



Strategy for a Healthy San Diego Bay

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INTRODUCTION



Why Focus on San Diego Bay?

San Diego Bay (the Bay) is the largest natural enclosed bay in southern California. The Bay has long provided important habitat for fish and wildlife and for thousands of years was an important source of food for Native Americans. Since the arrival of Europeans, the Bay has been and continues to be used for a variety of maritime, commercial, industrial, and military purposes, and the human population in the vicinity of the Bay has increased dramatically. As a result the Bay, its watersheds, and the streams that flow into it have been extensively modified and a variety of pollutants have entered the Bay. These influences have diminished fish and wildlife habitat, raised concerns about the suitability of fish and shellfish for human consumption, and threatened water quality for recreation.

The purpose of this Strategy is to guide the San Diego Water Board in using its resources optimally to protect and restore the health of San Diego Bay. This includes identifying a process for the Board to establish priorities in a scientifically sound, consistent, and transparent manner.

PURPOSE

OBJECTIVE

The objective of this Strategy is to achieve healthy waters in San Diego Bay. Healthy waters are waters that support the Bay's beneficial uses identified in the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Diego Basin (Basin Plan) and the Water Quality Control Plan for Enclosed Bays and Estuaries.

This Strategy Implements the San Diego Water Board's Practical Vision

In November 2013, the San Diego Water Board (Board) adopted a resolution supporting the "[Practical Vision: Healthy Waters Healthy People](#)," (Practical Vision) which is intended to ensure that the staff, funding, authority, tools, and influence of the Board are put to the best possible use to achieve healthy waters throughout the San Diego Region. The Practical Vision focuses on meaningful outcomes that the Board will work towards, both on its own and in collaboration with other organizations.

PRACTICAL VISION

CHAPTER 1: Strategizing for Healthy Waters

CHAPTER 2: Monitoring and Assessment

CHAPTER 3: Recovery of Stream, Wetlands, and Riparian Systems

CHAPTER 4: Proactive Public Outreach and Communication

CHAPTER 5: Strategy for Achieving a Sustainable Local Water Supply

[Chapter 1 of the Practical Vision \(PV1\)](#) outlines an approach to achieve healthy waters by developing clear overarching goals, establishing region-wide priorities, and remaining committed to those goals and priorities over an extended period of time. PV1 describes a seven-step process for the Board to effectively align its work with the most important goals and highest priorities to achieve or maintain healthy waters. This “Strategy for a Healthy San Diego Bay” applies the seven steps presented in PV1 to the Bay:

- Step 1** Identify key uses applicable to San Diego Bay and key areas associated with those uses.
- Step 2** Assess conditions in San Diego Bay with regard to the key uses and associated areas.
- Step 3** Prioritize which issues are most important to address in San Diego Bay.
- Step 4** Set measurable goals for meaningful environmental outcomes.
- Step 5** Realign the Board’s work as necessary to achieve the measurable goals.
- Step 6** Track progress of the work identified and the outcomes anticipated.
- Step 7** Periodically reevaluate priorities, goals, and milestones and make course corrections as necessary.

The seven-step process is intended to be recurring and iterative. The Board will continue to use this process as it addresses the various influences that adversely affect – or are likely to adversely affect – the health of San Diego Bay, such as hydromodification, pollutant discharges, and climate change effects. The seven steps are detailed further in the following sections.

STEP 1:

KEY USES AND KEY AREAS

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The first step is to identify key uses and key areas associated with those key uses. The Board recognizes that the Bay is used for many purposes – natural habitat and a variety of maritime, commercial, industrial, military, and recreational purposes – however, the term “key uses” in the Strategy ties specifically into the Strategy’s purpose of guiding the Board in using its resources optimally to protect and restore the health of the Bay. **Key uses** are categories of water quality-dependent uses that are most critical to consider in protecting human and environmental health. Board staff reviewed the 13 beneficial uses (BUs)¹ identified in the Basin Plan and determined that the categories of uses that are most critical to consider in protecting human and environmental health – the key uses – of the Bay are:

1. Recreation;
2. Human consumption of fish and shellfish; and
3. Habitats and ecosystems.


The Bay can be considered to be healthy to the degree that:

1. Bay water quality is suitable for recreational activities (e.g., “swimmable”);
2. Bay fish and shellfish are safe to eat (i.e., “fishable”); and
3. Bay habitats and ecosystems are healthy.

