint on wood

Lake Tijuana



River water and sediment collect behind a river mouth that is often closed. Under these conditions, a large pond forms. Freshwater marsh expands, supporting species such as cattails and ducks.

The Sea Around Us



Through an open river mouth, beaches and dunes expand as they are supplied with sediment and sand from the river and sea. Shorebirds thrive, as they nest on the beaches and feed in the open waters of the estuary.

Salt of the Earth



Over time, water that collects behind the closed river mouth evaporates. This leads to the expansion of salt flats. Salt flats, once historically common in the region, support shorebird feeding and nesting.

Marsh Madness



The river mouth remains largely open, much like conditions seen today. The effects of sea level rise expand tidal channels and salt marsh deeper into the river valley. This will benefit species such as Ridgway's Rails, which nest in cordgrass.