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## 12.0 GLOSSARY

**A-Weighted Decibel Sound Level (dBA):** See decibel, A-Weighted

**Acceptable Risk:** A hazard deemed to be a tolerable exposure to danger given the expected benefits to be obtained. Different levels of acceptable risk may be assigned according to the potential danger and the criticalness of the threatened structure. The levels may range from "near zero" for nuclear plants and natural gas transmission lines to "moderate" for open space, ranches and low-intensity warehouse uses.

**Access/Egress:** The ability to enter a site from a roadway and exit a site onto a roadway by motorized vehicle.

**Acoustics:** (1) The science of sound, including the generation, transmission, and effects of sound waves, both audible and inaudible. (2) The physical qualities of a room or other enclosure (such as size, shape, amount of noise) that determine the audibility and perception of speech and music.

**Acre:** A unit of land equal to 43,560 square feet.

**Acre-Foot:** The amount of water needed to cover an acre (approximate a football field) to a depth of one foot, or 325,900 gallons. One acre-foot can support the annual indoor and outdoor needs of between one and two households per year and, on average, three acre-feet are needed to irrigate one acre of farmland.

**Acre, Gross:** The total area within the lot lines of a lot of land before public streets, easements or other areas to be dedicated or reserved for public use are deducted from such lot, and not including adjacent lands already dedicated for such purposes. Most communities calculate gross acreage to the centerline of proposed bounding streets and to the edge of the right-of-way of existing or dedicated streets.

**Acre, Net:** The portion of a site that can actually be built upon. The following generally are not included in the net acreage of a site: public or private road right-of-ways, public open space, and flood ways.

**Active Fault:** The Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act defines an active fault as one that has evidence of rupture within the last 11,000 years (Holocene time). The Alquist-Priolo Zone only applies to surface traces of faults that the State Geologist considers "active" and the Zone itself does not define a potentially active fault. However, a potentially active fault is commonly considered to be a fault that shows evidence of movement within Quaternary time (within the last 1.8 million years) but not within recent (Holocene) time.

**Addendum:** A lead agency or responsible agency can prepare an addendum to a previously certified EIR or an addendum to an adopted negative declaration/mitigated negative declaration if some changes or additions are necessary but none of the conditions described in Section 15162 of the State CEQA Guidelines calling for preparation of a subsequent EIR

have occurred. An Addendum does not need to be circulated for public review (State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15164).

**Adjudication:** The action of a court as in making an order, judgment, or decree.

**Adsorption:** The accumulation of gases, liquids, or solutes on the surface of a solid or liquid.

**Adverse Impact:** A term used to describe unfavorable, harmful, or detrimental environmental changes. Adverse impacts may be significant or not significant (See Significant Impact).

**Affordable Housing:** Housing capable of being purchased or rented by a household with very low, low, or moderate income, based on a household's ability to make monthly payments necessary to obtain housing. "Affordable to low and moderate income households" means that at least 20 percent of the units in a development will be sold or rented to lower income households, and the remaining units to either lower or moderate income households. Housing units for lower income households must sell or rent for a month cost not greater than 30 percent of 60 percent of area median income as periodically established by the Housing and Community Development Department of the State of California (HCD). Housing units for moderate income must sell or rent for a monthly cost not greater than 30 percent of the area median income.

**Afterbay:** A short stretch of stream, conduit, pond, or reservoir.

**Agglomeration:** A jumbled cluster or mass of varied parts.

**Agricultural Land Use:** The use of land primarily for farming, ranching, horse breeding, dairy farming and other forms of food and crop production. From a planning perspective, agricultural land use connotes primary economic use of the property.

**Agricultural Preserve:** Land designated for agriculture or conservation (See Williamson Act).

**Agriculture:** Use of land for the production of food and fiber, including the growing of crops and/or the grazing of animals on natural prime or improved pasture land.

**Agriculture-Related Business:** Feed mills, dairy supplies, poultry processing, creameries, auction yards, veterinarians and other businesses supporting local agriculture.

**Air Basin:** An area of the state designated by the Air Resources Board pursuant to the *California Health and Safety Code* (Section 39606[a]) for air quality planning purposes.

**Air District:** A political body responsible for managing air quality on a regional or county basis. California is currently divided into 35 air districts.

**Air Monitoring:** The periodic or continuous sampling and analysis of air pollutants in ambient air or from individual pollutant sources.

**Air Pollution/Pollutants:** Substances that are foreign to the atmosphere or are present in the natural atmosphere to the extent that they may result in adverse effects on humans, animals, vegetation, and materials. Common air pollutants are ozone, nitrogen dioxide, particulate matter, and carbon monoxide. Air pollution is defined in the California Health and Safety Code as any discharge, release, or other propagation into the atmosphere and includes, but is not limited to, smoke, charred paper, dust, soot, grime, carbon, fumes, gases, odors, particulate matter, acids, or any combination thereof.

**Air Pollution Control District (APCD):** A local agency with authority to regulate stationary sources of air pollution (such as refineries, manufacturing facilities, and power plants) within a given county, and governed by a District Air Pollution Control Board composed of elected county supervisors and city representatives.

**Air Quality Index (AQI):** A numerical index used for reporting severity of air pollution levels to the public. It replaces the formerly used Pollutant Standards Index (PSI). Like the PSI, the AQI incorporates five criteria pollutants—ozone, particulate matter, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen dioxide—into a single index. The new index also incorporates the 8-hour ozone standard and the 24-hour PM<sub>2.5</sub> standard into the index calculation. AQI levels range from 0 (good air quality) to 500 (hazardous air quality). The higher the index, the higher the level of pollutants and the greater the likelihood of health effects. The AQI incorporates an additional index category—unhealthy for sensitive groups—that ranges from 101 to 150. In addition, the AQI comes with more detailed cautions.

**Air Quality Management District (AQMD):** A group of counties or portions of counties, or an individual county specified in law with authority to regulate stationary, indirect, and area sources of air pollution within the region and governed by a regional air pollution control board comprised mostly of elected officials from within the region.

**Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP):** A plan prepared by an air pollution control district or air quality management district for a county or region designated as a non-attainment area, for the purpose of bringing the area into compliance with the requirements of the federal Clean Air Act and/or the California Clean Air Act. An AQMP contains measures that will be taken to attain and maintain federal and State ambient air quality standards. In California, air districts prepare air quality management plans that are included in the state's State Implementation Plan (SIP) that is required by the federal Clean Air Act. Such plans are also referred to as Clean Air Plans or Clean Air Attainment Plans.

**Air Quality Model:** An algorithmic relationship between pollutant emissions and pollutant concentrations used in the prediction of a project's pollutant impact.

**Air Quality Standards:** Standards promulgated by State or federal pollution control districts. The specified average concentration of an air pollutant in ambient air during a specified time period at or above which undesirable effects may be produced. The prescribed level of a pollutant in the outside air that should not be exceeded during a specific time period to protect public health. Established by both federal and State governments.

**Airshed:** A subset of an air basin, the term denotes a geographical area that shares the same air because of topography, meteorology, and climate.

**Airport-related Use:** A use that supports airport operations including, but not limited to, aircraft repair and maintenance, flight instruction, and aircraft chartering.

**Airside:** Facilities principally related to the airfield. Airside facilities often include the runway and taxiway system, runway safety areas, the runway approach area, and associated equipment such as airfield lighting and navigational aids.

**Air Toxics:** Any air pollutant for which a national ambient air quality standard (NAAQS) does not exist (i.e., excluding ozone, carbon monoxide, PM10, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide) that may reasonably be anticipated to cause cancer, developmental effects, reproductive dysfunctions, neurological disorders, heritable gene mutations, or other serious or irreversible chronic or acute health effects in humans. Substances that are especially harmful to health, such as those considered under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA's) hazardous air pollutant program or California's Assembly Bill (AB) 1807 and/or AB 2588 air toxics programs, are considered to be air toxics. Technically, any compound that is in the air and has the potential to produce adverse health effects is an air toxic.

**Alluvial:** Soils deposited by stream action.

**Alluvium:** Soil or sediments deposited by running water, either presently or historically. Alluvium is composed of a variety of materials, ranging from finer particles of clay and silt to larger particles, such as sand, gravel, and boulders.

**Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act:** Legislation signed into California law on December 22, 1972, to mitigate the hazard of surface rupture along faults on structures for human occupancy. The act directs the State of California Division of Mines and Geology to compile detailed maps of the surface traces of known active faults and prohibits new construction of houses within these zones unless a comprehensive geologic investigation shows that the fault does not pose a hazard to the proposed structure. The Act only addresses the hazard of surface fault rupture and does not address other earthquake hazards, including liquefaction and seismically induced landslides.

**Alquist-Priolo Special Study Zone:** In 1972, the State of California began delineating Special Studies Zones around active and potentially active faults in the State. The zones extend about 660 feet on either side of identified fault traces. No structures for human occupancy may be built across an identified fault trace. An area of 50 feet on either side of an active fault trace is assumed to be underlain by the fault unless proven otherwise. Proposed construction within the Special Studies Zone can take place only following completion of a geotechnical report prepared by a California Registered Geologist or Certified Engineering Geologist.

**Ambient Air:** The air occurring at a particular time and place outside of structures. Often used interchangeably with "outdoor air."

**Ambient Air Quality Standards (AAQS):** Health- and welfare-based standards for outdoor air which identify the maximum acceptable average concentrations of air pollutants during a specified period of time.

**Ambient Conditions:** Initial background concentration sensed/measured at a monitoring/sampling site, as in air quality or noise.

**Ambient Noise:** The background noise associated with a given environment, usually a composite of sounds from many sources near and far. The ambient noise level constitutes the normal or existing level of environmental noise at a given location.

**American Period:** California regional history after the transfer of California from Mexican to American control in 1848.

