

**California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
San Diego Region**

**Final Review of Potential Basin Planning Projects  
for the  
2024/2025 Triennial Review of the  
Water Quality Control Plan for the  
San Diego Basin**

**August 13, 2025**



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## **2024/2025 Triennial Basin Plan Review**

### **Introduction**

The *Water Quality Control Plan for the San Diego Basin* (Basin Plan) designates beneficial uses for water bodies in the San Diego Region and establishes water quality objectives and implementation plans to protect those beneficial uses. State and federal laws require periodic review of the Basin Plan.<sup>1</sup> Because federal law requires review every three years, the Basin Plan review is also referred to as the “triennial review.”

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region (San Diego Water Board) has conducted its 2024/2025 triennial review of the Basin Plan (Triennial Review). The purpose of the review is to identify necessary updates and revisions to water quality standards and other elements of the Basin Plan. The triennial review assists the San Diego Water Board in identifying potential priority issues to address through subsequent Basin Plan amendment projects.

In this document, San Diego Water Board staff provide a final review of potential basin planning projects for the 2024/2025 Triennial Review. The projects represent important basin planning items that also support the goals of the San Diego Water Board’s [Practical Vision](#) and are guided by [Key Beneficial Uses and Key Areas](#) Resolution R9-2017-0030.

### **San Diego Water Board Practical Vision – Healthy Waters, Healthy People**

The [Practical Vision](#) is a strategy that focuses the San Diego Water Board’s limited resources to achieve our region’s highest goals for healthy waters. The Practical Vision furthers our agency’s mission to protect, enhance, and restore the quality of California waters in the San Diego Region so that our communities can use and enjoy these waters. It sets a plan to achieve healthy waters through collaboration, reliance on the latest science, prioritization of issues and actions, and prudent use of our authorities in service to the people of California.

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<sup>1</sup> State law requires basin plans to be periodically reviewed [Water Code §13240]. Federal law requires water quality standards to be reviewed every three years [Clean Water Act §303(c)(1)].

## **2024/2025 Triennial Basin Plan Review**

The Practical Vision identifies critical factors necessary to achieve healthy waters throughout the San Diego Region using our core values of leadership, stewardship, communication, and transparency. The San Diego Water Board prioritizes Basin Plan amendment projects that align with our values and the Practical Vision.

Additional information on the San Diego Water Board's Practical Vision can be found at: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water\\_issues/Practical\\_Vision](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water_issues/Practical_Vision).

## **Key Beneficial Uses and Key Areas**

In 2017, the San Diego Water Board adopted Resolution [R9-2017-0030](#) endorsing [Key Beneficial Uses and Key Areas – Focusing on What Is Most Important](#). The resolution identified key beneficial uses and many key areas for those uses and suggests how this concept can help the Board achieve relevant sections of the Practical Vision.

Key beneficial uses are the individual beneficial uses and categories “that are most critical to protecting human and environmental health.” Accordingly, key beneficial uses are the beneficial uses for which protection and restoration of the integrity, or health, of waters is most important. Key beneficial uses of waters in the San Diego Region are:

- **Drinking water supply**
- **Fish and shellfish consumption**
- **Recreation**
- **Habitats and ecosystems**

Key areas are the waters and places where protection and restoration of the integrity, or health of waters is most important for a key beneficial use. For example, waters and places with a high intensity of recreational use are key areas for the key beneficial use of water-contact recreation.

## **Basin Plan Triennial Review Process**

Federal law requires a review of water quality standards at least once every three years. Water quality standards consist of beneficial use designations, water quality criteria (referred to as water quality objectives in California) necessary to protect those uses, and an anti-degradation policy. In addition, state law requires Basin Plans to be periodically reviewed and revised if necessary. The last Basin Plan Triennial Review was conducted in 2021.

## **2024/2025 Triennial Basin Plan Review**

The 2024/2025 Basin Plan Triennial Review process included releasing a preliminary list of priority projects for public review, presenting it at a meeting of tribal representatives and at a public workshop, and holding a public hearing during a San Diego Water Board meeting. This report details the triennial review process and provides information on potential projects for the San Diego Water Board to consider with the adoption of a resolution approving a priority list of Basin Plan projects and concluding the Basin Plan review. Placing a project on the priority list will prompt San Diego Water Board staff to further investigate the project. Depending on the outcome of the investigation, a Basin Plan amendment may or may not be developed and adopted.

The San Diego Water Board is allocated limited resources annually to manage amendments to the Basin Plan. This proposed list is based on an expectation that resources will remain consistent for the next three years.

## **Previous Triennial Review**

The last Basin Plan Triennial Review was conducted in 2021 and identified eight priority projects. The following section contains a summary of the 2021 Triennial Review priority projects and progress made by staff during the period of 2021-2024.

- **Project 1: Designation of Tribal Tradition and Culture (CUL), and Tribal Subsistence Fishing (T-SUB) Beneficial Uses to Surface Waters in the San Diego Region**

**Description:** To designate surfaces waters with tribal beneficial uses.

**Progress:** Minimal progress. San Diego Water Board staff have been regularly meeting with tribal representatives since 2023 to develop this project. The meetings have focused on information sharing, reviewing available information on designating Tribal Beneficial Uses, and discussing relevant statewide resources and issues of concern.

- **Project 2: Tijuana River Valley Water Quality Restoration**

**Description:** To develop a water quality restoration plan to address solid waste and the impairments of contact recreation, also known as REC-1 beneficial uses.

**Progress:** Task complete. In December 2024 the San Diego Water Board adopted [R9-2024-0155](#) a resolution approving the [Lower Tijuana River Indicator Bacteria and Trash Advance Restoration Plan](#) (ARP). The USEPA formally accepted the ARP on March 13, 2025.

- **Project 3: Biological Objectives for Water Bodies in the San Diego Region**

**Description:** Continue to develop targeted biological water quality objectives for the attainment of beneficial uses of surface waters.

