

**TENTATIVE**

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

**RESOLUTION NO. R9-2017-0030**

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING USE OF  
THE KEY BENEFICIAL USES / KEY AREAS CONCEPT  
TO HELP THE SAN DIEGO WATER BOARD  
FOCUS ON WHAT IS MOST IMPORTANT**

**WHEREAS:**

1. The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region (San Diego Water Board or Board) works to implement State and federal water quality statutes in the San Diego Region.
2. One way of expressing the desired outcome of those statutes and the Board's work is "waters with chemical, physical, and biological integrity." Accordingly, the Board's work involves both protecting and restoring the integrity, or health, of waters in the San Diego Region.
3. The Board has limited resources with which to do its work, so there are limits on how much the Board can do, and decisions must be made about how to prioritize the Board's work and how to allocate and use the Board's resources.
4. The challenge for the Board is not simply to do good things, but to do what is most important; not simply to help bring about environmental outcomes, but to help bring about *meaningful* environmental outcomes, and to do so with available resources.
5. Focusing on what is most important is fundamental to the effectiveness of the Board.
6. Chapter 1 of the "Practical Vision"<sup>1</sup> endorsed by the Board in November 2013 is about ensuring that the resources of the Board are put to the best possible use for the purpose of protecting and restoring the integrity, or health, of waters in the San Diego Region. To help the Board determine and focus on what is most important, that chapter, "Focusing on What is *Most* Important: Strategizing for Healthy Waters," introduced the concept of key beneficial uses and key areas.

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<sup>1</sup> The Practical Vision is on the San Diego Water Board website at:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water\\_issues/Practical\\_Vision/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water_issues/Practical_Vision/index.shtml).

Chapter 1 of the Practical Vision is on the San Diego Water Board website at:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water\\_issues/Practical\\_Vision/docs/PV\\_1\\_Strategizing\\_for\\_Healthy\\_Waters\\_Dec2013.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water_issues/Practical_Vision/docs/PV_1_Strategizing_for_Healthy_Waters_Dec2013.pdf).

7. The reason for protecting and restoring the integrity, or health, of waters is to ensure that beneficial uses of those waters are not adversely affected by anthropogenic influences on water body conditions. Because they are at the core of the Board's work, beneficial uses are also at the core of determining what is most important for the Board.
8. As set forth in the Practical Vision, key beneficial uses are the individual beneficial uses and beneficial use categories that are most critical to protecting human and environmental health, and, therefore, the uses for which protection and restoration of the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of waters is most important.
9. Key areas are the waters and places where protection and restoration of the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of waters is most important for a key beneficial use.
10. Identifying key beneficial uses and key areas should be seen as an essential first step, but not the only step, in helping determine what is most important for the Board and helping the Board focus on what is most important.
11. In simple terms, what is most important for the Board is the work that contributes most to protection and restoration of the chemical, physical, and biological integrity, or health, of waters in the San Diego Region in key areas for key beneficial uses.
12. Much of the Board's work is accomplished by or through other entities, notably by entities regulated by the Board, so the effectiveness of the Board depends, to a large degree, on actions taken by those entities. In order for the Board to be effective, entities regulated by the Board need to focus on what is most important.
13. Applying the key beneficial uses / key areas concept to the Board's work, and to the work the Board directs other entities to undertake, can help the Board and those other entities focus on what is most important.
14. A potential application of the key beneficial uses / key areas concept that could be particularly useful in helping the Board be more strategic and more proactive and, therefore, more effective, is development and implementation of key beneficial use / key area-based management strategies for protection and restoration of the integrity, or health, of waters in the San Diego Region. Such key beneficial use / key area-based management strategies could help the Board take the next steps needed to determine and focus on what is most important.

15. The Board may need to consider a variety of factors in decisions about how to prioritize its work and how to allocate and use its resources, but key beneficial uses and key areas should always be among the factors considered in doing so.
16. The San Diego Water Board staff report entitled “Key Beneficial Uses and Key Areas - Focusing on What Is Most Important” outlines the key beneficial uses / key areas concept, identifies key beneficial uses and many key areas, and suggests how the key beneficial uses / key areas concept can help the Board focus on what is most important.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

1. The San Diego Water Board supports use of the key beneficial uses / key areas concept to help focus on what is most important in order to effectively protect and restore the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of waters in the San Diego Region.
2. The San Diego Water Board is committed to crafting its regulatory directives so as to encourage, and, where possible, require the entities it regulates to focus on what is most important.
3. The San Diego Water Board is committed to considering key beneficial uses and key areas in decisions about how to prioritize its work and how to allocate and use its resources, along with a variety of other factors it may need to consider in doing so.
4. The San Diego Water Board hereby directs its Executive Officer to periodically report to the Board on the progress and results of efforts to:
  - Determine what is most important;
  - Focus on what is most important; and
  - Help bring about meaningful environmental outcomes.
5. The San Diego Water Board endorses the staff report entitled “Key Beneficial Uses and Key Areas - Focusing on What Is Most Important.”

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 March 15, 2017.

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DAVID W. GIBSON  
Executive Officer