The Board is responsible for protecting all of the BUs designated for the Bay, including the two that are not directly related to key uses – Industrial Service Supply (IND) and Navigation (NAV). Focusing on the key uses identified is intended to provide adequate protection for all BUs. However, if this proved to not be the case, the Board would use its authority to ensure that water quality objectives for IND and NAV are attained as well. If the focus on a key use, by implementation of the Strategy, were to create a conflict with a BU or another key use, the Board would balance the needs of the two in its development of goals and priorities, as it always has.

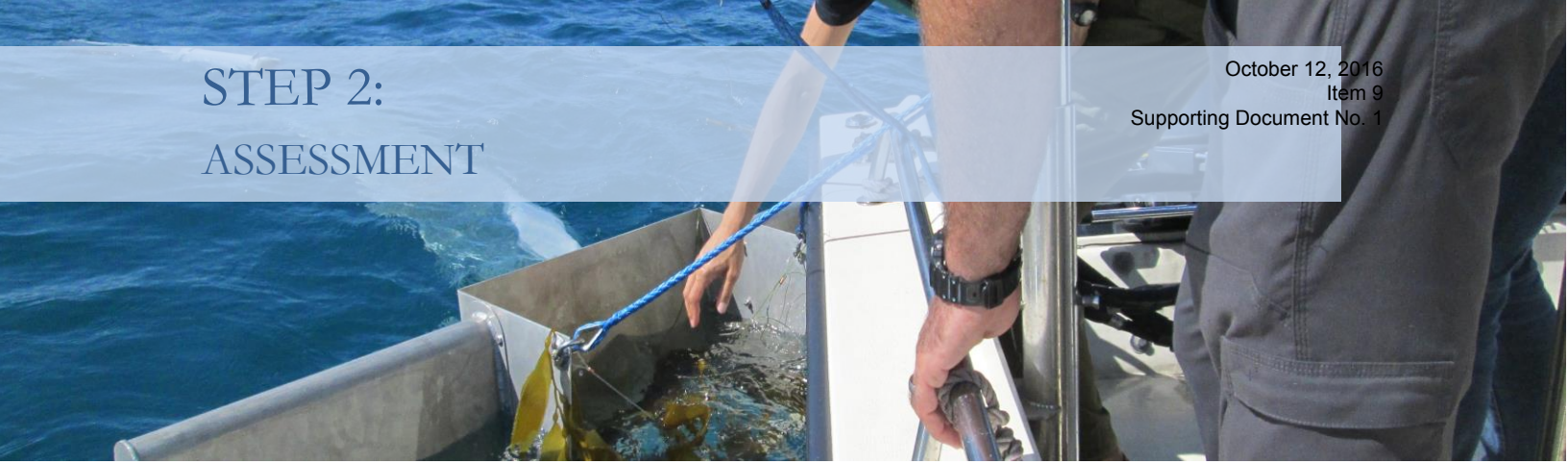
¹ Beneficial uses are defined as the uses of water necessary for the survival or well-being of man, plants and wildlife. The 13 beneficial uses identified for San Diego Bay are on Table 2-3 2-52 of the [Basin Plan](#).

Key areas are locations within or along the Bay that are intensively used and/or that are particularly important for a key use (or that would be if water quality conditions were satisfactory). For instance, some areas of the Bay near sandy beaches that are intensively used for swimming and other recreational activities are key areas associated with the key use of recreation. Board staff will consult with the community and identify key areas of San Diego Bay associated with each key use. Identifying the key uses and associated areas in the Bay is a preliminary prioritization step intended to better focus subsequent steps (e.g., monitoring and assessment and determination of priorities and goals).