**Andesite Flow:** A type of rock body created by lava flows on the surface.

**Anion:** A negatively charged ion.

**Annoyance:** The psychological state of being irritated or annoyed.

**Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT):** Total volume of traffic over the period of one year, divided by 365 days.

**Antelope Valley Integrated Management Plan:** A regional planning document developed to address regional concerns regarding water supply reliability, water quality, flood protection, environmental resources and land use management in the Antelope Valley.

**Anthropogenic:** Caused or produced by humans.

**Apartment:** (1) One or more rooms of a building used as a place to live, in a building containing at least one other unit used for the same purpose. (2) A separate suite, not owner occupied, which includes kitchen facilities and is designed for and rented as the home, residence, or sleeping place of one or more persons living as a single housekeeping unit.

**Applicant:** Applicant means a person who proposes to carry out a project which needs a lease, permit, license, certificate, or other entitlement for use or financial assistance from one or more public agencies when that person applies for the governmental approval or assistance (State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15351).

**Approach Zone:** The air space at each end of a landing strip that defines the glide path or approach path of an aircraft and that should be free from obstruction.

**Approval:** Approval means the decision by a public agency which commits the agency to a definite course of action in regard to a project intended to be carried out by any person. The exact date of approval of any project is a matter determined by each public agency according to its rules, regulations, and ordinances. Legislative action in regard to a project often constitutes approval. With private projects, approval occurs upon the earliest commitment to issue or the issuance by the public agency of a discretionary contract, grant, subsidy, loan, or other form of financial assistance, lease, permit, license, certificate, or other entitlement for use of the project (State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15352).

**Aquifer:** A natural underground formation that is saturated with water, and from which water can be withdrawn. A geologic formation of sand, rock, and gravel through which water can pass and which can store, transmit, and yield significant quantities of water to wells and springs. Aquifers generally hold sufficient water to be used as a water supply.

**Aqueduct:** A structure for transporting water from one place to another by means of a pipeline, canal, conduit, tunnel, or a combination of these things.

**Arable:** Land capable of being cultivated for farming.

**Archeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA):** Primary federal statute governing archeological resources.

**Area; Area Median Income:** As used in State of California housing law with respect to income eligibility limits established by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), "area" means metropolitan area or non-metropolitan county. In non-metropolitan areas, the "area median income" is the higher of the county median family income or the statewide non-metropolitan median family income.

**Area Sources:** Those sources for which a methodology is used to estimate emissions. This can include areawide, mobile, and natural sources, and also groups of stationary sources (such as dry cleaners and gas stations). The California Clean Air Act requires air districts to include area sources in the development and implementation of the Air Quality Management Plan. In the California emission inventory, all sources which are not reported as individual point sources are included as area sources. The federal air toxics program defines a source that emits less than 10 tons per year of a single hazardous air pollutant (HAP) or 25 tons per year of all hazardous air pollutants as an area source.

**Area-Wide Sources:** Sources of pollution where the emissions are spread over a wide area, such as consumer products, fireplaces, road dust and farming operations. Area-wide sources do not include mobile sources or stationary sources.

**Arroyo:** A small, sometimes deep, usually dry channel eroded by a short-lived or intermittent stream.

**Arterial Road:** A vehicular right-of-way whose primary function is to carry through traffic in a continuous route across an urban area while also providing some access to abutting land. Medium-speed (30–40 miles per hour), medium-capacity (10,000–35,000 average daily trips) roadway that provides intra-community travel and access to the county-wide highway system. Access to community arterials should be provided at collector roads and local streets, but direct access from parcels to existing arterials is common.

**Article 21 Water:** Available surplus water (i.e., interruptible water) that is distributed on an equal basis among State Water Project (SWP) contractors rather than to agricultural SWP contractors.

**Artifact:** A single, portable man-made or man-altered object; usually culturally diagnostic.

**Assemblage:** A collection of things (www.dictionary.com).

**Artificial Recharge:** The addition of surface water to a groundwater reservoir by human activity, such as putting surface water into recharge basins.

**Attainment:** Achieving and maintaining the air quality standards (both State and federal) for a given air pollutant.

**Attainment Area:** A geographical area considered to have air quality as good as or better than the National Ambient Air Quality Standard as defined in the Clean Air Act or California ambient air quality standards. An area may be an attainment area for one pollutant and a non-attainment area for others.

**Attenuate:** To reduce in force, value, amount, or degree.

**Attitude (bedding attitude):** The angle of a rock body relative to the ground surface. May provide evidence of past seismic activity.

**Automobile-intensive Use:** A use of a retail area that depends on exposure to continuous auto traffic.

**Average Daily Traffic (ADT):** Generally used to measure the total two-directional traffic volumes passing a given point on a roadway over a 24-hour period.

**Back of Curb:** the location where the curb ends and transitions to the sidewalk, utility strip, or property line.

**Background Concentration:** Air pollutant concentration due to natural sources and distant unidentified man-made sources.

**Background Noise:** See Ambient Noise.

**Background View:** View beginning at a distance from the observer and extending as far toward the horizon as the eye can detect the presence of objects. Skylines or ridge lines against other land surfaces are the strongest visual elements of the "background."

**Background Zone:** Visual elements in this zone can be seen at a long distance and typically do not dominate the view, but are part of the overall visual composition of the viewshed.

**Basalt:** The dark, dense igneous rock of a lava flow or minor intrusion.

**Base Flood:** In any given year, a 100-year flood that has a one percent likelihood of occurring, and is recognized as a standard for acceptable risk.

**Base Flow:** River surface flow, not counting storm flow and/or purchased imported water.

**Basin Plan:** A water quality control plan developed by a Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) for a specific geographic area. The Basin Plan identifies beneficial uses of

waters, the water quality objectives needed to maintain these beneficial uses, and an implementation plan.

**Bedrock:** The rock formations underlying surficial sediments.

**Benches:** A shelf-like area of rock with steep slopes above and below.

**Beneficial Uses:** The resources, services, and qualities of State waters that may be protected against quality degradation. The uses include, but are not limited to, domestic, municipal, agricultural and industrial supply, power generation, recreation, aesthetic enjoyment, navigation, and preservation and enhancement of fish, wildlife, and other aquatic resources or preserves. The specific uses such as “cold freshwater habitat” and “water contact recreation” are defined in Section 2 of the Regional Water Quality Control Boards’ Basin Plans. Beneficial Uses are defined in Section 13050 of the *California Water Code*.

**Bentonitic:** Bentonite is an absorbent aluminum silicate clay formed from volcanic ash.

**Best Available Control Measure (BACM):** A term used to describe the "best" measures (according to USEPA guidance) for controlling small or dispersed sources of particulate matter and other emissions from sources such as roadway dust, woodstoves, and open burning.

**Best Available Control Technology (BACT):** Under the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) rules, for example, BACT is defined as the most stringent emissions control which for a given air emission source has been (1) achieved in practice; (2) is identified in a State Implementation Plan; or (3) has been found by the SCAQMD to be technologically achievable and cost-effective.

**Best Management Practice (BMP):** A BMP is any program, technology, process, siting criteria, operating method, measure, or device which controls, prevents, removes, or reduces pollution.

**Bicycle Lane (Class II facility):** A corridor expressly reserved for bicycles, existing on a street or roadway in addition to any lanes for use by motorized vehicles.

**Bicycle Path/Trail (Class I facility):** A paved route not on a street or roadway and expressly reserved for bicycles traversing an otherwise unpaved area. Bicycle trails may parallel roads, but typically are separated from them by landscaping.

**Bicycle Route (Class III facility):** A facility shared by motorists and identified only by signs, a bicycle route has not pavement markings or lane stripes.

**Bifacial:** Having the opposite surfaces alike, as some tools.

**Bike Lane:** A lane devoted to non-motorized bicycles.

**Bikeway:** A term that encompasses bicycle lanes, bicycle paths, and bicycle routes.



**Bioaccumulation:** The process by which toxic chemicals accumulate in an organism when the rate of intake of a substance is greater than the rate of excretion or metabolic transformation of that substance.

**Biological Diversity:** The variety of life forms and its processes, including the variety of living organisms, the genetic differences among them, and the communities and ecosystems in which they occur.

**Biomass:** Plant material, used for the production of such things as fuel alcohol and non-chemical fertilizers. Biomass sources may be plants grown especially for that purpose or waste products from livestock, harvesting, milling, or from agricultural production or processing.

**Biotic Community:** A group of living organisms characterized by a distinctive combination of both animal and plant species in a particular habitat.

**Borrow Area:** An area where soil, sand, gravel, or rock is extracted and removed for use as fill, grades, or embankments on property of a different ownership or noncontiguous property of the same ownership.

**Brooder box:** A heated box where chicks or other baby birds are kept.

**Buffer Zone:** An area of land separating two distinct land uses that acts to soften or mitigate the effects of one land use on the other.

**Building:** Any structure having a roof supported by columns or walls and intended for the shelter, housing or enclosure of persons, animals, or property of any kind.

**Building Code:** A set of rules that specify the minimum acceptable level of safety for constructed objects such as buildings and nonbuilding structures. Examples of building codes include the International Building Code, the California Building Code, and the County of Los Angeles Building Code.

**Building Height:** The vertical distance from the average contact ground level of a building to the highest point of the coping of a flat roof or to the deck line of a mansard roof or to the mean height level between eaves and ridge for a gable, hip, or gambrel roof. The exact definition varies by community. For example, in some communities building height is measured to the highest point of the roof, not including elevator and cooling towers.

**Buildout:** Development of land to its full potential or theoretical capacity as permitted under current or proposed planning or zoning designations. The year in which project construction has been completed.

