DRINKING WATER SUPPLY: The supply of water for human consumption

1. KEY BENEFICIAL USES
Key beneficial uses are the beneficial uses that are most critical to protecting human and environmental health.

2. KEY AREAS
Key areas are the places where protection and restoration of the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of waters is most important for a key beneficial use.

3. APPLYING KEY BENEFICIAL USES AND KEY AREAS
Where the Board has flexibility, such as efforts to restore degraded waters, the key beneficial uses/key areas concept can help the Board decide which work to undertake. In programs with less flexibility, such as permitting, the concept can help the Board decide which aspects of that work warrant greater attention.

Identifying key beneficial uses and key areas is the beginning of helping the Board focus on what is most important.

For more information see:
- Practical Vision: Healthy Waters, Healthy People (2013)
- Key Beneficial Uses and Key Areas: Focusing on What is Most Important (2017)