	<p>WETLANDS</p> <p>Wetlands are a critical component of the habitats and ecosystems of San Diego Bay. Unfortunately, there has been substantial loss and degradation of the wetlands of San Diego Bay and of the San Diego Region as a whole. Accordingly, Chapter 3 of the Practical Vision (PV3) highlights the importance of wetlands recovery. Protecting and restoring wetlands is an important part of protecting and restoring the health of San Diego Bay.</p>
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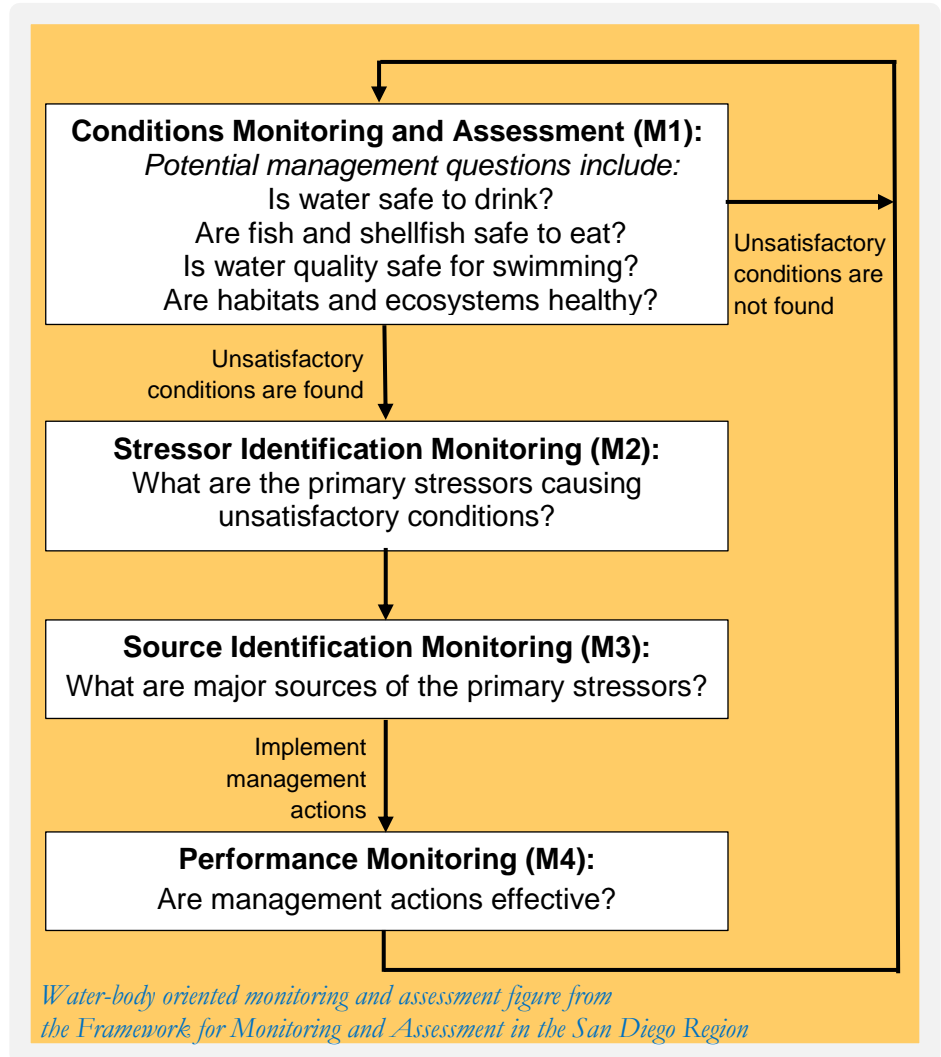
STEP 2: ASSESSMENT

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The second step is to assess conditions in the Bay as they relate to the key uses and associated areas. This section outlines the steps, consistent with [Chapter 2 of the Practical Vision \(PV2\)](#), to conduct an initial assessment, develop and implement a Bay-wide monitoring program for subsequent assessments, and communicate the results to decision makers and the public.

To be strategic and effective in carrying out its mission, the San Diego Water Board needs information that cannot be produced without appropriate monitoring and assessment. PV2 refers to a San Diego Water Board-endorsed [Framework for Monitoring and Assessment in the San Diego Region](#) (Monitoring and Assessment Framework) intended to ensure and enable determination of the status and trends of conditions in the region's waters; identification of the causes of unsatisfactory conditions; determination of the effectiveness of management actions, and; effective communication of key findings to the public, stakeholders, and decision makers.



Initial Assessment

Following endorsement of the Strategy by the Board and identification of key uses and associated areas, staff will conduct an initial assessment, as outlined in the Board's 2015 Operational Plan. Board staff will start by convening a workgroup charged with using available information to answer the applicable questions identified in Conditions Monitoring and Assessment (M1) of the Monitoring and Assessment Framework.

The workgroup will include Board staff and outside experts, and may include stakeholders that can provide assistance. Where possible, the workgroup will identify in advance the indicators, metrics, criteria, and thresholds that will be used to evaluate the M1 questions associated with the Bay's key uses:

1. Are the waters suitable for recreation?
2. Are fish and shellfish safe to eat?
3. Are habitats and ecosystems healthy?

A great deal of information on San Diego Bay already exists. For example, the Regional Harbor Monitoring Program (RHMP) is a comprehensive effort to survey general water quality and conditions of aquatic life, and to determine whether beneficial uses are being protected. The RHMP conducts monitoring in four regional harbors, including San Diego Bay, and is a component of Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP) Bight Regional Monitoring. The Port of San Diego, together with the U. S. Navy, has also developed an [Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan](#) which identifies habitat types throughout the Bay and catalogues plant and animal species present.

