

# Beneficial Uses in Water Quality Regulation

Felicia Marcus

Chair, State Water Board

October 21, 2013

- \* Beneficial uses are an important part of establishing regulations to protect surface waters.
- \* The Water Boards utilize about 26 standardized beneficial use definitions.
- \* New beneficial use categories, or sub-categories, may be added by individual Regional Water Boards through a Basin Plan amendment.

## Facts Regarding Beneficial Uses

- \* Municipal and Domestic Supply (MUN)
- \* Agricultural Supply (AGR)
- \* Industrial Service Supply (IND)
- \* Water Contact Recreation (REC 1)
- \* Non-Contact Water Recreation (REC 2)
- \* Commercial and Sport Fishing (COMM)
- \* Warm Freshwater Habitat (WARM)
- \* Cold Freshwater Habitat (COLD)

# Examples of Beneficial Uses

- \* **Native American Culture (CUL)** - Uses of water that support the cultural and/or traditional rights of indigenous people such as subsistence fishing and shellfish gathering, basket weaving and jewelry material collection, navigation to traditional ceremonial locations, and ceremonial uses.
- \* **Subsistence Fishing (FISH)** - Uses of water that support subsistence fishing.

# North Coast Regional Water Board

- \* The Water Board is currently working on a tribal subsistence fishing study in conjunction with UC Davis researchers and multiple tribes statewide
- \* Data from that effort will assist with informing our upcoming Statewide Mercury Project and our TMDL work (Total Maximum Daily Loads)

## \* Tribal Fish Study