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To: [Clemente, Chiara@Waterboards](mailto:Clemente_Chiara@Waterboards)
Subject: San Diego Water Board update on Strategy for a Healthy San Diego Bay
Date: Wednesday, May 18, 2016 12:30:24 PM
Attachments: [image004.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[KeyAreas_FishShellConsumption_list.pdf](#)
[KeyAreas_REC1_list.pdf](#)
[KeyAreasMap_REC1&FSC.pdf](#)

This is a message from the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region (9).

This email serves to provide interested parties with an update on the San Diego Water Board's implementation of its [Strategy for a Healthy San Diego Bay](#) (Strategy).

BACKGROUND

In April 2015 the San Diego Water Board hosted a workshop on the draft Strategy. As part of the workshop, we proposed that the "key uses" (i.e. water quality dependent uses that are most critical to consider in protecting humans and environmental health) for San Diego Bay should be:

- o Recreation (contact and non-contact)
- o Human consumption of fish and shellfish
- o Habitats and Ecosystems

Participants were asked to comment on what areas should be considered "key areas" (i.e. areas that are intensively used or particularly important for a key use) in San Diego Bay. In June 2015 the San Diego Water Board adopted [Resolution No. R9-2015-0086](#), supporting the implementation of the Strategy. In accordance with the Strategy the next steps are to identify the key areas for each key use, and conduct an initial assessment as it relates to those key uses, with particular emphasis on key areas.

STATUS REPORT

Since that time, we have prepared a list of the locations that we consider to be key areas for contact recreation and fish and shellfish consumption. Attached are the lists of proposed key areas for those key uses, and maps showing the location of those areas.

We are now in the process of conducting an initial assessment of Bay conditions as they relate to contact recreation and fish and shellfish consumption. The objective is to answer the following two questions:

- Is water quality suitable for contact water recreation?
- Are fish and shellfish suitable for human consumption?

We have begun to collect existing data pertinent to these two assessments. For contact recreation, this includes results of fecal indicator bacteria monitoring collected by the Port District and the County of San Diego. For fish and shellfish consumption, this includes data collected for the [Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program](#) of the State and regional water boards, [California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment](#), the [Regional Harbor Monitoring Program](#), Mussel Watch Program, and [California Department of Public Health seafood and shellfish safety program](#), and additional special studies conducted by [Southern California Coastal Water Research Project](#) and the San Diego Water Board. If you have, or know of, any additional data that may be useful for answering the questions noted above, please contact Chiara Clemente with the contact information below.

NEXT STEPS

We intend to present the preliminary findings and solicit comments on the initial assessments at the [October 12, 2016 Board meeting](#). At or around that same time, we will initiate dialogue with key stakeholders to begin to develop a Bay-wide monitoring program and form a monitoring coalition to conduct monitoring and communicate results of subsequent assessments.

As resources become available, Board staff will then begin to conduct initial assessments for the key uses of (a) non-contact recreation and (b) habitats and ecosystems in the Bay.

Updates will continue to be provided via this lyris list for interested parties. For questions or comments please contact Chiara Clemente at:

Chiara Clemente

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San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board

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