## **2024/2025 Triennial Basin Plan Review**

**Progress:** Minimal progress. In December 2020 the San Diego Water Board adopted a Basin Plan amendment, [R9-2020-0234](#), to incorporate a water quality objective for Biological Condition ([Biological Objectives](#)). To finalize the Basin Plan amendment process, approvals from the State Water Board, Office of Administrative Law, and USEPA must be received. The State Water Board held a public comment period in September 2021 and provided [responses to the comments](#) in 2024. The State Water Board then reopened the administrative record in January 2025 and held a public workshop on [May 6, 2025](#).

- **Project 4: Contact Water Recreation (REC-1) Water Quality Objectives**

**Description:** Initiate the development of a narrative objective that would allow the use of human specific markers while being protective of the REC-1 beneficial use.

**Progress:** Task Complete. San Diego Water Board staff investigated development of a numeric translator for human specific bacteria indicators (HF-183) to implement a narrative objective. The [SDSU and SWAMP Beach Study](#) and the [San Diego River Investigative Order](#) No. R9-2019-0014 were completed. The studies compared results from alternative indicator bacteria testing to traditional indicator bacteria testing and investigated sources of human fecal waste. Staff determined that rather than establishing a translator, it would be reasonable and helpful to incorporate the use of HF-183 into the decision-making process for implementation actions.

- **Project 5: Evaluation of Water Quality Objectives for Total Dissolved Solids in the Middle San Juan and Middle Trabuco Groundwater Basins**

**Description:** Evaluate and potentially revise the Water Quality Objectives (WQOs) for total dissolved solids (TDS) in specific groundwater basins identified in the Salt and Nutrient Management Plan (SNMP) for South Orange County.

**Progress:** Task complete. The San Diego Water Board approved the Salt and Nutrient Management Plan (SNMP) for the San Juan Creek Watershed/Mission Viejo Hydrologic Area ([R9-2024-0131](#)) on November 13, 2024 without the need for a Basin Plan amendment.

- **Project 6: Santa Margarita River Nutrient Total Maximum Daily Loads**

**Description:** Adoption of a Water Quality Restoration Plan or Total Maximum Daily Loads.

**Progress:** Moderate progress. The San Diego Water Board has been working with the Santa Margarita River Nutrient Initiative Group (SMRNIG) in a successful collaboration since 2018 on the estuary and river. Staff provided the SMRNIG an administrative copy of the draft staff report for their review. Once comments from SMRNIG were received and a revision was completed, the peer review package with the revised staff report, was sent out for external peer review in 2024. A

## 2024/2025 Triennial Basin Plan Review

response to peer review comments and newly revised staff report will be completed and available for public review in summer of 2025.

- **Project 7: Review of Shelter Island Yacht Basin (SIYB) TMDL and/or Implementation Plan**

**Description:** Evaluate data to determine whether revisions to the TMDL or its implementation plan are needed.

**Progress:** Minimal progress. In 2023, staff were redirected to responding to the outbreak of *Caulerpa prolifera* in south San Diego Bay. In 2022, the San Diego Water Board approved an assessment framework for San Diego Bay based on biological assessments and notified interested stakeholders that it would use that approach to reassess the SIYB TMDL implementation plan.

- **Project 8: Impediments to Sustainable Local Water Supplies**

**Description:** Determine the need for a Basin Plan amendment to facilitate sustainable local water supply projects in support of Salt and Nutrient Management Plans.

**Progress:** Moderate progress. The San Diego Water Board has approved two Salt and Nutrient Management Plans (SNMPs) to support sustainable local water supplies. None of the approved SNMPs required an amendment to the Basin Plan.

## Public Participation and Basin Plan Review Schedule

Public participation is an important part of each Basin Plan Triennial Review. The Board and staff are committed to transparency and communication. Interested persons had opportunities to participate during a public workshop, written comment period, and at a public hearing.

The schedule for the 2024/2025 Basin Plan Triennial Review is as follows:

- |   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| • Public Comment Period Began                     | December 2, 2024  |
| • Public Workshop (in-person with virtual option) | January 29, 2025  |
| • Public Comment Period Ended                     | February 14, 2025 |
| • Public Hearing on Final Priority List           | August 13, 2025   |



## **2024/2025 Triennial Basin Plan Review**

### **Project Descriptions for 2024/2025 Basin Plan Review**

San Diego Water Board staff have prepared the following list of projects for the 2024/2025 Triennial Review. Given that the number of potential Basin Plan amendments identified exceeds expected available personnel resources, the project list is divided into priority categories (High and Medium). Resource allocations are based on a project's priority status, with High Priority projects receiving the highest ranking. Medium Priority are considered for project development if resources and readiness allow. The ongoing projects are listed first followed by the new projects. The projects were assigned numbers to easily distinguish between projects and not to imply a ranked order.

This list of potential Basin Planning projects is a mix of ongoing, planned, and conceptual projects. Current projects have existing workplans, whereas conceptual projects are largely in a goal-setting phase. Some additional or clarifying information was added to the project descriptions from the preliminary list released in December 2024. No new projects were added.

In developing this list, staff considered projects identified in the [Practical Vision](#), the key beneficial uses and key areas concept of [Resolution R9-2017-0030](#), projects identified as priority projects in the 2021 Basin Plan Triennial Review, and projects that address challenges, obstacles, or opportunities arising since the 2021 review. In addition, the following criteria were also taken into consideration when evaluating proposed projects:

- Protection and Restoration – The project advances the mission of protecting and restoring healthy waters in the San Diego Region.
- Reasonable and Efficient – The San Diego Water Board has or can leverage resources (e.g., expertise, technology, and data) that are able to achieve the project goals within a reasonable timeframe. The project advances the San Diego Water Board's goal of ensuring limited resources are put to the best possible use.
- Community Involvement – The project is of high public interest and is appropriately addressed through a Basin Plan amendment.