**Bulk:** The mass or volume of buildings.

**Business Services:** A subcategory of commercial land use that permits establishments primarily engaged in rendering services to other business establishments on a fee or contract basis, such as advertising and mailing; building maintenance; personnel and

employment services; management and consulting services; protective services; equipment rental and leasing; photo finishing; copying and printing; travel; office supply; and similar services.

**Busway:** A vehicular right-of-way or portion thereof (often an exclusive lane) reserved exclusively for buses.

**Buttress/Buttress fill:** A designed compacted earth fill used for providing lateral support to an unstabilized earth or rock mass.

**Cairn:** A heap of stones set up as a landmark, monument, tombstone, etc.

**Calcine:** To heat (a substance) to a high temperature but below the melting or fusing point, causing loss of moisture, reduction or oxidation, and the decomposition of carbonates and other compounds.

**California Air Resources Board (CARB):** California's lead air quality agency, consisting of an 11-member Governor-appointed board, responsible for motor vehicle air pollution control, and having oversight over California's air pollution management program. CARB is responsible for attainment and maintenance of the State and federal air quality standards, and is fully responsible for motor vehicle pollution control. It oversees county and regional air pollution management programs.

**California Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS):** A legal limit that specifies the maximum level and time of exposure in the outdoor air for a given air pollutant and which is protective of human health and public welfare (*California Health and Safety Code*, Section 39606b). CAAQSs are recommended by the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment and adopted into regulation by the CARB. CAAQSs are the standards which must be met per the requirements of the California Clean Air Act (CCAA).

**California Clean Air Act (CCAA):** A California law passed in 1998 that provides the basis for air quality planning and regulation independent of federal regulations, and which establishes new authority for attaining and maintaining California's air quality standards by the earliest practicable date. A major element of the CCAA is the requirement that local Air Pollution Control Districts in violation of the California Ambient Air Quality Standards must prepare attainment plans that identify air quality problems, causes, trends, and actions to be taken for attainment.

**California Coastal Commission:** The lead agency responsible for carrying out California's federally-approved coastal management program. The Coastal Commission plans for and regulates land and water uses in the coastal zone consistent with policies of the Coastal Act.

**California Code of Regulations (CCR):** The regulations that implement California laws.

**California Department of Transportation (Caltrans):** The State government agency responsible for the construction, maintenance, and operation of state and federal highways in California.

**California Endangered Species Act (CESA):** The CESA (*California Fish and Game Code*, Section 2050, et seq.) generally parallels the main provisions of the Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA) and is administered by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. The Act prohibits the take of plant and Animal species designated by the Fish and Game Commission as either Threatened or Endangered in the State. Under CESA the term “Endangered species” is defined as a species of plant, fish, or wildlife which is “in serious danger of becoming extinct throughout all, or a significant portion of its range” and is limited to species or subspecies native to California.

**California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA):** The State agency established in 1991 for unifying environmental activities related to public health protection in the State of California. There are six boards, departments, and offices under the organization of CalEPA including the California Air Resources Board (CARB), California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB), State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and its nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards (RWQCBs), Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR), Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), and Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA). The CalEPA boards, departments, and offices are directly responsible for implementing California environmental laws, or play a cooperative role with other regulatory agencies at regional, local, State, and federal levels.

**California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA):** CEQA is defined in the *California Public Resources Code* (Sections 21000 et seq.). It is a statute that requires state and local agencies to identify the significant environmental impacts of their actions and to avoid or mitigate those impacts, if feasible. CEQA applies to certain activities of state and local public agencies. A public agency must comply with CEQA when it undertakes an activity defined by CEQA as a “project”. A project is an activity undertaken by a public agency or a private activity which must receive some discretionary approval (meaning that the agency has the authority to deny the requested permit or approval) from a government agency which may cause either a direct physical change in the environment or a reasonably foreseeable indirect change in the environment. Most proposals for physical development in California are subject to the provisions of CEQA, as are many governmental decisions which do not immediately result in physical development (such as adoption of a general or community plan). Every development project which requires a discretionary governmental approval will require at least some environmental review pursuant to CEQA, unless an exemption applies (CNRA 2009).

**California Housing Finance Agency (CHFA):** A State agency, established by the Housing and Home Finance Act of 1975, which is authorized to sell revenue bonds and generate funds for the development, rehabilitation, and conservation of low and moderate income housing.

**California Irrigation Management Information System (CIMIS):** Developed to assist irrigators in managing their water resources efficiently, CIMIS is a program of the Office of Water Use Efficiency (OWUE) that manages a network of over 120 automated weather stations in the State of California.

**California Proposition 50:** Passed by California voters in 2002, the proposition authorized the sale of \$3.4 billion in general obligation bonds to fund a variety of specified water and

wetlands projects. It set aside \$380 million for grants related to the implementation of IRWM Plans and is jointly administered by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB).

**California Protected Species:** Those species that may not be taken or possessed at any time except under special permit from CDFW.

**California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR):** The CRPR is a summary of information on the distribution, rarity, and endangerment of California's vascular plants. This rare plant inventory is comprised of four lists. The CRPR presumes that List 1A plant species are extinct in California because they have not been seen in the wild for many years. The CRPR considers List 1B plants as Rare, Threatened, or Endangered throughout their range. Plants with a CRPR of 2A are presumed extirpated from California, but are more common elsewhere. Plants with a CRPR of 2B are considered Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California, but are more common elsewhere. Plant species for which more information is needed are considered List 3. List 4 plant species are those of limited distribution in California whose susceptibility to threat appears low at this time.

**California Species of Special Concern:** An informal designation which the CDFW uses for some declining wildlife species that are not State candidates. This designation does not provide legal protection, but signifies that these species are recognized as special status by the CDFW.

**California State Water Project (SWP):** The world's largest publicly built and operated water and power development and conveyance system. The SWP provides drinking water for over 23 million people in Southern California and generates an average 6,500 GWh of hydroelectricity annually. Primary features of the project include Oroville Dam, San Luis Reservoir, and the California Aqueduct.

**California Toxics Rule (CTR):** A regulatory action that establishes numeric water quality criteria for priority toxic pollutants necessary for the State of California to meet the requirements of the Clean Water Act.

**Call Water:** The water supply right of Tejon Ranch Company that was not taken in earlier years and, through an agreement with the Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency (AVEK), the right is maintained and can be called in a future year.

**Candlepower:** The total light output expressed in candelas. One candlepower is approximately equal to the light emitted from one candle.

**Capital Improvements:** The building of infrastructure or public works projects.

**Capital Improvements Program (CIP):** A program established by a city or county government which schedules infrastructure improvements necessary to accommodate existing and anticipated future development. Most CIPs are for a minimum of five years into the future, and include a financing mechanism, to fit the projected fiscal capability of the local jurisdiction. The program generally is reviewed annually for conformance to and consistency with the general plan.

**Carbon Cycling:** A chain of nuclear reactions, involving carbon at its intermediate stages that transforms four hydrogen atoms into one helium atom with a resulting release in energy (CalSpace Virtual Museum 2002).

**Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>):** A colorless gas that enters the atmosphere as the result of natural and artificial combustion processes. Significant quantities are also emitted into the air by fossil fuel combustion. It is also a normal part of the ambient air.

**Carbon Monoxide (CO):** A colorless, odorless gas resulting from the incomplete combustion of fossil fuels. CO interferes with the blood's ability to carry oxygen to the body's tissues and can result in adverse health effects. CO is a criteria air pollutant.

**Carbon Sequestration:** Defined as the in-take or process of the gas by vegetation. In the Climate Change section (5.21), it is assumed that all mature land-types (at least 20 years old) are at a steady state.

**Carrying Capacity:** Used in determining the potential of an area to absorb development: (1) The level of land use, human activity, or development for a specific area that can be accommodated permanently without an irreversible change in the quality of air, water, land, or plant and animal habitats; (2) The upper limits of development beyond which the quality of human life, health, welfare, safety or community character within an area will be impaired; or (3) The maximum level of development allowable under current zoning.

**Cartridge media filtration:** A passive, flow-through storm water media filtration system typically comprised of a vault (or catch basin for small drainage catchments) that houses rechargeable, media-filled cartridges which trap particulates and remove pollutants (such as dissolved metals, nutrients, and hydrocarbons).

**Catch Basin:** A storm drain inlet having a sump below the outlet to capture settled solids.

**Categorical Exemption:** Categorical exemption means an exemption from CEQA for a class of projects based on a finding by the Secretary for Resources that the class of projects does not have a significant effect on the environment unless exceptions to the exemption apply (State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15354). A Categorical Exemption does not apply in the following situations: (1) a reasonable possibility exists that the activity may have a significant environmental impact because of unusual circumstances; (2) the cumulative impacts of the project would be considerable and therefore significant; (3) the project occurs within specified sensitive environments; (4) a project affects scenic resources within official State scenic highways; (5) a project is located on a toxic site that is listed by the California Environmental Protection Agency; or (6) a project causes substantial adverse changes in a significant historic resource (State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15300.2).

**Census:** The official United States decennial enumeration of the population conducted by the federal government.

**Centennial Specific Plan:** The document that describes the various Project characteristics, including the land use plan designations, overlay districts, mobility plan, parks/recreation, open space, utilities and associated infrastructure, public services/facilities, landscape and

lighting, solid waste management, technology plan, affordable housing program, and construction and grading. Implementation of the *Centennial Specific Plan* through buildout is addressed at a program level (as described in Section 2.2, Type of Environmental Impact Report). The document proposes development of 19,333 dwelling units and anticipates creation of approximately 20,809 permanent jobs within its commercial areas and employment centers.

**Centennial Specific Plan Footprint:** Overall impact of the Project. The Project's impact footprint is comprised of all temporary and permanent impact areas that would result from implementation of all Project phases, including off-site impacts.

**Central Business District (CBD):** The major commercial downtown center of a community. General guidelines for delineating a downtown area are defined by the U.S. Census of Retail Trade, with specific boundaries being set by the local municipality.

