

**DRINKING WATER SUPPLY:** *The supply of water for human consumption*

**DRINKING WATER SUPPLY IS A KEY BENEFICIAL USE**

Beneficial uses are the uses of water necessary for the survival or well-being of humans, plants and wildlife. These uses of water serve to promote our tangible and intangible economic, social and environmental goals. Human consumption of water typically involves removal of water from drinking water supply reservoirs, groundwater basins, or other water bodies.

**1. KEY BENEFICIAL USES**

Key beneficial uses are the beneficial uses that are most critical to protecting human and environmental health.

**2. KEY AREAS**

Key areas are the places where protection and restoration of the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of waters is most important for a key beneficial use.

**3. APPLYING KEY BENEFICIAL USES AND KEY AREAS**

Where the Board has flexibility, such as efforts to restore degraded waters, the key beneficial uses / key areas concept can help the Board decide which work to undertake. In programs with less flexibility, such as permitting, the concept can help the Board decide which aspects of that work warrant greater attention.

**KEY BENEFICIAL USES OF WATERS IN THE SAN DIEGO REGION**

DRINKING WATER SUPPLY

Fish & Shellfish Consumption

Recreation

Habitats & Ecosystems

**KEY AREAS in the San Diego Region for DRINKING WATER SUPPLY**

KEY WATER BODIES	First (highest) Rank	Drinking Water Supply Reservoirs			
	Second Rank	Groundwater Basins			
AREAS OF SPECIAL IMPORTANCE		Drinking water supply reservoirs <u>directly</u> connected to a water treatment plant & drinking water distribution system	Drinking water supply source waters in places where water is not treated prior to human consumption	Drinking water supply source waters in places without access to imported water	Groundwater basins intensively used for drinking water supply
		<i>Especially parts of such reservoirs from which water is withdrawn for human consumption</i>	<i>Especially parts of such waters from which water is withdrawn for human consumption</i>	<i>Especially parts of such waters from which water is withdrawn for human consumption</i>	<i>Especially parts of such basins from which water is withdrawn for human consumption</i>
		<i>e.g., near intake structures of:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Skinner Reservoir</li> <li>• Miramar Reservoir</li> <li>• Murray Reservoir</li> <li>• Sweetwater Reservoir</li> <li>• Lower Otay Reservoir</li> </ul>	<i>e.g., near latitude/longitude &amp; depth of drinking water supply wells for individual homes that do not treat water prior to human consumption</i>	<i>e.g., near latitude/longitude &amp; depth of drinking water supply wells in:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton</li> <li>• Parts of San Diego County outside the service area of San Diego County Water Authority</li> </ul>	<i>e.g., near latitude/longitude &amp; depth of drinking water supply wells in:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Temecula Valley Basin</li> <li>• San Juan Basin</li> <li>• Warner Valley Basin</li> <li>• Santa Margarita Valley Basin</li> </ul>

Identifying key beneficial uses and key areas is the beginning of helping the Board focus on what is most important. For more information see: • [Practical Vision: Healthy Waters, Healthy People \(2013\)](#) • [Key Beneficial Uses and Key Areas: Focusing on What is Most Important \(2017\)](#)