





10. Wetlands provide resilience for both human and ecosystem beneficial uses of water threatened by climate change. Restoration of aquatic resources, including wetlands, can play crucial roles in reducing risks from climate change by improving water quality, protecting water resources, mitigating GHG emissions, and enhancing habitat. In Resolution No. R9-2015-0041,<sup>1</sup> the San Diego Water Board recognized threats of climate change to aquatic ecosystems and directed staff to promote and advance aquatic ecosystem restoration. Subsequent law (e.g., Assembly Bill 1482) requires State agencies to promote the use of natural systems and infrastructure, such as wetlands,<sup>2</sup> in climate change adaptation plans.
11. Governments, utilities, non-governmental organizations, and industries in the San Diego Region need to make a variety of difficult decisions regarding potential climate change impacts to their interests; and those decisions could affect beneficial uses. For example:
  - a. Accommodating higher tidal surges by armoring coastlines that would restrict recreational uses of beaches and bays and prevent inland migration of intertidal habitat and species.
  - b. Managing larger volumes of storm water by modifying stream channels that would disrupt ecosystem uses of streams, wetlands, and associated floodplains.
  - c. Relying on natural attenuation of soil contamination that would result in hazardous releases if the area becomes inundated due to sea level rise and/or rising groundwater.
12. The San Diego Water Board supports the State of California efforts to prepare for and adapt to a changing climate. A principle of the State's adaptation strategy, [Safeguarding California](#), is to prioritize actions that not only mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, but also help the State prepare for climate change impacts across sectoral and jurisdictional boundaries, including but not limited to water, oceans and ecosystems, land use, public health, transportation, and emergency management.
13. The San Diego Water Board and staff have begun to participate in regional and statewide climate change initiatives and to incorporate climate change considerations into decision-making for projects including but not limited to water recycling and conservation, existing and proposed ocean discharges, and coastal zone site cleanup plans.
14. In August 2015, the San Diego Water Board held a public informational item on climate change considerations in the Region.

<sup>1</sup> [Resolution No. R9-2015-0041](#): "Resolution to Support Restoration of Aquatic Ecosystems in the San Diego Region." Dated June 24, 2015.

<sup>2</sup> As defined in Government Code section 65302 means "the preservation or restoration of ecological systems, or utilization of engineered systems that use ecological processes, to increase resiliency to climate change, manage other environmental hazards, or both. This may include, but is not limited to, floodplain and wetlands restoration or preservation, combining levees with restored natural systems to reduce flood risk, and urban tree planting to mitigate high heat days."