**Certified Applicator:** A Certified Applicator is an individual licensed through successful completion of education and examination requirements to apply pesticides with restricted use, as defined by the USEPA. In California, such licensing is administered through the California Department of Pesticide Management's Licensing and Certification Program.

**Channel:** A water course with a definite bed and banks which confine and conduct the normal continuous or intermittent flow of water.

**Channelization:** (1) The straightening and/or deepening of a watercourse for purposes of storm runoff control or ease of navigation. Channelization often includes lining of stream banks with a retaining material such as concrete. (2) At the intersection of roadways, the directional separation of traffic lanes through the use of curbs or raised islands that limit the paths that vehicles may take through the intersection.

**Charter School:** Non-sectarian public schools of choice that can provide education in any of the grades kindergarten through 12. A charter school is generally exempt from most laws governing school districts, except where specifically noted in the law. California public charter schools are required to participate in the statewide assessment test, STAR (Standardized Testing and Reporting). A charter school is usually created or organized by a group of teachers, parents and community leaders or a community-based organization, and it is usually sponsored by an existing local public school board or county board of education. Specific goals and operating procedures for the charter school are detailed in an agreement (or "charter") between the sponsoring board and charter organizers.

**Chert:** A compact rock consisting essentially of microcrystalline quartz.

**Circulation Element:** One of the seven State-mandated elements of a general plan, it contains adopted goals, policies, and implementation programs for the planning and management of existing and proposed thoroughfares, transportation routes, and terminals, as well as local public utilities and facilities, all correlated with the land use element of the general plan.

**Circulation System:** A network of transit, automobile, bicycle, and pedestrian rights-of-way that connect origins and destinations.

**Class I Landfill:** Class I landfills may accept hazardous and non-hazardous wastes.

**Class II Landfill:** Class II landfills may accept “designated” and non-hazardous wastes.

**Class III Landfill:** Class III landfills may accept all non-hazardous wastes.

**Clean Air Act (CAA):** A federal law passed in 1970 and amended in 1977 and 1990 that sets primary and secondary National Ambient Air Quality Standards for major air pollutants and forms the basis for the national air pollution control effort.

**Clean Water Act (CWA):** The primary federal law in the United States governing water pollution. The act established the goals of eliminating releases to water of high amounts of toxic substances. The NPDES permit program is authorized by Section 402 of the CWA.

**Clustered Development:** Development in which a number of dwelling units are placed in closer proximity than usual, or are attached, with the purpose of retaining an open space area.

**Code of Federal Regulations (CFR):** The document that codifies all rules of the executive departments and agencies of the federal government. It is divided into 50 volumes, known as titles. Title 40 of the CFR (referenced as 40 CFR) lists all the environmental regulations.

**Cohesionless Soil:** A soil that when confined has little or no strength when air-dried, and that has little or no cohesion when submerged.

**Collapsible soil:** Loose, dry, low-density soil that collapses and compacts under the addition of water or excessive loading.

**Collector:** Relatively low speed (25–30 miles per hour [mph]), relatively low volume (5,000–20,000 average daily trips) street that provides circulation within and between neighborhoods. Collectors usually serve short trips and are intended for collecting trips from local streets and distributing them to the arterial network.

**Colloidal:** Having the nature of a colloid, which is a system where finely divided particles are dispersed within a continuous medium in a manner that prevents them from being filtered easily or settled rapidly.

**Colluvium:** Loose bodies of sediment that have been deposited or built up at the bottom of a low grade slope or against a barrier on that slope, transported by gravity.

**Comfort Wise:** Homes earning the Environmental Protection Agency’s Energy Star seal and the Comfort Wise designation have been independently inspected and certified to incorporate at least 30 percent energy savings in design and construction standards.

**Commercial:** A land use classification that permits facilities for the buying and selling of commodities and services.

**Commercial Strip:** Commercial development, usually one store deep, that fronts on a major street for a distance of one city block or more. Includes individual buildings on their own lots, with or without on-site parking, and small linear shopping centers with shallow on-site parking in front of the stores.

**Community Center:** A public facility in which educational, therapeutic, and/or recreational programs are provided.

**Community Facilities District (CFD):** Under the Mello-Roos Community Facilities Act of 1982 (*California Government Code*, Section 53311 et seq.), a legislative body may create within its jurisdiction a special district that can issue tax-exempt bonds for the planning, design, acquisition, construction, and/or operation of public facilities, as well as provide public services to district residents. A specific geographic area upon which is levied a special tax, approved by a two thirds vote of property owners, used to finance public facilities. CFDs finance the public facilities through the sale of bonds. The bonds are repaid by increased property taxes which are the result of property improvements and the construction of the public facilities (tax increment financing). CFDs are also referred to as Mello-Roos, after the State legislators who sponsored the enabling legislation.

**Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL):** A noise compatibility level established by the *California Administrative Code* (Title 21, Section 5000). Represents a time-weighted 24-hour average noise level based on the A-weighted decibel. The CNEL scale includes an additional 5-decibel (dB) adjustment to sounds occurring in the evening (7 PM to 10 PM) and a 10-dB adjustment to sound occurring in the late evening and early morning between (10 PM and 7 AM).

**Community Park:** Land with full public access intended to provide recreation opportunities beyond those supplied by neighborhood parks. Community parks are larger in scale than neighborhood parks, but smaller than regional parks.

**Complexed:** Bound with

**Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA):** CERCLA, also known as Superfund, was enacted in 1980 to ensure that a source of funds was available to clean up abandoned hazardous waste dumps, compensate victims, address releases of hazardous materials, and establish liability standards for responsible parties. CERCLA also requires the creation of a National Priorities List which sets forth the sites considered to have the highest priority for cleanup under Superfund.

**Compressibility/compressible soil:** The ability of a soil or rock to reduce in volume with applied pressure or collapse with loading.

**Concretion:** A hard mass of mineral matter formed by precipitation of minerals from water in concentric layers about a nucleus in a sedimentary or pyroclastic (volcanic sedimentary) rock.



**Conditional Use:** A land use which is not permitted by right, but which may be appropriate in a given zoning district under certain circumstances. The use may occur only upon approval of a conditional use permit.

**Conditional Use Permit (CUP):** A permit based on a discretionary decision required prior to initiation of particular uses not allowed as a matter of right. The use may be desirable under appropriate circumstances, but are not permitted by right in the applicable zone. The purpose of the CUP process is to determine whether, and under what conditions, a specific use may be appropriate in a given location. Further, the intent is that each use be developed so as to fully protect the public health, safety, and welfare of the community. To provide this protection, conditions may be applied to address potential adverse effects associated with the proposed use.

**Condominium:** A building or group of buildings in which units are owned individually, but the structure, common areas, and facilities are owned by all owners on a proportional, undivided basis.

**Conductivity:** Ability of water to migrate in the aquifer.

**Confined Aquifer:** A water-bearing subsurface stratum that is bounded above and below by formations of impermeable, or relatively impermeable, soil or rock.

**Conformity:** A demonstration of whether a federally-supported activity is consistent with the State Implementation Plan (SIP) per Section 176(c) of the Clean Air Act. Transportation conformity refers to plans, programs, and projects approved or funded by the Federal Highway Administration or the Federal Transit Administration. General conformity refers to projects approved or funded by other federal agencies.

**Congestion Management Plan/Program (CMP):** A State-mandated program (*California Government Code*, Section 65089a) that requires each county to prepare a plan to relieve congestion and reduce air pollution. Growth management techniques include traffic level of service requirements, standards for public transit, trip reduction programs involving transportation systems management and jobs/housing balance strategies, and capital improvement programming, for the purpose of controlling and/or reducing the cumulative regional traffic impacts of development.

**Conglomeratic:** Said of a sedimentary rock containing rounded to subangular fragments larger than two millimeters in diameter.

**Conservation Agreement:** A formal signed agreement between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or National Marine Fisheries Service and other parties that implements specific actions, activities, or programs designed to eliminate or reduce threats or otherwise improve the status of a species. Conservation Agreements can be developed at a State, regional, or national level and generally include multiple agencies at both the State and federal level, as well as tribes.

**Conservation Element:** One of the seven State-mandated elements of a local general plan, it contains adopted goals, policies, and implementation programs for the conservation,

development, and use of natural resources including water and its hydraulic force, forests, soils, rivers and other waters, harbors, fisheries, wildlife, minerals, and other natural resources.

**Conservation Strategy:** A strategy outlining current activities or threats that are contributing to the decline of a species, along with the actions or strategies needed to reverse or eliminate such a decline or threats. Conservation strategies are generally developed for species of plants and animals that are designated or that have been determined by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or National Marine Fisheries Service to be federal candidates under the Endangered Species Act.

**Consistency, Consistent With:** Free from significant variation or contradiction. The various diagrams, text, goals, policies, and programs in the general plan must be consistent with each other, not contradictory or preferential. The term "consistent with" is used interchangeably with "conformity with." The courts have held that the phrase "consistent with" means "agreement with; harmonious with." Webster defines "conformity with" as meaning harmony, agreement when used with "with." The term "conformity" means in harmony therewith or agreeable to (Sec 58 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 21, 25 [1975]). California State law also requires that a general plan be internally consistent and also requires consistency between a general plan and implementation measures such as the zoning ordinance.

**Consistent:** Free from variation or contradiction. Programs in the general plan are to be consistent, not contradictory or preferential. State law requires consistency between a general plan and implementation measures such as the zoning ordinance.

**Construction:** Any site preparation, assembly, erection, substantial repair, alteration, or similar action for or of public or private rights-of-way, structures, utilities, or similar property.

**Contacts:** The surface between two rock bodies. A scoured contact means that when this surface was exposed to the elements it underwent scouring.

