

Summary of Beneficial Use Designations¹

| Beneficial Use | Abbreviation | Definition |
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| Municipal and Domestic Supply | MUN | Community, military, or individual water supply systems including, but not limited to, drinking water supply |
| Agricultural Supply | AGR | Farming, horticulture, or ranching including, but not limited to, irrigation, stock watering, or support of vegetation for range grazing |
| Industrial Process Supply | PROC | Industrial activities that depend primarily on water quality |
| Industrial Service Supply | IND | Industrial activities that do not depend primarily on water quality including, but not limited to mining, cooling water supply, hydraulic conveyance, gravel washing, fire protection, or oil well re-pressurization |
| Ground Water Recharge | GWR | Natural or artificial recharge of ground water for purposes of future extraction, maintenance of water quality, or halting of saltwater intrusion into freshwater aquifers |
| Freshwater Replenishment | FRSH | Natural or artificial maintenance of surface water quantity or quality (e.g. salinity) |
| Navigation | NAV | Shipping, travel, or other transportation by private, military, or commercial vessels |
| Hydropower Generation | POW | Hydropower generation |
| Contact Water Recreation | REC-1 | Recreational activities involving body contact with water, where ingestion of water is reasonably possible. These uses include, but are not limited to, swimming, wading, water-skiing, skin and SCUBA diving, surfing, white water activities, fishing, or use of natural hot springs |
| Non-contact Water Recreation | REC-2 | Recreational activities involving proximity to water, but not normally involving body contact with water, where ingestion of water is reasonably possible. These uses include, but are not limited to, picnicking, sunbathing, hiking, beachcombing, camping, boating, tidepool and marine life study, hunting, sightseeing, or aesthetic enjoyment in conjunction with the above activities |
| Commercial and Sport Fishing | COMM | Commercial or recreational collection of fish, shellfish, or other organisms including, but not limited to, uses involving organisms intended for human consumption or bait purposes |

| Beneficial Use | Abbreviation | Definition |
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| Aquaculture | AQUA | Aquaculture or mariculture operations including, but not limited to, propagation, cultivation, maintenance, or harvesting of aquatic plants and animals for human consumption or bait purposes |
| Warm Freshwater Habitat | WARM | Warm water ecosystems including, but not limited to, preservation or enhancement of aquatic habitats, vegetation, fish or wildlife, including invertebrates |
| Cold Freshwater Habitat | COLD | Cold water ecosystems including, but not limited to, preservation or enhancement of aquatic habitats, vegetation, fish or wildlife, including invertebrates |
| Inland Saline Water Habitat | SAL | Inland saline water ecosystems including, but not limited to, preservation or enhancement of aquatic saline habitats, vegetation, fish, or wildlife, including invertebrates |
| Estuarine Habitat | EST | Estuarine ecosystems including, but not limited to, preservation or enhancement of estuarine habitats, vegetation, fish, shellfish, or wildlife (e.g., estuarine mammals, waterfowl, shorebirds) |
| Marine Habitat | MAR | Marine ecosystems including, but not limited to, preservation or enhancement of marine habitats, vegetation such as kelp, fish, shellfish, or wildlife (e.g. marine mammals, shorebirds) |
| Wildlife Habitat | WILD | Terrestrial ecosystems including, but not limited to, preservation and enhancement of terrestrial habitats, vegetation, wildlife (e.g. mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, invertebrates), or wildlife water and food resources |
| Preservation of Biological Habitats of Special Significance | BIOL | Designated areas or habitats such as established refuges, parks, sanctuaries, ecological reserves, or Areas of Special Biological Significance (ASBS), where the preservation or enhancement of natural resources requires special protection |
| Rare, Threatened, or Endangered Species | RARE | Habitats necessary, at least in part, for the survival and successful maintenance of plant and animal species established under state or federal law as rare, threatened, or endangered |
| Migration of Aquatic Organisms | MIGR | Habitats necessary for migration, acclimatization between fresh and salt water, or other temporary activities by aquatic organisms, such as anadromous fish |
| Spawning, Reproduction, and/ or Early Development | SPWN | High quality habitats suitable for reproduction and early development of fish. This use is applicable only for the protection of anadromous fish |
| Shellfish Harvesting | SHELL | Habitats suitable for the collection of filter-feeding shellfish (e.g. clams, oysters, and mussels) for human consumption, commercial, or sport puposes |

¹ California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region, 1994. Water Quality Control Plan for the San Diego Basin (9). Page 2.3 - 2.5.