Where the workgroup's analysis of available information, from the aforementioned and other data sources, indicates that unsatisfactory conditions are found in a key area for a key use, the workgroup will seek to identify the primary stressors causing those unsatisfactory conditions (i.e., M2 of Monitoring and Assessment Framework).

Due to the extensive nature of such an effort, assessment of the Bay will be implemented in phases, further detailed through subsequent iterations of the Board's annual operational plan. The workgroup will remain responsible for overseeing subsequent assessments and implementing the Monitoring and Assessment Framework throughout. The workgroup will determine the focus of subsequent assessment efforts, including how to phase in assessment of additional key uses, key areas, and/or new stressors; it will evaluate monitoring results from each preceding effort; and it will seek ways to leverage and promote coordinated monitoring, assessment, and communication efforts. All of this will involve coordinated planning across several Board programs and units.

Where more information is needed, the workgroup will work with other parties to obtain that information for use in subsequent assessments. This process sets the stage for developing and implementing a Bay-wide monitoring program.

Bay-Wide Monitoring Program

A key element of the Monitoring and Assessment Framework is development and implementation of monitoring programs to answer the M1 - M4 questions. Building on the initial assessment, the workgroup will work with outside experts, dischargers, and other stakeholders to develop and implement a long-term, Bay-wide monitoring program to produce the information needed for future assessments and decision-making.

The workgroup will evaluate what information is already being produced (by various entities) and what additional information is needed. The workgroup will also consider how best to collect the information needed, striving to build on existing efforts, such as the RHMP, not reinvent or duplicate them. Program staff will use the workgroup's recommendations to guide the necessary changes. The Board will use its authority, influence, and resources to ensure that the needed information is produced. For example, the Board could:

1. Meet with monitoring experts, dischargers, and/or other stakeholders to encourage the development or revision of cooperative monitoring agreements;
2. Work with parties to build on and/or revise the Regional Harbor Monitoring Project and/or the Bight Regional Monitoring Program;
3. Revise National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit monitoring requirements;
4. Request existing data and/or issue investigative orders;
5. Request funding for special studies (and/or support the requests of others for such funding); and/or
6. Use funds from the Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program of the State and regional water boards and/or other sources.

Board staff in the workgroup will work to establish a San Diego Bay monitoring coalition to implement the monitoring program, compile and analyze information, and communicate the results on an ongoing basis. A monitoring coalition can leverage resources and improve coordination to conduct monitoring more effectively and efficiently than several entities working separately. The monitoring coalition will likely include principal dischargers to the Bay and should include other stakeholders as well.

Board staff will work with organizations to develop a comprehensive monitoring and assessment program, which may be managed and/or structured in a similar fashion to the San Francisco Bay Regional Monitoring Program that is run by the San Francisco Estuary Institute (SFEI). Elements that make that program successful include:

1. Creation of a single lead entity;
2. Participation of multiple entities in collaborative workgroups;
3. MOUs, MOAs, JPAs, and/or other cost sharing arrangements that allow entities to leverage resources;
4. Access to a panel of experts, including scientists from academic and research organizations;
5. Active community outreach and participation; and
6. Regular reports with findings that can be easily understood by the public.

Communicate Monitoring Results

Effective communication is crucial for ensuring the collaboration necessary to achieve healthy waters in San Diego Bay. Board staff, and eventually the monitoring coalition, will produce a “State of the Bay” report based on the results of the latest assessment(s). The report will summarize the status and trends of key uses and associated areas in the Bay and will report on progress towards meeting the measurable goals identified as part of Step 4 of this Strategy.

Updates on the State of the Bay will be presented through a public workshop annually, with the written “State of the Bay” report provided every five years. Board staff may also communicate results to stakeholders and the public by producing a water quality "report card" summarizing the status and trends of the health of the Bay. Additional ad hoc reports or summaries may be produced for specific timely issues or if requested by the Board members.