**Contiguous:** Lands or legal subdivisions having a common boundary; lands having only a common corner are generally not contiguous.

**Contour Grading:** A grading technique which uses curvilinear, horizontal, and vertical undulations in order to simulate the characteristics of natural topography.

**Contributing Structure:** Building or structure in historic district that generally has historic, architectural, cultural, or archeological significance.

**Council of Governments (COG):** An association of cities and counties that often acts as a regional planning agency with some power under State and federal law.

**Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions (CC&Rs):** A term used to describe restrictive limitations that may be placed on property and its use, and which usually are made a condition of holding title or lease. The master CC&Rs and each neighborhood CC&Rs will each be in furtherance of its own plan of planned development as described in the *California Civil*

*Code* (Sections 1350–1352) for the subdivision, improvement, protection, maintenance, and sale of each ownership interest, all of which are for the purposes of enhancing, maintaining, and protecting the value and attractiveness of the subject real property. Notwithstanding the foregoing, non-residential (e.g., commercial or industrial) developments may be exempt from certain of those code provisions; CC&Rs for such non-residential developments are exempt from review by the DRE and are not subject to those DRE regulation governing residential declarations. Consistent with California DRE Regulation 2792.8, the CC&Rs for each association will include provisions addressing the following: legal description of the subject real estate; recitals and creation of equitable servitudes; nature of the common interest subdivision (e.g., single-family dwelling, condominium project, mixed residential, industrial or commercial; provided, however that the master planned community will provide for multiple land uses); definitions; rights of ownership and easements; name of the association; association membership; association membership voting rights, and, for the master association, delegate voting rights; association assessments; restrictions on the use and enjoyment of any portion of the subject property; architectural control; destruction and eminent domain; limitations on partition and severance; annexation; mortgagee protections; enforcement of bonded obligations; general provisions; amendment provisions; and such additional provisions (if any) required by law.

**Criteria Air Pollutant:** An air pollutant for which acceptable levels of exposure can be determined and for which an ambient air quality standard has been set in order to protect public health. Examples include ozone, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, respirable particulate matter with a diameter of 10 microns or less (PM<sub>10</sub>), and fine particulate matter with a diameter of 2.5 microns or less (PM<sub>2.5</sub>). The term "criteria air pollutants" derives from the requirement that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) must describe the characteristics and potential health and welfare effects of these pollutants. The USEPA and the California Air Resources Board (CARB) periodically review new scientific data and may propose revisions to the standards as a result.

**Critical Facility:** Facilities housing or serving many people, which are necessary in the event of an earthquake or flood, such as hospitals, fire, police, and emergency service facilities, utility "lifeline" facilities, such as water, electricity, and gas supply, sewage disposal, and communications and transportation facilities.

**Critical Water Shortage Contingency Plan (Contingency Plan):** A 2000 report, published by the California Governor's Drought Panel, that made recommendations for actions that the State government could take to reduce the impacts of critical water shortages. The recommendations included a critical water shortage reduction marketing program to facilitate intra-regional, short term, and dry year transfers, financial and planning assistance to local agencies for drought-related response activities, and assistance to small water systems and home owners in rural counties.

**Cul-de-Sac:** A short street or alley with only a single means of ingress and egress at one end with a large turnaround at its other end.

**Cumulative Impact:** A cumulative impact refers to two or more individual affects which, when considered together, are considerable or which compound or increase other

environmental impacts. The individual effects may be changes resulting from a single project or a number of separate projects. The cumulative impact from several projects is the change in the environment which results from the incremental impact of the project when added to other closely related past, present, and reasonable foreseeable probable future projects. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant projects taking place over a period of time (State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15355).

**Cupule petroglyphs:** Small abraded pits.

**Cut:** The excavation of a bank required to lower the natural ground line to the desired profile.

**Day-Night Average Sound Level ( $L_{dn}$ ):** The A-weighted average sound level in decibels during a 24-hour period with a 10 decibel (dB) weighing applied to nighttime sound levels (10 PM to 7 AM). This exposure method is similar to the CNEL, but deletes the evening time period (7 PM to 10 PM) as a separate factor.

**Daytime Glare:** Indirect reflected light generated on the Project site during the day. Sources would primarily be generated by human activities and from the sun's reflection off glass windows of structures, automobiles, and trucks.

**Debitage:** Flakes and lithic waste.

**Debris:** Any organic material transported by storm water, including leaves, twigs, and grass clippings.

**Debris potential area zone:** Zones, as delineated by County or regional authorities, that yield similar volumes of sediment under similar conditions.

**Decibel (dB):** A unit for expressing the relative intensity (loudness) of sounds. The decibel is the logarithm of the ratio of the intensity of a given sound to the faintest sound discernible by the human ear.

**Decibel, A-Weighted (dBA):** The "A-weighted" scale for measuring sound in decibels; weighs or reduces the effects of low and high frequencies in order to simulate human hearing. Every increase of 10 dBA doubles the perceived loudness though the noise is actually ten times more intense.

**Decision Making Authority:** Decision-making authority means any person or body vested with the authority to make recommendations or act on application requests. The final decision-making authority is the one which has the authority to act on a request by approving or denying the request. This may include the Community Development Director or his/her designee, Planning Commission, or the City Council.

**Decision Making Body:** Any person or group of people within a public agency permitted by law to approve or disapprove the project at issue (State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15356).

**Dedication:** The turning over by an owner or developer of private land for public use, and the acceptance of land for such use by the governmental agency having jurisdiction over the

public function for which it will be used. Dedications for roads, parks, school sites, or other public uses often are made conditions for approval of a development by a city or county.

**Dedication, In lieu of:** Cash payments that may be required of an owner or developer as a substitute for a dedication of land, usually calculated in dollars per lot, and referred to as in lieu fees or in lieu contributions.

**Defensible Space:** (1) In fire-fighting and prevention, a 30-foot area of non-combustible surfaces separating urban and wildland areas. (2) In urban areas, open spaces, entry points, and pathways configured to provide maximum opportunities to rightful users and/or residents to defend themselves against intruders and criminal activity.

**Deficiency Plan:** An action program for improving or preventing the deterioration of level of service on the Congestion Management Agency street and highway network.

**Delay:** According to the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), “delay” is defined as excess travel time resulting from the difference between a reference speed and actual speed. Total daily delay and daily delay per capita are the indicators used.

**Deleterious:** Harmful, injurious to health ([www.dictionary.com](http://www.dictionary.com)).

**Delta Smelt Ruling:** On August 31, 2007, U.S. District Court Judge Oliver Wanger ruled to restrict water deliveries from the California Delta’s export pumps to the Bay Area, Central Valley, and Southern California to protect the Delta smelt. Under the remedy ruling, operational limits on delta pumping would be put in place from the end of December, when fish are about to spawn, until June, when the smelt migrate westward. Impacts from the federal ruling will likely have an effect on 2008 State Water Project (SWP) supplies. The Delta smelt is found only in the Bay-Delta estuary and is considered by scientists to be an indicator species demonstrating the health of the estuary.

**Demolition:** Any dismantling, intentional destruction, or removal of structures, utilities, public or private rights-of-way surfaces, or similar property.

**Density:** The gross site area which shall include local roadways, slopes, and open space areas, unless otherwise specified. Density is usually expressed “per acre.” For example, a development with 100 dwelling units located on 20 acres has a density of 5 units per acre.

**Density, Control of:** A limitation on the occupancy of land. Density can be controlled through zoning in the following ways: use restrictions, minimum lot-size requirements, floor area ratios, land use-intensity ratios, setback and yard requirements, minimum house-size requirements, ratios comparing number and types of housing units to land area, limits on units per acre, and other means. Allowable density often serves as the major distinction between residential districts.

**Density, Employment:** A measure of the number of employed persons per specific area (for example, employees/acre).

**Density, Residential:** The number of permanent residential dwelling units per acre of land. Densities specified in a general plan may be expressed in units per gross acre or per net developable acre.

**Design Capacity:** The capacity at which a street, water distribution pipe, pump or reservoir, or a wastewater pipe or treatment plant is intended to operate.

**Destination Retail:** Retail businesses that generate a special purpose trip and that do not necessarily benefit from a high-volume pedestrian location.

**Detention Basin:** A facility that holds storm water temporarily and allows it to drain slowly over time to ensure that downstream storm drain capacities are not exceeded.

**Developable Acres, Net:** The portion of a site that can be used for density calculations. Some communities calculate density based on gross acreage. Public or private road rights-of-way are not included in the net developable acreage of a site.

**Developable Land:** Land that is suitable as a location for structures and that can be developed free of hazards to, and without disruption of, or significant impact on, natural resource areas.

**Developer:** An individual who or business that prepares raw land for the construction of buildings or causes to be built physical building space for use primarily by others, and in which the preparation of the land or the creation of the building space is in itself a business and is not incidental to another business or activity.

**Developer Fee Agreement:** A fee or tax imposed on developers to pay for the costs to the community of providing services to a new development. It is a means of providing a fund for financing new improvements without resorting to deficit financing.

**Development:** The physical extension and/or construction of land uses. Development activities include: subdivision of land; construction or alteration of structures, roads, utilities, and other facilities; installation of septic systems; grading; deposit of refuse, debris, or fill materials; and clearing of natural vegetative cover (with the exception of agricultural activities).

**Development Agreement:** A legislatively-approved contract between a jurisdiction and a person having legal or equitable interest in real property within the jurisdiction (*California Government Code*, Sections 65865 et seq.) that “freezes” certain rules, regulations, and polices applicable to development of a property for a specified period of time, usually in exchange for certain concessions by the owner.

**Development Area:** The portion of the Project site that will be developed.

**Development Impact Fees:** A fee or tax imposed on developers to pay for the costs to the community of providing services to a new development. It is a means of providing a fund for financing new improvements without resorting to deficit financing.