## 2024/2025 Triennial Review Potential Project List

### Project 1: Biological Objectives for Water Bodies in the San Diego Region

**Priority:** High

**Status:** Ongoing project

**Goal:** Incorporate biological water quality objectives into the Basin Plan

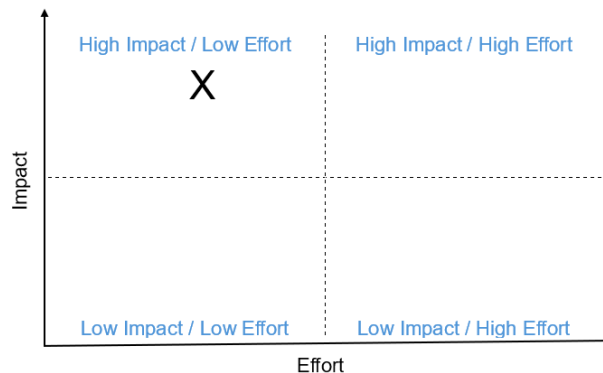
**Project Website:** [Biological Objectives](#)

#### Discussion:

The San Diego Water Board 2014 Triennial Review identified the amendment of the Basin Plan to incorporate biological water quality objectives as a high priority project to protect and restore beneficial uses associated with aquatic and aquatic dependent wildlife for the region's streams.

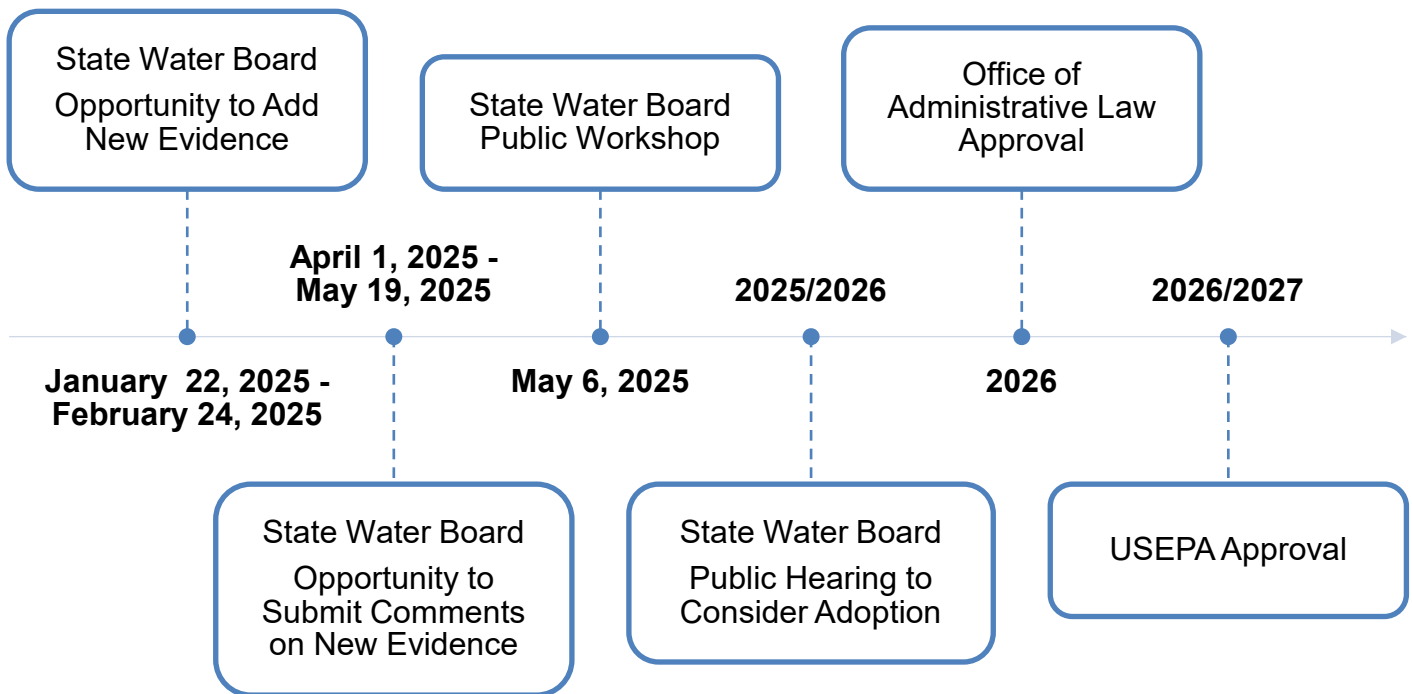
On May 13, 2015, the San Diego Water Board adopted Resolution R9-2015-0043, which directed staff to begin working on the project to amend the Basin Plan to incorporate biological water quality objectives. In December 2020, the San Diego Water Board adopted Resolution No. [R9-2020-0234](#) to amend the Basin Plan incorporating general narrative guidance for the development of biological objectives and incorporating a numerical biological water quality objective for perennial and seasonal streams, where applicable, using benthic macroinvertebrates and the California Stream Condition Index ([CSCI](#)).

The Basin Plan amendment was submitted to the State Water Board for approval in the summer of 2021. The State Water Board held a public comment period in September 2021, then reopened the administrative record in January 2025 and held a public workshop on May 6, 2025. The State Water Board is expected to consider the amendment in 2025 or 2026. During this phase of the project, staff will work on finalizing the amendment for State Water Board approval. If adopted by the State Board, staff would then work on the subsequent approval processes by the Office of Administrative Law and USEPA.



