

**RECREATION:** *Swimming, surfing, aesthetic enjoyment, and more*

**RECREATION 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. Contact water recreation (REC-1) is a widespread and iconic use of coastal waters in the San Diego Region. Even more popular are non-contact recreation (REC-2) activities in the Region.

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

Drinking Water Supply

Fish & Shellfish Consumption

**RECREATION**

Habitats & Ecosystems

**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 AREAS in the San Diego Region for RECREATION**

	CONTACT WATER RECREATION (REC-1)		NON-CONTACT WATER RECREATION (REC-2)	
KEY WATER BODIES	<b>First (highest) Rank</b>	Ocean	Ocean Mission Bay San Diego Bay	
	<b>Second Rank</b>	Mission Bay	Dana Point Harbor Oceanside Harbor Lagoons & Estuaries	
	<b>Third Rank</b>	San Diego Bay Dana Point Harbor	Stream Mouths Stream Systems	
AREAS OF SPECIAL IMPORTANCE	Coastal waters close to shore & open to the public for REC-1	Coastal waters close to shore & open to the public for REC-1	Waters close to & visible from parks & other designated recreation areas & other areas & structures (piers, wharfs, docks, bridges, etc.) open to the public	
	Especially near sandy beaches	Especially near sandy beaches		
	<i>e.g., at:</i>	<i>e.g., at:</i>	<i>e.g., at:</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State Beaches &amp; State Parks</li> <li>County, JPA, Special District, &amp; City Beaches &amp; Parks</li> <li>Other Sandy Beaches</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State Beaches &amp; State Parks</li> <li>County, JPA, Special District, &amp; City Beaches &amp; Parks</li> <li>Other Sandy Beaches</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State Beaches &amp; State Parks</li> <li>County, JPA, Special District, &amp; City Beaches &amp; Parks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Monuments</li> <li>National Forests</li> <li>Other Areas &amp; Structures Open to the Public e.g., Coastal pathways and bridges</li> </ul>
<p>For examples of specific key areas, please see Tables 8 and 9 in the Report: <a href="#">Key Beneficial Uses and Key Areas</a>: Focusing on What is Most Important (2017).</p>				

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)