STEP 3: PRIORITIZATION



The third step is to develop a prioritization process to protect and restore key uses in their associated areas, and then, using information from the assessment, set priorities accordingly. PV1 calls for a priority setting team (Priorities Committee) to complete this step, with the committee to consist of the San Diego Water Board Executive Officer (EO), Assistant Executive Officer (AEO), representatives from each branch, and possibly a Board member. Prior to the initial assessment, the Priorities Committee will meet with the workgroup to understand which key uses and associated areas the initial assessment will focus on. After the initial assessment is complete, they will determine the best way to go about prioritizing by considering factors such as anticipated benefits relative to resources invested, synergistic opportunities, and urgency for action and by addressing questions such as the following:

1. What are the best things to do to ensure that the Bay is suitable for recreation?
2. What are the best things to do to ensure that the Bay is “fishable?”
 - a. Which contaminants pose the greatest threat?
 - b. How do those contaminants reach human consumers of fish and shellfish?
3. What are the best things to do to ensure that Bay habitats/ecosystems are healthy?
 - a. Which areas are most vulnerable?
 - b. Which areas are most critical?
 - c. Which influences are most detrimental?

As part of this exercise, the Priorities Committee may conduct outreach and/or workshops to find out more about community priorities for the key uses. Using the prioritization process developed and information available from the assessment, the Priorities Committee will set priorities in terms of parameters such as key places, stressors, efforts, or indicators. Priorities can then be ranked so that a list of the highest priority items can be presented to Board. By communicating these priorities to stakeholders, Board staff may be able to identify and take advantage of synergies through awareness of efforts that are already taking place or that are being planned, such as the Port of San Diego's "[Port for All](#)" 50-year integrated master plan and the [San Diego Bay Water Quality Improvement Plan](#).

STEP 4: MEASURABLE GOALS

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The fourth step is for the Priorities Committee to set measurable goals for meaningful environmental outcomes for the highest priorities identified in Step 3. The intent of these goals will be to protect and restore the health of the Bay. There could be several different (but possibly overlapping) types of goals at various spatial and temporal scales, such as:

1. **Bay-Wide Goals** - Goals for the health of the Bay as a whole, with regard to each key use. For example, goals for “ecosystem health” might be set in terms of index of biological integrity (IBI) scores and eel grass recovery index (ERI) scores, among other measures.
2. **Stressor-Specific Goals** - Goals for individual stressors or groups of stressors. For example, if human health risk from consumption of fish and shellfish containing polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) is deemed to be a priority, a goal might be set for reduced concentrations of PCBs in fish and shellfish.
3. **Site-Specific Goals** - Goals for individual sites, such as for restoration or habitat, or establishing monitoring requirements, effluent limits, or cleanup levels for various sites or facilities.
4. **Stewardship Goals** - Goals for sustained stewardship, such as MOUs, funding, etc.
5. **Communication Goals** - Goals for effective internal and external communication.

Some goals will be achievable in the short term while others will take many years to reach. Interim milestones can demonstrate how efforts are progressing on long-term goals and the Strategy’s iterative approach supports staying on course for such goals. Progress towards meeting goals will be evaluated as part of periodic assessments and reported as part of the State of the Bay report (see Step 6). After completing Step 4, the Priorities Committee will assign and empower a San Diego Bay Coordinator who will be responsible for coordinating the Board's priority Bay work across all units and branches and for communicating results internally and externally.

STEP 5: WORK REALIGNMENT

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The fifth step is to realign work and reallocate resources to achieve the goals set in Step 4. Those goals and the priorities established in Step 3 will be used to guide Board activities, including annual operational plans and specific program work. Each Board program manager, together with a Priorities Committee representative, will determine how to:

1. Realign the work and reallocate the program resources;
2. Coordinate and collaborate with other Board programs and staff; and
3. Coordinate and collaborate with other organizations.

Staff resources will be shifted to work on these priorities, as identified in the operational plan. For example, if a goal for reduced concentrations of PCBs in fish and shellfish were to be set, the Board's Site Cleanup Program would prioritize cleanup of the Bay sites with known PCB contamination; permitting and enforcement would focus on PCB discharges to the Bay, and monitoring requirements would be revised as necessary to evaluate progress towards assessing and meeting that goal. The Priorities Committee will also consider any changes to the San Diego Water Board organizational structure needed to facilitate achieving the goals.

Determining how to realign the Board's work and reallocate resources among and between various San Diego Bay priorities and goals will be challenging. Determining how to realign the Board's work and reallocate resources between San Diego Bay and the rest of the San Diego Region may be even more challenging. This must be done, however, because aligning the Board's efforts with its priorities is fundamental to its success.

STEP 6: TRACKING PROGRESS

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The sixth step is to track progress towards meeting the goals set in Step 4 and to ensure that Board work remains both focused on meeting those goals and consistent with the priorities established in Step 3. PV1 calls for a Stay on Course (SOC) Committee to be responsible for this task.