## 2024/2025 Triennial Review Potential Project List

### Biological Objectives Tentative Schedule



### Anticipated Actions

- Review and respond to comments on new evidence
- Prepare for State Water Board's hearing to consider adoption of Basin Plan amendment
- Prepare submittal to the Office of Administrative Law
- Prepare submittal to USEPA

**Project 2: Designation of Tribal Tradition and Culture (CUL) Use and Tribal Subsistence Fishing (T-SUB) Beneficial Uses to Surface Waters in the San Diego Region**

**Priority:** High

**Status:** Ongoing project

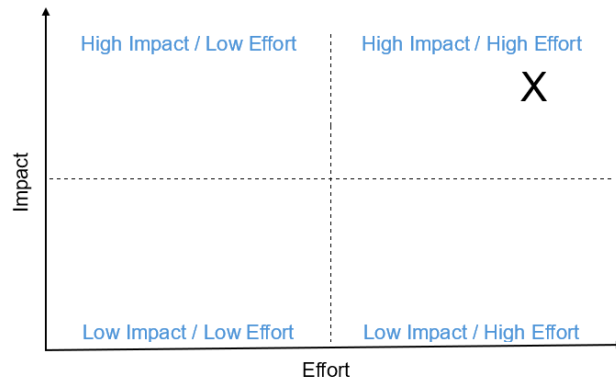
**Goal:** Establish new tribal beneficial use designations, where appropriate

**Website:** [Tribal Beneficial Uses](#)

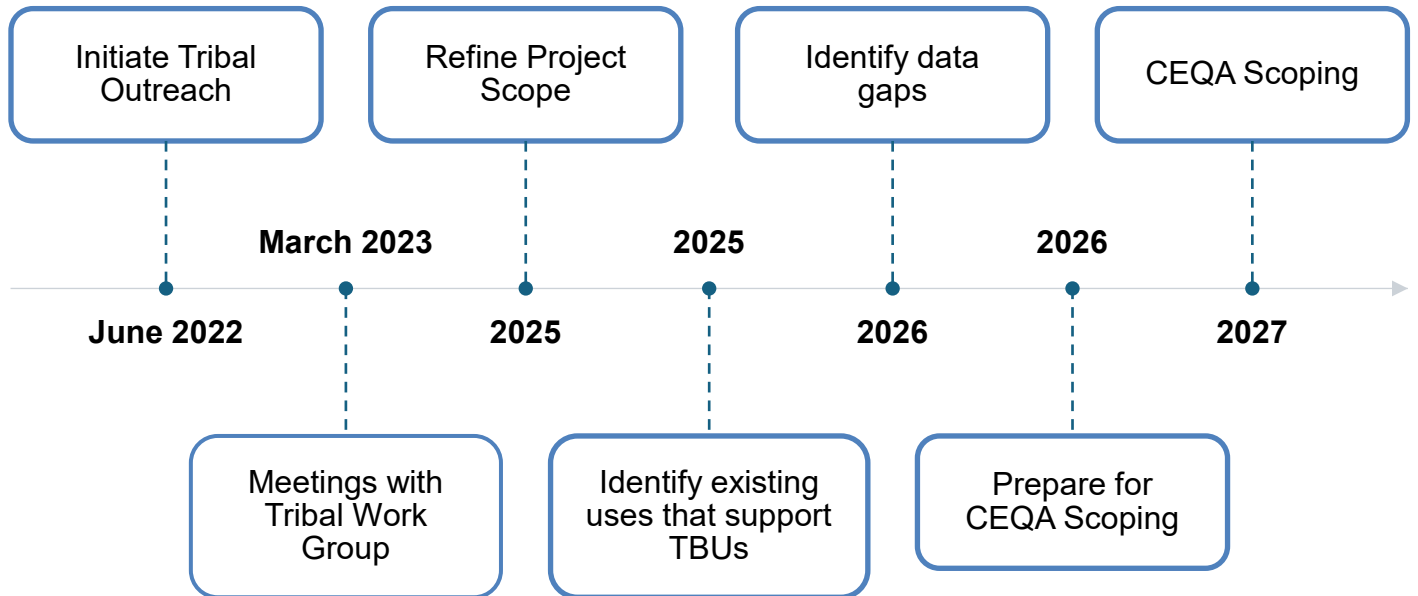
**Discussion:**

This project would designate surface water bodies, where appropriate, with the tribal beneficial uses (TBUs) of CUL and T-SUB beneficial uses. This is the second phase of the project. Phase one was completed with the adoption of Resolution No. [R9-2020-0254](#) which incorporated tribal beneficial use definitions into the Basin Plan.

During the 2021 Triennial Review cycle the San Diego Water Board staff began the second phase of the project. A tribal summit was held in June 2022 where tribes were invited to work with the San Diego Water Board staff to begin developing the designation project. Regular meetings with a group of tribal representatives began in March 2023. The discussions have focused on information sharing and identifying areas needing further exploration to designate waters. The San Diego Water Board will continue to work with tribes within the region to identify water bodies appropriate to designate with the CUL and T-SUB beneficial uses. Additional work will identify exposure pathways and evaluate whether existing water quality objectives are protective of tribal beneficial uses.



## Tribal Beneficial Uses Tentative Schedule



### Anticipated Actions

- Evaluate existing beneficial uses and water quality objectives that support TBUs
- Work with Tribes to confirm uses
- Assess waterbody conditions to support designations

### Topics to Consider

- Protocols for handling sensitive tribal information

### Project 3: Contact Water Recreation (REC-1) Water Quality Objectives

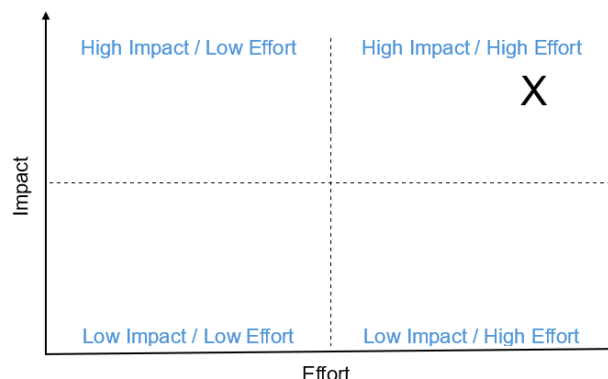
**Priority:** High

**Status:** Ongoing project

**Goal:** Initiate updates to regions bacteria TMDLs and focus implementation on human sources of fecal contamination

**Website:** [REC-1 Water Quality](#)

**Discussion:**



This project was first introduced during the 2014 Triennial Review and in subsequent triennial review cycles identified as a high priority project. During each cycle the project investigations focused on different aspects of the Bacteria TMDLs that were adopted in June 2008 and February 2010. During the 2014 Triennial Review cycle the focus of the project was to determine whether and to what extent data supported amending:

- the REC-1 water quality objectives,
- the implementation provisions for applicable bacteria TMDLs, or
- the TMDLs themselves.

