

RECREATION: *Swimming, surfing, aesthetic enjoyment, and more*

RECREATION IS A KEY BENEFICIAL USE

Beneficial uses are the uses of water necessary for the survival or well-being of humans, plants and wildlife. These uses of water serve to promote our tangible and intangible economic, social and environmental goals. Contact water recreation (REC-1) is a widespread and iconic use of coastal waters in the San Diego Region. Even more popular are non-contact recreation (REC-2) activities in the Region.

KEY BENEFICIAL USES OF WATERS IN THE SAN DIEGO REGION



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.

KEY AREAS in the San Diego Region for RECREATION

	CONTACT WATER RECREATION (REC-1)		NON-CONTACT WATER RECREATION (REC-2)	
KEY WATER BODIES	First (highest) Rank	Ocean	Ocean Mission Bay San Diego Bay	
	Second Rank	Mission Bay	Dana Point Harbor Oceanside Harbor Lagoons & Estuaries	
	Third Rank	San Diego Bay Dana Point Harbor	Stream Mouths Stream Systems	
AREAS OF SPECIAL IMPORTANCE	Coastal waters close to shore & open to the public for REC-1	Coastal waters close to shore & open to the public for REC-1	Waters close to & visible from parks & other designated recreation areas & other areas & structures (piers, wharfs, docks, bridges, etc.) open to the public	
	Especially near sandy beaches	Especially near sandy beaches		
	<i>e.g., at:</i>	<i>e.g., at:</i>	<i>e.g., at:</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State Beaches & State Parks County, JPA, Special District, & City Beaches & Parks Other Sandy Beaches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State Beaches & State Parks County, JPA, Special District, & City Beaches & Parks Other Sandy Beaches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State Beaches & State Parks County, JPA, Special District, & City Beaches & Parks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Monuments National Forests Other Areas & Structures Open to the Public e.g., Coastal pathways and bridges
<p>For examples of specific key areas, please see Tables 8 and 9 in the Report: Key Beneficial Uses and Key Areas: Focusing on What is Most Important (2017).</p>				

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)