**Development Rights:** The right to develop land by a land owner who maintains fee-simple ownership over the land or by a party other than the owner who has obtained the rights to develop. Such rights usually are expressed in terms of density allowed under existing zoning. For example, one development right may equal one unit of housing or may equal a specific number of square feet of gross floor area in one or more specified zone districts.

**Direct Effects:** Effects which are caused by an action and occur at the same time and place.

**Discoidal:** Stone artifact having a circular shape. Specific to earlier periods of prehistory. Actual function uncertain.

**Discrete Early Actions:** Measures that can be fully adopted as regulations and made effective no later than January 1, 2010, as defined in AB 32. Other “early actions” are measures that are underway or are to be initiated by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) in the 2007–2012 timeframe (ENVIRON 2009).

**Discretionary Approval/Decision:** A decision requiring the exercise of judgment, deliberation, or decision on the part of the decision-making authority in the process of approving or disapproving a particular activity, as distinguished from situations where the decision-making authority merely has to determine whether there has been conformity with applicable statutes, ordinances, or regulations. An approval by a decision-making body which has the legal discretion to approve or deny a project or action.

**Discretionary Project:** A project which requires the exercise of judgment or deliberation when the public agency or body decides to approve or disapprove a particular activity, as distinguished from situations where the public agency or body merely has to determine whether there has been conformity with applicable statutes, ordinances, or regulations (State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15357).

**District:** (1) An area of a city or county that has a unique character identifiable as different from surrounding areas because of distinctive architecture, streets, geographic features, culture, landmarks, activities, or land uses. (2) A portion of the territory of a city or county within which uniform zoning regulations and requirements apply; a zone.

**Diversion:** The direction of water in a stream away from its natural course (i.e., as in a diversion that removes water from a stream for human use).

**Diversity:** Differences among otherwise similar elements that give them unique forms and qualities (i.e., housing diversity can be achieved by differences in unit size, tenure, or cost.)

**Dose:** A function of the concentration of a substance or substances in the environment and the extent of exposure that a person has with the substance

**Drainage:** An area that collects and diverts rain water and urban runoff down slope.

**Drainage Area:** The portion of the Earth’s surface from which precipitation or other runoff flows to a given location. With respect to a highway, this location may be a culvert, the farthest point of a channel, or an inlet to a roadway drainage system.

**Drainage Swale:** A storm drainage conveyance structure designed to intercept, divert, and convey surface runoff (generally sheet flow) to prevent erosion and reduce pollution loading.

**Drought Water Bank:** Established in 1991, the Bank resulted from the California Department of Water Resources purchasing more than 800,000 acre-feet of water for approximately \$100 million in response to requests by water-short agencies.

**Duplex:** A detached building under single ownership that is designed for occupation as the residence of two families living independently of each other.

**Dwelling, Single-Family:** A structure with one dwelling unit, typically with a single family living in it ([www.reference.com](http://www.reference.com)).

**Dwelling, Two-Family:** A classification of housing where multiple separate housing units are contained within one building ([www.reference.com](http://www.reference.com)).

**Dwelling Unit:** A room or group of rooms (including sleeping, eating, cooking, and sanitation facilities, but not more than one kitchen), which constitutes an independent housekeeping unit, occupied or intended for occupancy by one household on a long-term basis. Used in quantifying residential land use.

**Early Horizon (aka Early Millingstone):** Approximately 7,500 Years Before Present (YBP) through 3,500 YBP.

**E-200 Corridor:** The E-200 corridor is the High-Desert Corridor, which runs from Los Angeles to Las Vegas through Palmdale.

**Earthquake Fault Zones:** Regulatory zones, as established by the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act (see above), and located around the surface traces of active faults.

**Easting:** A Geographical Information System term which refers to a rectangular (x,y) coordinate measurement of distance east from a north-south reference line, usually a meridian used as the axis of origin within a map zone or projection.

**Economic Poisons:** Economic poisons are substances used to control pests and defoliate cash crops such as cotton.

**Effects:** “Effects” and “impacts” as used in the State CEQA Guidelines are synonymous. Effects include (a) Direct or primary effects which are caused by the project and occur at the same time and place; (b) Indirect or secondary effects which are caused by the project and are later in time or farther removed in distance, but are still reasonably foreseeable. Indirect or secondary effects may include growth-inducing effects and other effects related to induced changes in the pattern of land use, population density, or growth rate, and related effects on air and water and other natural systems, including ecosystems. Effects analyzed under CEQA must be related to a physical change (State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15358).

**Effluent:** Wastewater or other liquid, partially or completely treated or in its natural state, flowing from a treatment plant.



**Embodied Energy:** Refers to the quantity of energy required to manufacture, and supply to the point of use, a product, material or service (ENVIRON 2009).

**Emergency:** Emergency means a sudden, unexpected occurrence, involving a clear and imminent danger, demanding immediate action to prevent or mitigate loss of, or damage to life, health, property, or essential public services. Emergency includes such occurrences as fire, flood, earthquake, or other soil or geologic movements, as well as such occurrences as riot, accident, or sabotage (State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15359)

**Emission:** Released or discharged air contaminants in the ambient air from any source (CARB 2017).

**Emission Factor:** For stationary sources, the relationship between the amount of pollution produced and the amount of raw material processed or burned. For mobile sources, the relationship between the amount of pollution produced and the number of vehicle miles traveled. By using the emission factor of a pollutant and specific data regarding quantities of materials used by a given source, it is possible to compute emissions for the source. This approach is used in preparing an emissions inventory (CARB 2017).

**Emission Inventory:** An estimate of the amount of pollutants emitted into the atmosphere from major mobile, stationary, area-wide, and natural source categories over a specific period of time such as a day or a year (CARB 2017).

**Emission Offsets (Emissions Trading):** A rule-making concept whereby approval of a new or modified stationary source of air pollution is conditional on the reduction of emissions from other existing stationary sources of air pollution. These reductions are required in addition to reductions required by best available control technology (CARB 2017).

**Emission Rate:** The weight of a pollutant emitted per unit of time (e.g., tons per year) (CARB 2017).

**Emission Standards:** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), California Air Resources Board (CARB), or air district standards or limits for air contaminant emissions. The maximum amount of a pollutant that is allowed to be discharged from a polluting source (e.g., an automobile or smoke stack).

**Encroachment:** The occupancy of project right-of-way by non-project structures or objects of any kind or character; also, activities of other parties within the operating right-of-way.

**Endangered Species:** In accordance with CEQA, "Species" means a species or subspecies of animal or plant or a variety of plant. A species of animal or plant is considered "Endangered" if its prospects of survival and reproduction are in immediate jeopardy. The CESA authorizes the CDFW to issue permits authorizing incidental take of Threatened and Endangered Species.

**Enterprise Zone:** An area designated by the federal or State government as a distressed area where regulatory and tax burdens are loosened to stimulate private investment.

**Environment:** The physical conditions which exist within the area which will be affected by a proposed project including land, air, water, minerals, flora, fauna, ambient noise, and objects of historical or aesthetic significance. The area involved shall be the area in which significant effects would occur either directly or indirectly as a result of the project. The "environment" includes both natural and man-made conditions (State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15360).

**Environmental Documents:** Environmental documents means Initial Studies, Negative Declarations, draft and final EIRs, documents prepared as substitutes for EIRs and Negative Declarations under a program certified pursuant to the *California Public Resources Code* (Section 21080.5) and documents prepared under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and used by a State or local agency in the place of an Initial Study, Negative Declaration, or an EIR (State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15361).

**Environmental Impact Report:** A detailed statement prepared under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) describing and analyzing the significant environmental effects of a project and discussing ways to mitigate or avoid the effects. The term "EIR" may mean either a draft or a final EIR depending on the context. A Draft EIR means an EIR containing the information specified in the State CEQA Guidelines (Sections 15122–15131). A Final EIR means an EIR containing the information contained in the draft EIR, comments either verbatim or in summary received in the review process, a list of persons commenting, and the response of the Lead Agency to the comments received (State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15362).

**Environmental Justice:** The fair treatment of people of all races and incomes with respect to development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. Fair treatment implies that no person or group of people should shoulder a disproportionate share of negative environmental and economic impacts resulting from the execution of environmental programs.

**Ephemeral:** Lasting a short time (i.e., not present year-long) ([www.dictionary.com](http://www.dictionary.com)).

**Epicenter:** The part of the Earth's surface directly above the focus of an earthquake.

**Equivalent Noise Level ( $L_{eq}$ ):** A single-number representation of the fluctuating sound level in decibels over a specified period of time. It is a sound-energy average of the fluctuating level.

**Erosion:** The process by which material is removed from the Earth's surface (including weathering, dissolution, abrasion, and transportation), most commonly by wind or water.

**Erosion Control:** The stabilization of cut and fill slopes and other areas.

**Ethnography:** A cultural anthropologic research method that strives to answer anthropological questions about different cultures' ways of life.

**Ethnohistory:** A branch of anthropology dealing with the development of cultures, as through the analysis of archaeological findings.

**Ethnolinguistics:** The study of language as an aspect or part of culture, esp. the study of the influence of language on culture and of culture on language.

**Eutrophication:** An increase in chemical nutrients, typically compounds containing nitrogen or phosphorus, in an ecosystem. These nutrients support a dense growth of algae and other organisms, the decay of which depletes the shallow waters of oxygen in summer.

**Evapotranspiration:** The sum of evaporation and plant transpiration from the Earth's land surface to atmosphere. Evaporation accounts for the movement of water to the air from sources such as the soil, canopy interception, and water bodies. Transpiration accounts for the movement of water within a plant and the subsequent loss of water as vapor through stomata in its leaves.

