

## **PRELIMINARY WATER QUALITY / BENEFICIAL USE GOALS**

The preliminary water quality / beneficial use goals listed below are generally applicable throughout the San Diego region. Some of these goals may be more pertinent to certain watershed management areas and/or to certain waters than others. Over time, these goals may be refined (e.g. as a result of public participation activities) and additional goals may be added. More specific or detailed goals and/or strategies and tasks intended to achieve the goals may be developed for specific watershed management areas, specific types of sources or causes of water quality / beneficial use problems and threats, and/or specific waters or types of waters. (Additional goals are set forth in the subsequent sections entitled “Long-term Nonpoint Source Management Goals” and “Long-term Wetlands Goals.” **Table NPS-2** also links the long-term nonpoint source management goals with short term objectives.)

### **Goal 1      Protect public health by preventing or minimizing health risks to users of local waters.**

- a.      Protect the public from health risks associated with drinking water from local ground and surface water sources and impoundments.
- b.      Protect the public from health risks associated with consuming locally caught fish, shellfish, and other edible aquatic organisms (by ensuring that such organisms are safe to eat).
- c.      Protect the public from health risks associated with water contact recreation.

### **Goal 2      Preserve, protect, and restore natural resources, including viable populations of native plant and animal species.**

- a.      Preserve, protect, and restore the viability of endangered, threatened, rare, and sensitive species.
- b.      Preserve, protect, and restore the viability of native fish, wildlife, and other biota.
- c.      Preserve, protect, and restore natural habitats of native fish, wildlife, and other biota, particularly those essential to endangered, threatened, rare, and sensitive species.
- d.      Maintain water and sediment quality at levels that allow healthy and stable populations of native fish, wildlife, and other biota to be sustained.
- e.      Maintain the natural diversity of natural habitats.
- f.      Prevent overall net loss of, and achieve a long-term net gain in, the quantity, quality, and permanence of wetlands acreage and values.
- g.      Prevent the introduction of non-native invasive species. Eradicate such species that are already established, where possible. Where eradication is not possible, remove, control, prevent the spread of, and reduce impact of and area occupied by such species.

### **Goal 3      Protect, restore, and enhance beneficial uses while balancing economic and environmental impacts.**

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- a. Control point and nonpoint sources of pollution to achieve water quality objectives and protect designated beneficial uses of water.
- b. Ensure that planning and land use decisions are consistent with protection of water quality and beneficial uses and with achievement of water quality standards and goals.
- c. Recognize that water-dependent and water-related activities and businesses are major factors in the economy.
- d. Ensure that commercial, industrial, agricultural, military, transportation, and residential activities are conducted in a manner that protects water quality and beneficial uses.
- e. Recognize the importance of dredging to navigation and the economic viability of harbor-related businesses. Recognize the potential for dredging and related activities to adversely affect water quality and beneficial uses. Ensure that dredging and related activities are conducted in a manner that protects water quality and beneficial uses.
- f. Implement water conservation measures and increase use of local and/or reclaimed water for municipal and domestic, agricultural, and industrial supply in order to reduce demand for and use of imported water. Ensure that reclaimed water is used (1) where imported water would otherwise be needed and (2) in a manner that protects water quality and beneficial uses.

**Goal 4      Increase the public's knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of local watersheds and waters. Develop and maintain a sense of individual and organizational responsibility for protecting local watersheds and the quality and beneficial uses of local waters.**

- a. Encourage development of a detailed and comprehensive knowledge of:
  - (1) Local watersheds and waters;
  - (2) The quality and beneficial uses of local waters;
  - (3) Local water quality and beneficial use problems and threats; and
  - (4) The sources and causes of those problems and threats.
- b. Provide public access to local waters and other natural resources in a manner that protects and increases knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of those waters and natural resources.
- c. Cultivate and nurture a sense of environmental stewardship. Encourage individual and collective behaviors that will ensure protection of water quality and beneficial uses over the long term.
- d. Encourage full participation in all local and regional planning, environmental review, and decision making processes.