

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN DIEGO REGION**

TENTATIVE

RESOLUTION NO. R9-2015-0086

**IN SUPPORT OF IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE STRATEGY FOR A HEALTHY SAN DIEGO BAY**

WHEREAS:

1. On November 13, 2013, the San Diego Water Board adopted [Resolution No. R9-2013-0153](#), in support of implementation of the projects described in the Practical Vision entitled "[Healthy Waters, Healthy People](#)."
2. [Chapter 1 of the Practical Vision](#) is about "*Focusing on What is Most Important: Strategizing for Healthy Waters*" by ensuring that the staff, funding, authority, tools and influence of the Board are put to the best possible use for that purpose. The Chapter identifies seven iterative steps to ensure that the San Diego Water Board's work is aligned with the most important goals and highest priorities. The seven steps are to identify key uses, conduct an assessment related to those uses, develop and implement priorities, set meaningful goals, realign the work, track progress, and periodically reevaluate priorities.
3. [Chapter 2 of the Practical Vision](#) discusses the development and implementation of a "Framework for Monitoring and Assessment in the San Diego Region." The [Framework](#) was endorsed through [Resolution No. R9-2012-0069](#), and consists of a water body-oriented approach that answers specific questions about conditions in water bodies as they relate to beneficial uses, such as:
 - Is water safe to drink?
 - Are fish and shellfish safe to eat?
 - Is water quality safe for swimming?
 - Are habitats and ecosystems healthy?

4. San Diego Bay is the largest natural enclosed bay in southern California and most intensively used water body in the San Diego region. It provides a number of ecological functions, including spawning habitat for local fish species and a key stopping point for birds traveling along the Pacific Flyway. The Bay also supports commercial and subsistence fishing, tourism, and a variety of recreational, maritime, industrial, commercial, and military uses. These uses play a vital role in supporting the region's growing population, sustaining the economy, providing recreation, and supporting national security. However, past and present anthropogenic influences have diminished fish and wildlife habitat, raised concerns about the suitability of Bay fish and shellfish for human consumption, and threatened water quality for recreation.
5. San Diego Bay is high priority water body in the San Diego region. As such, the San Diego Water Board devotes significant resources to San Diego Bay. Because Chapter 1 of the Practical Vision focuses on ensuring that San Diego Water Board resources are put to the best possible use, San Diego Bay was chosen for pilot-scale implementation of Practical Vision Chapters 1 and 2.
6. The Board's vision for San Diego Bay is "Healthy Waters" (i.e. waters that meet all designated Beneficial Uses). However, with limited staff and resources, the best way to achieve healthy waters is to effectively prioritize efforts to protect key uses in the Bay.
7. San Diego Water Board staff has prepared a draft "Strategy for Healthy Waters in San Diego Bay" (Strategy) which applies the concepts of Practical Vision Chapters 1 and 2 to San Diego Bay in pilot scale.
8. The Strategy, released for public comment on April 16, 2015, proposes that the key uses in San Diego Bay should be recreation, human consumption of fish and shellfish, and healthy habitats and ecosystems.
9. The San Diego Water Board held multiple interagency meetings and a public workshop to solicit input on the strategy and assistance with identifying key areas within the Bay. Key areas are areas within or along the Bay that are intensively used for a key use and/or that are particularly important for a key use (or that would be if water quality conditions were satisfactory).
10. The San Diego Water Board is in the process of preparing a list of applicable key areas for each proposed key use; recognizing that this list is dynamic in both location and level of detail.

11. The San Diego Water Board seeks to implement the Strategy through each successive year's operational plan. The 2015 Operational Plan identifies work including oversight of the San Diego Bay Bioaccumulation Study and Fish Consumption Study, and commencement of the initial assessment of conditions in San Diego Bay as they relate to the key uses and key areas.
12. In order to coordinate the Board's priority Bay work across all units and branches and communicate results internally and externally, the Strategy calls for a San Diego Bay Coordinator. This effort takes resources beyond those currently allocated to manage the various programs applicable to Bay discharges. The San Diego Water Board has prepared and submitted a Budget Change Proposal for a full time position to act as San Diego Bay Coordinator.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The San Diego Water Board supports implementation of the June 2015 "Strategy for a Healthy San Diego Bay" and directs its Executive Officer to dedicate available resources to this effort through its operational plans.
2. The San Diego Water Board recognizes its obligation to protect all designated Beneficial Uses and acknowledges that the key uses of recreation, human consumption of fish and shellfish, and healthy habitats and ecosystems are of highest priority for addressing water quality in San Diego Bay.
3. The San Diego Water Board supports the application of the Monitoring and Assessment Framework to San Diego Bay and the formation of a Monitoring Coalition to develop and implement a Monitoring Plan in accordance with the Framework and to communicate the results effectively to stakeholders and the general public.
4. The San Diego Water Board supports designation of San Diego Bay as an area of ecological and economic significance for the purposes of seeking supporting resources.
5. The San Diego Water Board and its Executive Officer will request redirection of resources or development of a BCP to secure the staff resources necessary for implementation of the "Strategy for a Healthy San Diego Bay".
6. The San Diego Water Board directs its Executive Officer to continue to provide opportunities for stakeholder involvement throughout the implementation of the Strategy.

7. The San Diego Water Board directs its Executive Officer to report on continued progress through annual State of the Bay workshops and written reports no less than every 5 years.

I, David W. Gibson, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region, on June 24, 2015.

David W. Gibson
Executive Officer