**Exceedance:** A measured level of an air pollutant higher than the national or State ambient air quality standards.

**Excess Storm Water Runoff Volume ( $\Delta V$ ):** The post-developed runoff volume minus the pre developed runoff volume for the 85th percentile storm event.

**Executive Order 11198:** A 1977 Executive Order designed to regulate impacts associated with development within a designated 100-year floodplain. This Executive Order is implemented through the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Floodplain Mapping Program and through federal agency review of projects that may require federal permits or approvals.

**Expansive Soils:** Soils that swell when they absorb water and shrink as they dry.

**Expressway:** A divided multi-lane major arterial street for through traffic with partial control of access and with grade separations at major intersections.

**Extant:** Existing.

**External Trips:** Trips with one trip end within the project site and one trip end outside of the project site. (e.g., traveling from your home in Lancaster directly to your job in Centennial is an external trip.)

**Fair Market Rent (FMR):** Fair Market Rents are freely set rental rates defined by HUD as the median gross rents charged for available standard units in a county or Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area (SMSA). Fair Market Rents are used for the Section 8 Rental Program and other HUD programs and are published annually by HUD.

**Family:** (1) Two or more persons related by birth, marriage, or adoption (U.S. Bureau of the Census). (2) An individual or a group of persons living together who constitute a bona fide single-family housekeeping unit in a dwelling unit, not including a fraternity, sorority, club, or other group of persons occupying a hotel, lodging house or institution of any kind (California).

**Farmland:** Refers to eight classifications of land mapped by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service. The five agricultural classifications, except Grazing Land, do not include publicly owned lands for which there is an adopted policy preventing agricultural use. They are Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, Unique Farmland, Farmland of Local Importance, and Grazing Land.

**Farmland of Local Importance:** Lands of importance, as identified by appropriate local agencies, for the production of food, feed, fiber, forage, and oilseed crops. These may also include lands that have been designated for agriculture by local ordinance (NRCS 2017a).

**Farmland of Statewide Importance:** Lands of importance, as defined and delineated by the appropriate State agencies, for the production of food, feed, fiber, forage, and oilseed crops. Generally, this land includes areas of soils that nearly meet the requirements for Prime Farmland and that economically produce high yields of crops when treated and managed according to acceptable farming methods. Some areas may produce as high a yield as Prime Farmland if conditions are favorable. Farmland of Statewide Importance may include tracts of land that have been designated for agriculture by State law (NRCS 2017a).

**Fault:** A fracture in the Earth's crust forming a boundary between rock masses that have shifted. An active fault is a fault that has moved recently and which is likely to again. An inactive fault is a fault which shows no evidence of movement in recent geologic time and no potential for movement in the relatively near future.

**Faulted and Folded Bedrock Structure:** The bedrock has been subject to folding and faulting activity resulting in a change in bedrock structure.

**Feasible:** Feasible means capable of being accomplished in a successful manner within a reasonable period of time, taking into account economic, environmental, legal, social, and technological factors (State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15364).

**Federal Antidegradation Policy:** A 1968 Federal Policy which includes a three-tiered approach to maintaining and protecting water quality. First, all existing beneficial uses and levels of water quality necessary to protect those uses must be preserved and protected from degradation. Second, water quality must be protected in areas where the quality cannot support the propagation of fish, shellfish, and wildlife and recreation ("fishable/swimmable"). Third, the policy provides special protection of waters for which the ordinary water quality criteria are not sufficient.

**Federal Aviation Administration (FAA):** The FAA is an agency of the United States Department of Transportation and is the principal agency responsible for implementing federal law regulating aviation activities in the United States.

**Federal Clean Air Act (FCAA):** A federal law passed in 1970 and amended in 1974, 1977, and 1990 which forms the basis for the national air pollution control effort. Basic elements of the act include national ambient air quality standards for major air pollutants, mobile and stationary control measures, air toxics standards, acid rain control measures, and enforcement provisions.

**Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA):** The federal agency under which the National Flood Insurance Program is administered.

**Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA):** Signed in 1978, the Act was designed to protect critically imperiled species from extinction as a “consequence of economic growth and development untended by adequate concern and conservation.” The FESA only protects species which are officially listed as “Threatened” or “Endangered”, as well as the habitat thereof. There are two categories on the list: Endangered and Threatened. Endangered species are closer to extinction than Threatened species.

**Fill:** Earthen material used to level or replace cut regions in an area prior to construction.

**Filter strips:** Land areas of either planted or indigenous vegetation, situated between a potential, pollutant-source area and a surface-water body that receives runoff. Filter strips also provide localized erosion protection since the vegetation covers an area of soil that otherwise might have a high erosion potential.

**Filtration:** The mechanical process that removes particulate matter from water by passing through sand or other media.

**Final Map:** A map of an approved subdivision filed in the county recorder’s office. It shows surveyed lot lines, street rights-of-way, easements, monuments, and distances, angles, and bearings, pertaining to the exact dimensions of all parcels, street lines, and so forth.

**Findings of Fact:** Findings required by CEQA are the conclusions made regarding the significance of a project in light of its environmental impacts. A public agency cannot approve or carry out a project for which an EIR has been certified which identifies one or more significant environmental effects of the project unless the public agency makes one or more written findings for each of those significant effects, accompanied by a brief explanation of the rationale for each finding (State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15091).  
**Fire Hazard Severity Zone:** An area where, due to slope, fuel, weather, or other fire-related conditions, the potential loss of life and property from a fire necessitates special fire protection measures and planning before development occurs. There are three zones, based on increasing fire hazard: medium, high, and very high.

**First-Time Home Buyer:** Defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as an individual or family who has not owned a home during the three-year period preceding the HUD-assisted purchase of a home. Jurisdictions may adopt local definitions for first-time home buyer programs which differ from non-federally funded programs.

**Fiscal Impact Assessment/Fiscal Impact Report:** A projection of the direct public costs and revenues resulting from population or employment change to the local jurisdiction(s) in which the change is taking place. Enables local governments to evaluate relative fiscal merits of general plans, specific plans, or projects. A Fiscal Impact Report (FIR) projects the public costs and revenues that will result from a proposed program or development.

**Fissure:** A long narrow opening; a crack or cleft.

**Fixed Noise Source:** A stationary device which creates sounds while fixed or motionless, including but not limited to, residential, agricultural, industrial, and commercial machinery and equipment, pumps, fans, compressors, air conditioners, and refrigeration equipment.

**Flood:** A general and temporary condition of partial or complete inundation of normally dry land areas from: (1) overflow of inland or tidal waters; (2) the unusual and rapid accumulation or runoff of surface waters from any source; (3) mudslides (i.e., mudflows) which are proximately caused by flood, and are akin to a river of liquid and flowing mud on the surface of normally dry land areas, as when earth is carried by a current of water and deposited along the path of the current; and (4) the collapse or subsidence of land along the shore of a lake or other body of water as a result of erosion or undermining caused by waves or currents of water exceeding the cyclical levels which result in flood.

**Flood, 25-Year:** A hydrologic event, such as a flood, having a 25-year average recurrence interval. In other words, a flood of this magnitude has a 4 percent chance of happening in any year.

**Flood, 50-Year:** A hydrologic event, such as a flood, having a 50-year average recurrence interval. In other words, a flood of this magnitude has a 2 percent chance of happening in any year.

**Flood, 100-Year:** The magnitude of a flood expected to occur on the average every 100 years, based on historical data. The 100-year flood has a 1/100, or one percent, chance of occurring in any given year.

**Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM):** For each community, the official map on which the Federal Insurance Administration has delineated areas of special flood hazard and the risk premium zones applicable to that community.

**Floodplain:** Any land area susceptible to being inundated by flood waters from any source. The relatively level land area on either side of the banks of a stream regularly subject to flooding. That part of the floodplain subject to a one percent chance of flooding in any given year is designated as an “area of special flood hazard” by the Federal Insurance Administration.

**Flood Plain Fringe:** All land between the floodway and the upper elevation of the 100-year flood.

**Floodplain Management:** The operation of an overall program of corrective and preventive measures for reducing flood damage, including but not limited to, emergency preparedness plans, flood control works, and floodplain management regulations.

**Floodway:** The channel of a river or other watercourse and the adjacent land areas that must be reserved in order to discharge the “base flood” without cumulatively increasing the water surface elevation more than one foot. No development is allowed in floodways.

**Floor Area Ratio (FAR):** The ratio of gross floor area of all buildings permitted on a site divided by the total net area of the site, expressed in decimals to one or two places. For

example, on a site with 10,000 net square feet of land area, a Floor Area Ratio of 1.0 will allow a maximum of 10,000 gross square feet of building floor area to be built. On the same site, an FAR of 1.5 would allow 15,000 square feet of floor area; an FAR of 2.0 would allow 20,000 square feet; and an FAR of 0.5 would allow only 5,000 square feet. Also commonly used in zoning, FARs typically are applied on a parcel-by-parcel basis as opposed to an average FAR for an entire land use or zoning district.

**Flow:** A flow is a sudden movement of a soil mass in which individual particles travel separately in a fluid motion. Debris and mudflows are rapid and can be related to excess rainfall on slopes often where vegetation has been removed. Debris flows often have the consistency of cement and can result in catastrophic effects to structures.

**Fluted:** Grooved or furrowed, as in a ruffle of cloth or on a piecrust ([www.dictionary.com](http://www.dictionary.com)).

**Foot-Candle:** The amount of light produced by this candle on one-square-foot of a spherical surface one foot from the light source.

**Foothill:** A relatively low hill on the lower slope of a mountain ([wordnet.princeton.edu](http://wordnet.princeton.edu)).

**Footprint (Building):** The outline of the ground area covered by a building.

**Foreground Zone:** Visual elements in this zone can be seen at a close distance and typically dominate the entire view. View impacts on this zone are often considered to be substantial because they are so visually prominent.