The San Diego Bay Coordinator and the Priorities Committee, together comprising the SOC Committee, will meet periodically to review monitoring and assessment updates and to evaluate progress based on the following:

1. Is progress towards meeting the goals satisfactory?
2. Is progress towards implementation of priority work satisfactory?
3. If not, why not, and what could/should be done differently?

Progress will be reported to the Board and the public annually as part of the State of the Bay workshop.

STEP 7: RE-EVALUATION OF PRIORITIES

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The seventh step is to re-evaluate priorities and goals. This would be done periodically as new information becomes available, upon achievement of a goal, and/or as new issues arise. At a minimum, after each assessment the SOC Committee would reconvene and reassess the priorities and goals based on any new information.

Any changes in priorities and goals would be reported to the Board in the subsequent State of the Bay report and changes in work realignment and tracking would also be reflected in the subsequent operational plan.

San Diego Water Board work in San Diego Bay is already under way, and the commitment to implement the Strategy is demonstrated in its 2015 Operational Plan. Each operational plan is intended to identify work, in terms of tasks and deliverables, to be performed by Board staff to implement the Practical Vision.² Until Bay priorities are established, goals are set, and work is realigned in keeping with those priorities and goals, the Board will proceed with its current San Diego Bay work. The table in Appendix A summarizes the San Diego Water Board's priority San Diego Bay work that is scheduled for 2015, based on the 2015 Operational Plan. Dates listed in the table indicate when each effort should be completed during the calendar year. San Diego Bay work identified in subsequent operational plans will be shared with the public as part of the State of the Bay report.

² The Operational Plan is not intended to be an exhaustive list of the Board's work projections for a given year. Therefore, there may be additional Bay-related work conducted that is not identified in the Operational Plan. Furthermore, because the operational plan is intended to be an internal document to guide the Board's resource allocations, it does not address tasks or deliverables to be produced by other entities (e.g. permit holders, cleanup parties, grantees, etc.)

APPENDIX A

SAN DIEGO WATER BOARD'S SAN DIEGO BAY WORK IN 2015 OPERATIONAL PLAN

Summary/Objective	Due Date	Water Board Role/Activity					
		Planning	Permitting	Monitoring and Assessment	Cleanup or Enforcement	Education	Financial Assistance
STRATEGY FOR A HEALTHY SAN DIEGO BAY- Adoption of a Strategy to guide the San Diego Water Board in using its resources optimally to address protection, pollutant source control, and clean-up in San Diego Bay. The Strategy identifies a path for the Board to determine priorities in a sound, scientifically-based, consistent, and transparent manner.	6/30/2015	√					
IDENTIFYING KEY USES/AREAS- A staff workgroup will use a systematic process to identify key uses and determine which combinations of these key uses and water body types (and parts thereof) should be highest priority for our work in San Diego Bay. The group will then determine how to implement the monitoring and assessment framework for the different phases of groupings in San Diego Bay.	12/31/2015	√					
SAN DIEGO BAY ASSESSMENT- Conduct an initial assessment of conditions in San Diego Bay as they relate to high priority key uses for San Diego Bay based on available data and information.	12/31/2016			√			
SAN DIEGO BAY BIOACCUMULATION STUDY- Manage and review preliminary results from SCCWRP studies of bioaccumulation of pollutants in San Diego Bay sediments and the risks they pose to human health and aquatic dependent wildlife to provide a better understanding of the process of bioaccumulation through the complex food web systems of San Diego Bay.	12/1/2015			√			√