The results of the 2014 REC-1 Triennial Review project were provided in a [2018 summary report](#) with recommendations for next steps prepared by San Diego Water Board staff. The recommendations were based on discussions and feedback from external and internal workgroups as well as the various technical studies that had been completed during the 2014 Triennial Review cycle.

During the 2018 Triennial Review cycle, the focus for the project shifted towards implementation actions that were identified in the [2018 recommendations report](#). The short-term actions included:

- updates to the existing storm water permit,
- audits of illicit discharge detection and elimination programs,
- updates to waste discharge requirements for sanitary sewer systems, and
- updates to Chapter 3 in the Basin Plan.

During the 2021 Triennial Review cycle the focus shifted towards the development of a narrative risk-based objective that would be:

## 2024/2025 Triennial Review Potential Project List

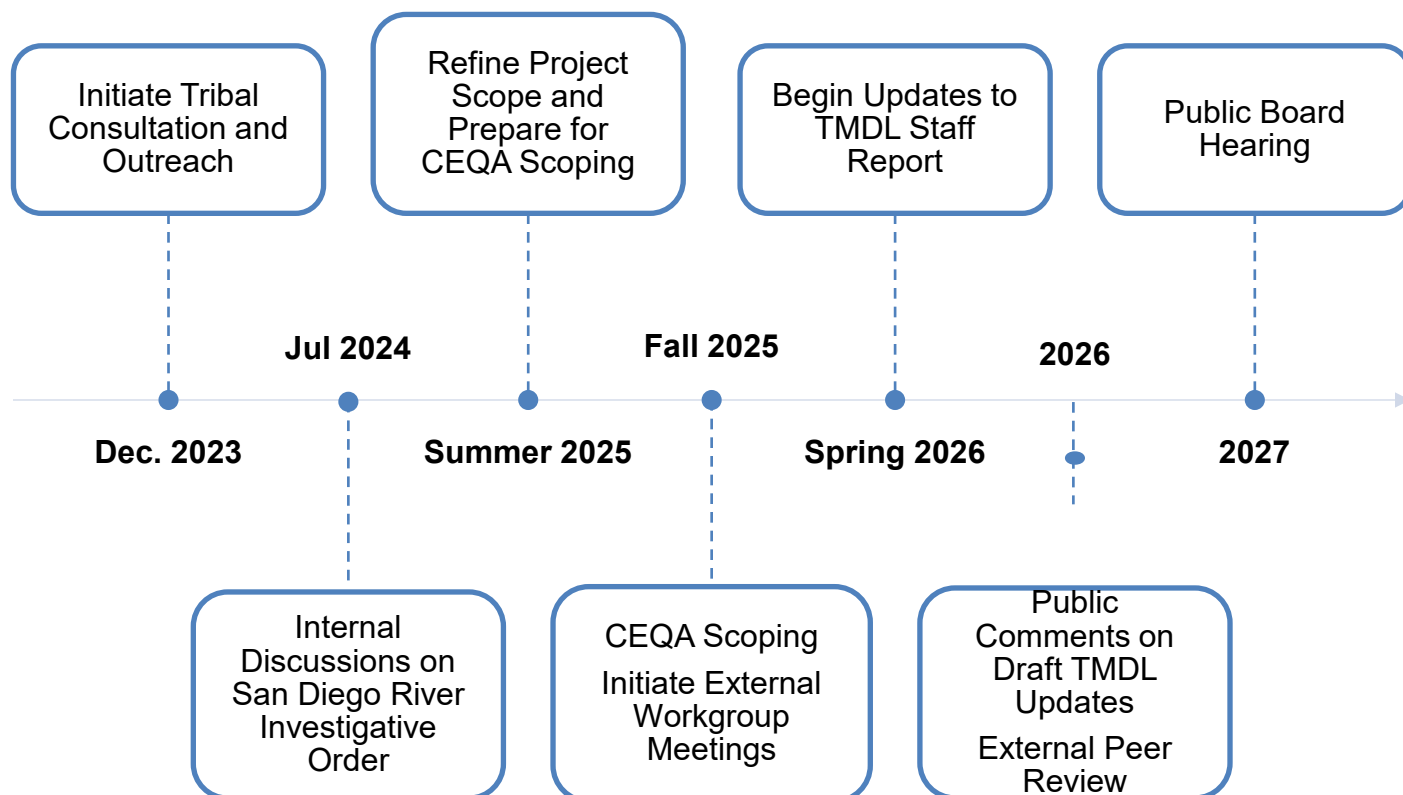
- protective of the REC-1 beneficial use,
- include the development of a numeric translator for HF183 (a human specific bacteria indicator) to implement the narrative objective, and
- initiate revisions to the bacteria TMDLs.

San Diego Water Board staff investigated development of a numeric translator for human specific bacteria indicators (HF-183) to implement a narrative objective. The [SDSU and SWAMP Beach Study](#) and the [San Diego River Investigative Order](#) No. R9-2019-0014 were completed. The studies compared results from alternative indicator bacteria testing to traditional indicator bacteria testing and investigated sources of human fecal waste. Staff determined that rather than establishing a translator, it would be reasonable and helpful to incorporate the use of HF-183 into the decision-making process for implementation actions.

Initiating updates to the bacteria TMDLs were dependent on receiving results from various special studies in the region, most notably the [San Diego River Investigative Order](#) R9-2019-0014. Results from the studies became available near the end of the 2021 Triennial Review cycle and will be critical to informing the TMDL updates this cycle.

During the 2024 Triennial Review cycle the project focus will shift to clarifying the TMDL goals, updating the numeric targets to be consistent with statewide bacteria water quality objectives and using study results to inform revisions to address human sources of fecal bacteria in the TMDLs and implementation plan.

