

DRAFT
**Vision, Goals, and Guiding Principles for
Monitoring and Assessment of
San Diego Region Water Bodies**

Vision

Coordinated, integrated, cost-effective monitoring and assessment programs for each type of water body in the San Diego Region will produce, disseminate, and effectively communicate important basic information about the “status and trends” of conditions indicative of the health of those waters.

Together, these monitoring and assessment programs for various types of water bodies will constitute a coordinated, integrated, cost-effective monitoring and assessment program for all waters in the San Diego Region.

Goals

These monitoring and assessment programs for San Diego Region waters will:

1. Assess conditions in these waters pertinent to basic public concerns, including determination of:
 - a. Status
 - What are the levels of key indicators?
 - Are conditions good, bad, or fair?
 - b. Distribution
 - Where are areas of good, bad, and fair conditions located?
 - c. Extent
 - How large are areas of good, bad, and fair conditions?
 - d. Degree
 - How bad are “bad” and how good are “good” conditions?
 - b. Trends
 - Are conditions improving, deteriorating, or staying the same?
2. Compare conditions:
 - a. With benchmarks;
 - b. Within different parts of the same water body or watershed;
 - c. In different water bodies of the same type; and
 - d. In different types of water bodies.
3. Make monitoring and assessment data, information, results, and documents readily available in a timely manner.
4. Communicate monitoring and assessment information and results clearly, effectively, and appropriately for various audiences, and in a timely manner.

Guiding Principles

1. All discharges to waters of the state are privileges, not rights.
(California Water Code §13263(g))
2. The privilege of discharging to waters of the state appropriately carries with it the responsibility for funding monitoring and assessment of the health of those waters, both in the immediate vicinity of a facility / activity / discharge and regionally.
3. The costs of such monitoring and assessment should be shared equitably among responsible parties
4. Such monitoring and assessment should produce meaningful and reliable information that is useful for effective management and decision-making.
Therefore, it should:
 - a. Be pertinent to basic public concerns about the health and beneficial uses of water bodies;
 - b. Give special attention to areas of special importance, interest, and/or concern;
 - c. Be question-driven, with clearly articulated questions;
 - d. Be coordinated, comparable, and consistent across jurisdictions, from water body to water body, and from watershed to watershed; and
 - e. Be scientifically and statistically sound.
5. The results of such monitoring and assessment should be readily available and well communicated to a variety of audiences, including the general public, and the answers to monitoring and assessment questions should be clearly articulated.