APPENDIX A

SAN DIEGO WATER BOARD'S SAN DIEGO BAY WORK IN 2015 OPERATIONAL PLAN

Summary/Objective	Due Date	Water Board Role/Activity					
		Planning	Permitting	Monitoring and Assessment	Cleanup or Enforcement	Education	Financial Assistance
SAN DIEGO BAY FISH CONSUMPTION STUDY- Manage and review preliminary results from SCCWRP studies of fish consumption surveys in San Diego Bay.	12/1/2015			√			√
REGIONAL MS4 PERMIT- Review and approve the Water Quality Improvement Plan for San Diego Bay.	11/30/2015	√	√				
NPDES PERMIT- Board Consideration of NPDES permit for Naval Base Coronado.	12/9/2015		√				
CHOLLAS CREEK ENFORCEMENT- Identify potentially responsible parties, draft conceptual site model, and draft and issue an investigative order to assess extent of sediment contamination at mouth of Chollas Creek.	8/28/2015				√		
CHOLLAS CREEK WATER EFFECTS RATIO- Draft a Basin Plan amendment for a modified WER in Chollas Creek TMDL; complete CEQA and peer review.	12/31/2015	√					
DoD CLEANUP- Complete Record of Decision for cleanup at Naval Amphibious Base Coronado – Military Munitions Response Program (MMRP) Site 5	12/31/2015				√		
DoD CLEANUP- Complete Record of Decision for cleanup at Naval Air Station North Island – MMRP Site 8	12/31/2015				√		
DoD CLEANUP- Complete Record of Decision for cleanup at Naval Air Station North Island – Installation Restoration (IR) Site 11	12/31/2015				√		
DoD CLEANUP- Complete Record of Decision for cleanup at Naval Base San Diego – IR Site 1	12/31/2015				√		
DoD CLEANUP- Complete Record of Decision for cleanup at San Diego Naval Training Center – IR Site 12	12/31/2015				√		

APPENDIX B

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES TO IMPLEMENT THE STRATEGY FOR A HEALTHY SAN DIEGO BAY

<p>STEP 1: Key Uses and Key Areas</p>	<p>San Diego Water Board identifies key uses and associated areas</p>
<p>STEP 2: Assessment</p>	<p>San Diego Water Board convenes Workgroup consisting of staff and possibly others that can provide assistance with assessments</p> <p>Workgroup leads phased assessments based on the Monitoring Framework, key uses, and key areas</p> <p>Workgroup, outside experts, dischargers, and other stakeholders establish monitoring program and Monitoring Coalition</p> <p>Workgroup/Monitoring Coalition conducts monitoring and produces State of the Bay reports based on assessments</p>
<p>STEP 3: Prioritization</p>	<p>Priorities Committee is formed, consisting of the San Diego Water Board EO, AEO, representatives from each branch, and possibly one or more Board members</p> <p>Priorities Committee establishes prioritization process</p> <p>Priorities Committee sets priorities in terms of consistent parameters, such as key places, stressors, efforts, or indicators</p>
<p>STEP 4: Measurable Goals</p>	<p>Priorities Committee sets measurable goals for meaningful environmental outcomes</p> <p>Priorities Committee assigns San Diego Bay Coordinator</p>
<p>STEP 5: Work Realignment</p>	<p>San Diego Water Board Program Managers align their programs according to priorities (Step 3) and goals (Step 4)</p> <p>San Diego Bay Coordinator coordinates San Diego Water Board priority Bay work across all units and branches, and communicates results</p>
<p>STEP 6: Tracking Progress</p>	<p>Stay on Course Committee evaluates progress:</p> <p>Are the goals being met (Step 4)? Are the management actions being accomplished (Step 5)? If not, why not, and what could/should be done differently?</p>
<p>STEP 7: Re-Evaluation of Priorities</p>	<p>Stay on Course Committee re-evaluates goals, priorities, and actions periodically as dictated in the Operational Plan, as new issues arise, or upon achievement of each goal</p> <p>Stay on Course Committee reports any changes in priorities in Operational Plan and the State of the Bay report</p>

Note: Steps 1-7 will not be strictly sequential as the process is intended to be recurring and iterative.

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APPENDIX C GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Bay-Wide Monitoring Program- Building on the initial assessment, the workgroup (defined in glossary) will work with outside experts, dischargers, and other stakeholders to develop and implement a long-term, Bay-wide monitoring program to produce the information needed for future assessments and decision-making.

Beneficial Uses- Beneficial uses are defined in the California Water Code as the uses of water necessary for the survival or well being of man, plants and wildlife. These uses of water serve to promote the tangible and intangible economic, social and environmental goals of mankind. Examples include drinking, swimming, industrial and agricultural water supply, and the support of fresh and saline aquatic habitats.

Bight Regional Monitoring Program- The Southern California Bight Regional Monitoring Program is a cooperative effort involving more than 100 agencies, including international and volunteer organizations, that includes assessing the overall ecological health of the Southern California Bight on a recurring basis. Each monitoring effort builds upon previous surveys and incorporates new questions and new participants.

Healthy Waters- Healthy waters are waters that support the Bay's beneficial uses identified in the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Diego Basin (Basin Plan) and the Water Quality Control Plan for Enclosed Bays and Estuaries.

Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan- The INRMP is a collective effort initiated by the Port of San Diego and the U. S. Navy to assist the users of the Bay to make better, more cost-effective decisions about the development, conservation, restoration and management of San Diego Bay. The management plan also catalogues the plant and animal species around the Bay and identifies habitat types.