## REC-1 Water Quality Objectives Tentative Schedule



### Anticipated Actions

- Limit scope of TMDL updates to existing TMDL water bodies
- Update numeric targets to be consistent with statewide bacteria objectives
- Update Source Analysis to reflect findings of special studies
- Update Implementation Plan to focus on sources of human fecal contamination
- Allow for the use of human fecal source identifiers as a management tool
- Evaluate compliance dates

### Topics to Consider

- Science continues to evolve with regards to alternative indicators for identifying the presence and sources of human fecal contamination



## 2024/2025 Triennial Review Potential Project List

- The Natural Source Exclusion and Reference System Approach may need to be updated to reflect source variability between urban and undeveloped watersheds.
- Coordination with planned updates to the Regional MS4 Permit.

### Project 4: Santa Margarita River Nutrient Advance Restoration Plan

**Priority:** Medium

**Status:** Ongoing project

**Goal:** Adoption of a Restoration Plan

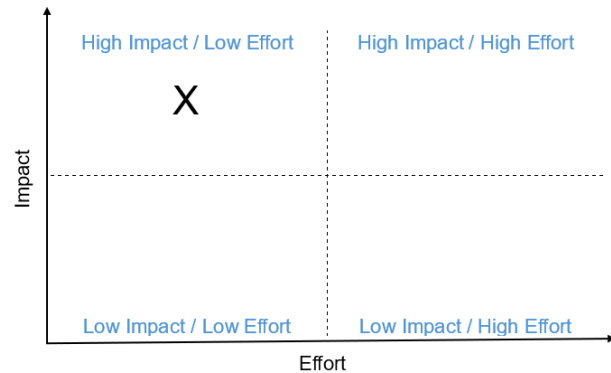
**Website:** [Santa Margarita River ARP](#)

#### Discussion:

The Santa Margarita River was added to the 303(d) list for nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus) in 2012. Excessive nutrient loading to the Santa Margarita River and its tributaries cause, and/or contribute to exceedances of Water Quality Objectives and adversely impact the Cold Freshwater Habitat (COLD), Warm Freshwater Habitat (WARM), and Rare, Threatened, or Endangered Species (RARE) beneficial uses designated to the Santa Margarita River. Excessive discharge of nutrients has the potential to adversely impact the MUN beneficial uses in surface waters that are used as drinking water supply, the potential to create algal blooms, and impact large groundwater basins in the Santa Margarita watershed. Furthermore, nutrients discharged to the surface waters and groundwater in the Santa Margarita watershed have been shown to contribute to the impairment of the Santa Margarita River Estuary.

To address the impairment for nutrients and eutrophication, San Diego Water Board staff developed a draft Advance Restoration Plan (ARP) for the Santa Margarita River with numerous stakeholders to ensure that discharges to the river will not exceed the capacity (or maximum daily load) the river can assimilate while still supporting its designated beneficial uses.

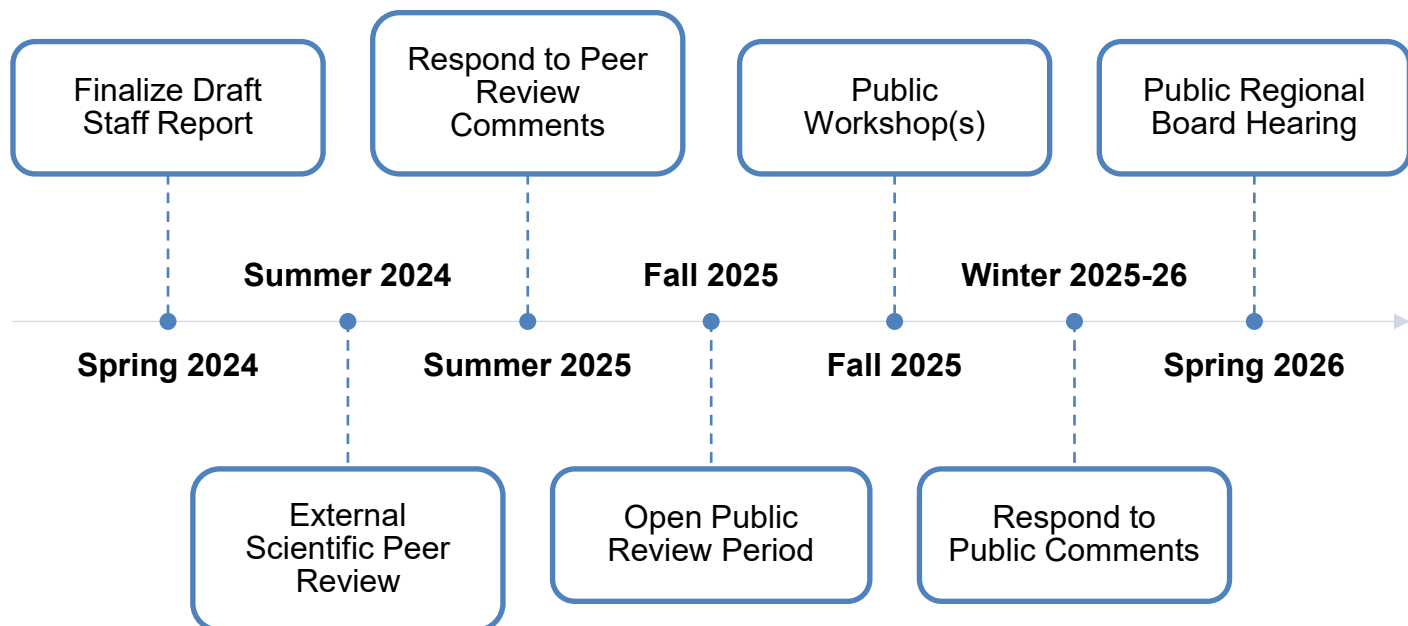
The next phase will be to refine the ARP with the stakeholders and prepare it for the Board's consideration. This project follows an earlier Basin Plan review project for the



## 2024/2025 Triennial Review Potential Project List

Santa Margarita River Estuary which led to Investigative Order No. R9-2019-0007.<sup>2</sup> Major sources of nutrients to the River and Estuary include Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s) located in San Diego and Riverside counties and U.S. Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, septic systems, and irrigated agricultural lands.

