



## **Mission Statement**

The mission of the Water Quality Working Group is to provide input to the San Diego Association of Governments Quality of Life Stakeholder Working Group and assist in the development of a regional water quality needs assessment and priorities.



# Principles of Participation

## Representation

Participants are being sought based upon several qualities:

- Willingness to work cooperatively with other Working Group representatives
- Commitment to consistently attend Working Group meetings
- Demonstrated ability to present the perspective of an organization or constituency involved in, affected by or interested in regional water quality management challenges

Every Working Group representative is asked to report back to his or her respective constituency to keep them aware of the Working Group's discussions and developing input. County of San Diego staff and consultants will be available to assist in this communication process, if desired.

## Role of Working Group Members

To achieve the goals of the Working Group, the County is asking participants to:

- Discuss and develop proposed regional water quality goals and objectives
- Develop objective criteria that would assist in ranking water quality priorities
- Identify water quality program priorities
- Assist in identifying funding gaps for water quality program priorities
- Contribute to the development of a regional water quality needs assessment
- Provide a foundation for the development of a regional water quality management plan

## Discussion Process

Working Group representatives agree to abide by the following discussion process:

- All perspectives are valued.
- One person speaks at a time.
- The preferred deliberation process is collaborative problem solving.

- In cases of non-consensus, alternative perspectives will be documented.
- Working Group representatives treat each other with respect.
- A neutral third-party will facilitate the meetings.

## **Meeting Attendance**

In order for the process to work effectively, full participation of representatives will be essential. Working Group representatives are asked to commit to attend meetings consistently. If a Working Group representative becomes unavailable to attend a meeting, he or she may send an alternate to monitor that meeting. The alternate should be briefed by the Working Group representative regarding the status of prior discussions and decisions. Active participation by the alternate is permissible if the alternate does not impede the progress of the Working Group.

## **Support**

A neutral third-party facilitator will conduct all Working Group meetings. The role of the facilitator is to ensure all perspectives are heard through a collaborative discussion process. Meeting discussions may be audio taped to aid in the preparation of meeting summaries.

## **Meeting Agendas**

Working Group participation in establishment of agendas and matters of discussion will be encouraged. County staff and the facilitator will be responsible for preparing the agendas in collaboration with Working Group representatives. At the conclusion of each meeting, staff and Working Group representatives will suggest items for inclusion in the next agenda and any action items requiring follow up.

## **Observers**

Observers are welcome at Working Group meetings. However, meetings are intended for the benefit of the Working Group representatives to promote balanced, constructive interaction.

Observers will be asked to refrain from commenting during the proceedings. There will be an opportunity for public comment at the end of each meeting.

## **Media**

Media present, if any, will be identified for the benefit of Working Group representatives. Representatives will be asked not to make public statements about the Group's deliberations to the media that would tend to hamper constructive discussions. County staff and consultants will also refrain from such statements about the Group's deliberations.

## **Information Sharing**

In order to ensure that all representatives have the same information available to them, all documents will be distributed through the established point of contact for the Water Quality Enhancement Core Working Group. Working Group representatives are asked to provide any materials five business (5) days prior to the meeting, whenever possible, for distribution to the Working Group at least three (3) days before the next meeting.