Key Uses- The categories of water quality-dependent uses that are most critical to consider in protecting human and environmental health; in San Diego Bay these are recreation, human consumption of fish and shellfish, and habitats and ecosystems.

Key Areas- Key areas are locations within or along the Bay that are intensively used for a key use and/or that are particularly important for a key use (or that would be if water quality conditions were satisfactory).

Monitoring and Assessment Framework- A question-driven approach to monitoring and assessment that focuses on producing important and useful information, endorsed by the San Diego Water Board through [Resolution No. R9-2012-0069](#).

APPENDIX C GLOSSARY OF TERMS

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)- A permit program that controls water pollution by regulating point sources that discharge pollutants into (surface) waters of the United States.

Operational Plan- The San Diego Water Board's Operational Plan identifies Practical Vision projects to be implemented for a given calendar year and identifies staffing, resources, tasks, and milestones for each project.

Port for All Integrated Master Plan- The Port of San Diego has developed a new, long-term Integrated Planning Vision that will ensure a holistic, thoughtful, and balanced approach to the future land and water uses on San Diego Bay. The vision and its guiding principles will create a vibrant business, recreational and sustainable resource for generations. This integrated, multi-year planning process will ultimately result in a new Port Master Plan.

Practical Vision (PV)- The Practical Vision is a San Diego Water Board planning tool to focus the Board's limited resources onto the region's highest priorities. It sets a plan to achieve healthy waters through collaboration, reliance on the latest science, prioritization of issues and actions, and prudent use of San Diego Water Board authorities in service to the people of California.

Priorities Committee- The Priorities Committee consists of the San Diego Water Board Executive Officer (EO), Assistant Executive Officer (AEO), representatives from each branch, and possibly a Board representative, together tasked with developing a prioritization process and, using information from the assessment, setting Board priorities for San Diego Bay accordingly. The Committee will then set measurable goals, meet with the Board's program managers to determine how to realign work accordingly, track progress towards the priorities and goals identified, and reevaluate priorities as new information becomes available, upon achievement of a goal, and/or as new issues arise.

Regional Harbor Monitoring Program (RHMP)- The RHMP is a recurring effort to survey the general water quality and condition of aquatic life and to determine whether beneficial uses are being protected in Dana Point Harbor, Oceanside Harbor, Mission Bay, and San Diego Bay. The program is comprised of a core monitoring element, supplemented by focused supplemental studies conducted in support of/in connection with the Bight Regional Monitoring Program.

San Diego Bay Coordinator- The San Diego Bay Coordinator will be responsible for coordinating Bay work across all units and branches and for communicating results internally and externally.

APPENDIX C GLOSSARY OF TERMS

San Diego Bay Monitoring Coalition- A group consisting of principal dischargers to the Bay and other possible stakeholders that will work together to implement a coordinated monitoring program, compile and analyze information, and communicate the results on an ongoing basis.

State of the Bay Report- A report periodically provided to the Board and public that will summarize the status and trends of the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Bay, identify the measurable goals identified as part of Step 4 of this Strategy, and report on progress towards meeting those goals.

Stay on Course Committee (SOC Committee)- The SOC Committee, consisting of the San Diego Bay Coordinator and the Priorities Committee, will meet periodically to track progress towards meeting the identified goals and to ensure that Board work remains focused on meeting those goals, consistent with the established priorities. As new information becomes available, upon achievement of a goal, and/or as new issues arise, and at a minimum, after each assessment, the SOC Committee would reconvene and reassess the priorities and goals.

Water Quality Improvement Plan- A key feature of Order No. R9-2013-001 (the Regional MS4 Permit) is that it provides an adaptive management pathway for the Copermittees to select and address the highest priority water quality issues for a watershed through a non-punitive iterative process. This process is incorporated in watershed-specific Water Quality Improvement Plans. The Water Quality Improvement Plans are developed through a collaborative effort by the Copermittees in each Watershed Management Area and other key stakeholders, including representatives from the San Diego Water Board. The Water Quality Improvement Plans include descriptions of the highest priority pollutants or conditions in a specific watershed, goals and strategies to address those pollutants or conditions, and time schedules associated with those goals and strategies.

Workgroup- The workgroup, consisting of Board staff, outside experts, and possibly other stakeholders, is tasked with conducting the initial assessment, overseeing future assessments, and working to establish a San Diego Bay Monitoring Coalition. The workgroup will carry out this work in accordance with the Monitoring and Assessment Framework.