### Santa Margarita River Nutrient ARP Tentative Schedule



### Anticipated Actions

- Release documents for public review and consider public comments
- Hold public workshop(s)

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<sup>2</sup> [Investigative Order](#) for the cities of Murrieta, Temecula, and Wildomar, the counties of San Diego and Riverside, the Riverside Flood Control and Water Conservation District, and the United States Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton to Design and Implement a Water Quality Improvement Monitoring and Assessment Program for Eutrophic Conditions in the Santa Margarita River Estuary and Watershed, California.

## 2024/2025 Triennial Review Potential Project List

### Topics to Consider

- Coordination with planned updates to the regional MS4 permit and General Agricultural Waste Discharge Requirements.

### Project 5: Consider an Implementation Program to Protect Coastal Wetlands and Ensure their Resiliency to Climate Change

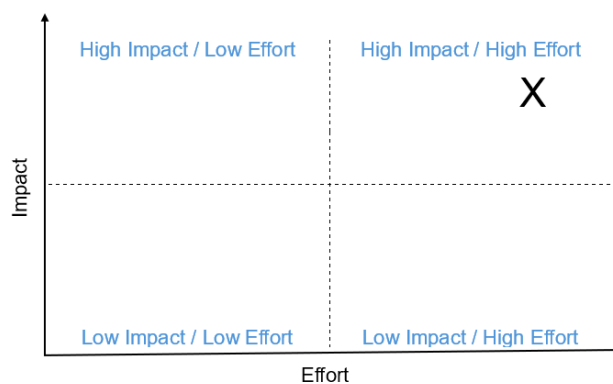
**Priority:** High

**Status:** New project

**Goal:** Protection of beneficial uses associated with intertidal habitats

#### Discussion:

Climate change effects are anticipated to have significant impacts on coastal environments and communities. For example, many intertidal wetland habitats may become subtidal due to sea level rise and the boundaries of certain coastal wetlands may naturally migrate upslope in response to changing hydrology patterns. Because of sea level rise, coastal wetlands, such as intertidal zones, salt marshes, and estuaries, are at particular risk of being lost due to the inability to migrate inland where natural landforms, existing development, and community adaptation measures restrict their movement.



Coastal development that has stunted natural accretion or altered the physical shape of landforms, can lead to a loss of wetlands. These losses pose a risk to threatened and endangered species that rely on that habitat for survival. Ensuring sufficient room for wetlands to migrate will be a challenging technical question, with potentially controversial solutions, and will take considerable time to fully develop. Therefore, in order to protect the Key Beneficial Uses of coastal wetlands, the San Diego Water Board should evaluate whether the Basin Plan sufficiently protects the use into the future.

### Tentative Schedule

This is recommended as a high priority project that has not yet been assigned, and a tentative schedule is not available. To develop the concept staff have reviewed guidance

## 2024/2025 Triennial Review Potential Project List

and policy from other State agencies, participated in local and regional workgroups, and are preparing a priority list of concerns for a Basin Plan review.

### Anticipated Actions

- Evaluate Basin Plan for existing coastal wetland protections
- Coordinate with other State agencies

### Topics to Consider

- Potential impacts of anticipated changes to water chemistry and temperature on the appropriateness of current water quality objectives.

## Project 6: Update Implementation Chapter of the Basin Plan (Chapter 4)

**Priority:** Medium

**Status:** New Project

**Goal:** Add or update information

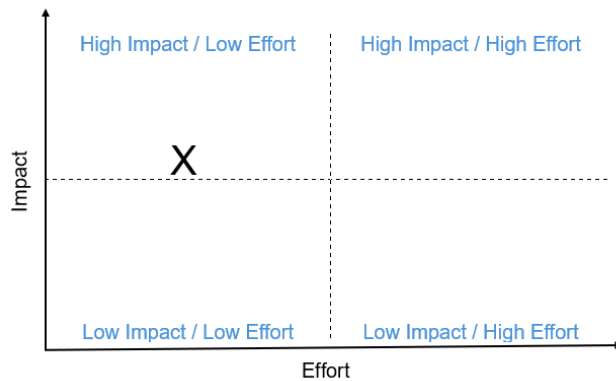
### Discussion:

Two major themes of the Practical Vision are communication and learning.

In addition to being a regulatory tool, the Basin Plan serves as an

educational document for staff, the public, and regulated community. As such, it is important to periodically update the information contained in it to ensure it is user-friendly, helpful and accurate. Adding information to the Basin Plan highlights its importance and raises awareness of a topic or issue. Further, the Basin Plan can document the Boards perspective, build a framework for staff and provide guidance to staff, the public and the regulated community.

Topics considered for addition or updates include but are not limited to the addition of sections on vernal pools and invasive species, and updates to sections related to water reclamation and direct potable reuse policies.



## Tentative Schedule

## 2024/2025 Triennial Review Potential Project List

This is recommended as a medium priority project dependent on available resources. A tentative schedule is not available.

### Anticipated Actions

- Prioritize updates based on Practical Vision priorities and current State and federal statutes.
- Public Participation

### Topics to Consider

- Regulatory policy and plan updates
- Changes in program implementation actions

### Project 7: Designation of Commercial and Sports Fishing (COMM) Beneficial Use

**Priority:** Medium

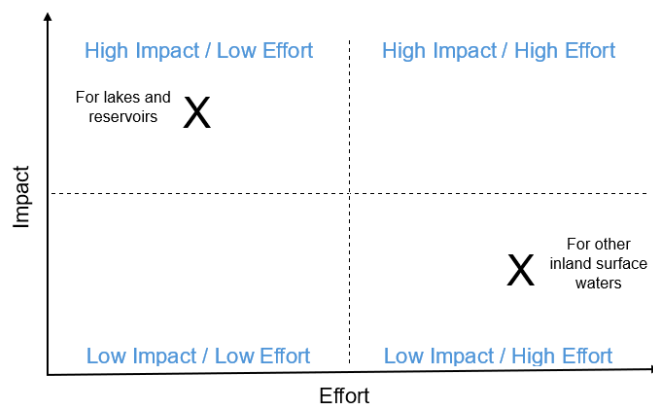
**Status:** New project

**Goal:** Designate COMM beneficial use to inland surface waters as appropriate

#### Discussion:

The COMM beneficial use was updated in 1993 to include all waters rather than just ocean, bays, estuaries and similar non-freshwater areas that had been previously designated. However, when the definition was updated, the Basin Plan was not updated to designate any inland surface waters in the region with the COMM beneficial use.

The COMM beneficial use includes both commercial and recreational collection of fish, shellfish, or other aquatic organisms. Recreational fishing occurs in many of the lakes and reservoirs in the San Diego Region. This project will review existing data and identify appropriate designation of freshwater areas.



### Tentative Schedule

## 2024/2025 Triennial Review Potential Project List

This is recommended as a medium priority project dependent on available resources. A tentative schedule is not available.

### Anticipated Actions

- Engage public to identify potential waters to include or exclude

### Topics to Consider

- Previous freshwater designations
- USEPA and State Board guidance on fishable designations

## Project 8: Update Shelter Island Yacht Basin (SIYB) Copper TMDL

**Priority:** Medium

**Status:** New project

**Goal:** Update implementation plan with local stakeholders to better focus efforts on restoring the biological integrity of the Basin

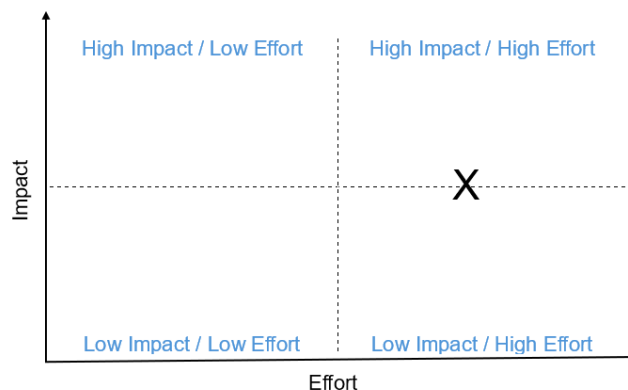
**Website:** [SIYB Copper TMDL](#)

### Discussion:

SIYB is a popular recreational marina located in north San Diego Bay. In 2017, the Board recognized San Diego Bay as a key area for habitats and ecosystems. Key areas are waters and places where protection and restoration of the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of waters is most important for a key beneficial use. Key beneficial uses are the individual beneficial uses and categories that are most critical to protecting human and environmental health.

The [SIYB Dissolved Copper TMDL](#) was adopted by the San Diego Water Board in 2004 because copper from anti-fouling boat coatings created conditions that exceeded water quality objectives for aquatic life uses. The TMDL established a target date to achieve the WQO at the end of 2022, but the WQO has not been achieved. Therefore, the Water Board has a responsibility to evaluate whether the implementation plan requires revisions.

The Board's implementation has relied primarily on supporting the Unified Port of San Diego (Port District) Copper Reduction Program and updated hull paint regulations from



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the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) In 2017, DPR adopted new regulations to limit the amount of copper in recreational hull paints to protect water quality. However, DPR recognized the new copper levels were likely set too high to achieve the water quality objective in the Shelter Island Yacht Basin because of the basin's hydrologic characteristics and boat density.

This project will follow Water Board guidance in Resolutions [R9-2012-0071](#) and [R9-2022-0019](#) to investigate with a stakeholder group alternative implementation actions and the feasibility of establishing a target based on biological conditions.

### Tentative Schedule

This is recommended as a medium priority project dependent on available resources. A detailed timeline is not available. In FY 25/26, staff will be meeting with stakeholders to discuss a public participation process and to review available data on habitat conditions in the basin.

### Anticipated Actions

- Form a stakeholder group

### Topics to Consider

- Readiness of biological metrics to incorporate into TMDL targets

## Project 9: Review of 304(a) Criteria

**Priority:** Medium

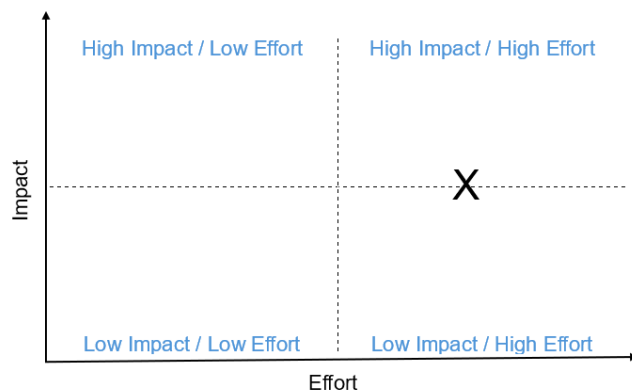
**Status:** New project

**Goal:**

Adopt 304(a) criteria, as appropriate

**Discussion:**

Federal regulations at 40 CFR 131.20(a) require states to consider, as part of their triennial review process, the adoption of new or revised Clean Water Act section 304(a) water quality criteria recommendations, for



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aquatic and human health, as water quality standards (WQS) into their state plans. Criteria published by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) since May 30, 2000, are required to be evaluated during the triennial review. In 2020 the San Diego Water Board evaluated the criteria published since 2000, but no new updates were recommended at that time.

Criteria published by USEPA since the 2021 Triennial Review includes, but is not limited to, ambient nutrient criteria for lakes and reservoirs and aquatic life criteria for perfluorooctane sulfonate and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOS and PFOA). Summaries of USEPA criteria are available at: [Water Quality Criteria | US EPA](#)

### **Tentative Schedule**

This is recommended as a medium priority project dependent upon available resources. A tentative schedule is not yet available.

### **Anticipated Actions**

- Review 304(a) criteria

### **Topics to Consider**

- Coordination with State Water Board's consideration of the criteria