**Formation:** A geologic unit possessing similar characteristics and a shared history.

**Freeboard:** An additional amount of height above the Base Flood Elevation (in the case of flood control) used as a factor of safety (e.g., two feet above the Base Flood) in determining the level at which a structure's lowest floor must be elevated or flood proofed to be in accordance with State or community floodplain management regulations.

**Freeway:** A high-speed, high-capacity, limited-access road serving regional and county-wide travel. Such roads are free of tolls, as contrasted with "turnpikes" or other "toll roads" now being introduced into southern California. Freeways generally are used for long trips between major land use generators. At Level of Service "E", they carry approximately 1,875 vehicles per lane per hour, in both directions. Major streets cross at a different grade level.

**Freeway Mainline Segment:** A freeway mainline segment is a portion of a freeway/highway between ramps consisting of a continuous roadway without stop signs, stop lights, or intersections.

**Fugitive Dust:** Dust particles that are introduced into the air through certain activities such as soil cultivation, or vehicles operating on open fields or dirt roadways. A subset of fugitive emissions.

**Fugitive Emissions:** Emissions not caught by a capture system which are often due to equipment leaks, evaporative processes, and windblown disturbances.

**General Plan:** A compendium of city or county policies regarding long-term development, in the form of maps and accompanying text. A General Plan is a legal document required of each local agency by Section 65301 of the *California Government Code* and adopted by a city council or board of supervisors. California law requires the preparation of seven elements or chapters in a General Plan: Land Use, Housing, Circulation, Conservation, Open Space, Noise, and Safety. Additional elements are permitted.

**General Plan Amendment:** A change or addition to a community's general plan. A general plan can be amended up to four times a year.

**General Plan Consistency:** Compatibility and agreement with a general plan. Consistency exists when the standards and criteria of a general plan are met or exceeded.

**General Obligation Bond:** A tax-exempt bond issued by a public agency that must be repaid from general tax revenues rather than from specific revenue sources.

**Geographic Information System (GIS):** A computer system capable of storing, analyzing, and displaying data and describing places on the Earth's surface.

**Geologic Hazard Overlay (District):** A region subject to additional earthquake-related building requirements designed to protect the public health, safety and welfare.

**Geologic Review:** The analysis of geologic hazards, including all potential seismic hazards, surface ruptures, liquefaction, landsliding, mudsliding, and the potential for erosion and sedimentation.

**Geological:** Pertaining to rock or solid matter.

**Geometric Improvements:** Improvements to roads such as widening, adding signals to intersections, or adding turning lanes. These are required to mitigate traffic impacts and maintain a required level of service.

**Geomorphic:** Relating to the form or surface features of the Earth.

**Glare:** (1) Difficulty seeing in the presence of very bright light or, by extension, any sort of bright light capable of causing glare. (2) A form of light pollution or over-illumination ([www.reference.com](http://www.reference.com)).

**Global climate change:** A broad term used to describe any worldwide, long-term change in the Earth's climate.

**Global Warming:** More specific than global climate change and refers to a general increase in temperatures across the Earth. Global warming, characterized by rising atmospheric temperatures, can cause other climatic changes, such as a shift in the frequency and intensity of rainfall or hurricanes, but does not necessarily imply that all locations will be warmer. Global warming can be caused by natural processes, but there is a general scientific consensus that most current global warming is the result of human activity on the planet (ENVIRON 2009). This man-made warming is primarily caused by increased emissions of



“greenhouse gases”, which keeps the Earth’s surface warm and is called “the greenhouse effect”.

**Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (Assembly Bill [AB] 32):** Passed by the California Legislature in 2006, the Act caps global warming emissions at 1990 levels by 2020 (a 25 percent reduction); establishes a mandatory reporting program to the California Air Resources Board (CARB) for significant greenhouse gas emissions; requires CARB to adopt regulations for significant greenhouse gas emission sources (allowing CARB to design a cap and trade program) and gives CARB the authority to enforce the regulations beginning in 2012.

**Grade:** Adjacent ground level. For purposes of building height measurement, grade is the average of the finished ground level at the center of all walls of a building or other datum point established by the division of building and safety.

**Grading:** Alteration of existing slope and shape of the ground surface.

**Granodiorite:** An intrusive igneous rock similar to granite.

**Grazing Land:** Lands that include grazed forest lands, grazed croplands, haylands, and native/naturalized pasture. These lands provide significant forage resource for U.S. livestock production (NRCS 2017b).

**Greenbelt:** Statements of local policy adopted by one or more cities and the County of Ventura, either by resolution or ordinance. In Ventura County, greenbelts are areas where cities have agreed not to annex territory and the County has pledged to permit only open space or agricultural uses.

**Greenfield:** Farmland and open areas where there has been no prior industrial or commercial activity and therefore where the threat of contamination is much lower than in urbanized areas.

**Green infrastructure:** an alternative approach to traditional development that integrates, rather than fragments, natural systems. It aims to enhance natural open spaces and ecosystems while providing the utility of a traditional infrastructure system (Placeworks 2017).

**Gross Site Area:** The area within the lot lines of a parcel of land before public streets, alleys, easements, or other areas to be dedicated or reserved for public use have been deducted.

**Gross Square Feet/Gross Floor Area:** The total enclosed building area of all floors measured to the outside face of the structural members in exterior walls, and including the halls, stairways, elevator shafts at each floor level, service and mechanical equipment rooms, and habitable basement or attic areas, but excluding area of vehicle parking and loading. Parking structures shall not be considered building area for the purposes of calculating allowable floor area ratios.

**Ground Failure:** Ground movement or rupture caused by strong shaking during an earthquake. Includes landslide, lateral spreading, liquefaction, and subsidence.

**Ground-Modification Techniques:** Provide in-situ (i.e., without removal/in place) remediation of liquefaction potential by making the underlying granular materials more dense. Because one of the factors necessary for liquefaction to occur is loose soils, making the soils denser through techniques such as deep dynamic compaction, stone columns, and/or vibro-replacement remediates the potential for liquefaction. Ground-modification techniques are implemented where groundwater levels are less than about ten feet bgs and are specified in the geotechnical reports where appropriate.

**Ground Shaking:** Ground movement resulting from the transmission of seismic waves during an earthquake.

**Groundwater:** The term usually refers to the “saturated” zone in the ground where all the pore space between the soil particles is occupied by water. Water under the Earth's surface, often confined to aquifers capable of supplying wells and springs. Does not include water which is being produced with oil in the production of oil and gas or in a bona fide mining operation.

**Groundwater Basin:** A groundwater reservoir defined by the entire overlying land surface and the underlying aquifers that contain water stored in the reservoir. Boundaries of successively deeper aquifers may differ and make it difficult to define the limits of the basin.

**Groundwater Overdraft:** The condition of a groundwater basin in which the amount of water withdrawn by pumping exceeds the amount of water that recharges the basin over a period of years during which water supply conditions approximate average.

**Groundwater Recharge:** The natural process of infiltration and percolation of rainwater from land areas or streams through permeable soils into water-holding rocks that provide underground storage (i.e., aquifers); the action of increasing groundwater storage by natural conditions or by human activity. See also Artificial Recharge.

**Groundwater Table:** The upper surface of the zone of saturation (all pores of subsoil filled with water), except where the surface is formed by an impermeable body.

**Group Quarters:** A residential living arrangement, other than the usual house, apartment, or mobile home, in which two or more unrelated persons share living quarters and cooking facilities. Institutional group quarters include nursing homes, orphanages, and prisons. Non-institutional group quarters include dormitories, shelters, and large boardinghouses.

**Growth Area:** A geographic subarea used in Ventura County population forecasts to refer to an area where urban development has already taken place or is expected to take place.

**Growth Management:** The use by a community of a wide range of techniques in combination to determine the amount, type, and rate of development desired by the community and to channel that growth into designated areas. Growth management policies

can be implemented through growth rates, zoning, capital improvement programs, public facilities ordinances, urban limit lines, standards for levels of service, and other programs.

**Growth Management Plan (GMP):** A plan developed for a given geographical region (e.g., by the Southern California Association of Governments [SCAG]) that contains demographic projections (i.e., housing units, employment, and population for the region. The plan provides recommendations for local governments to better accommodate the growth projected by occur and reduce environmental impacts.

**Habitable Structures:** In this document, this term refers to man-made structures that are permanently (e.g., housing) or temporarily (e.g., stores, churches) inhabited by people and that could represent a danger in the event of a collapse due to seismic shaking. Small structures that can be vacated immediately (e.g., guard stations, gazebos, parking structures) are not considered to be habitable structures for seismic discussions.

**Habitat:** A place where a plant or animal naturally or normally lives or grows.

**Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP):** A plan required in support of a federal Section 10(a) permit under the federal Endangered Species Act.

**Hazard Index (HI):** The sum of hazard quotients for substances that affect the same target organ or organ system. A calculated HI exposure less than 1.0 will likely not result in adverse non-cancer health effects over a lifetime of exposure. However, an HI greater than 1.0 does not necessarily mean that adverse effects will occur.

**Hazard Quotient:** The ratio of the potential exposure to a substance and the level at which no adverse effects are expected.

**Hazardous Material:** A substance or combination of substances which because of its quantity, concentration, or physical, chemical or infectious characteristics, may either (1) cause, or significantly contribute to, an increase in mortality or an increase in serious, irreversible, or incapacitating reversible, illness or (2) pose a substantial present or potential hazard to human health or environment when improperly treated, stored, transported, disposed of or otherwise managed.

**Hazardous Waste:** A waste or combination of wastes that, because of its quantity, concentration, or physical, chemical, or infectious characteristics, may either cause or significantly contribute to an increase in mortality or an increase in serious irreversible illness, or pose a substantial present or potential hazard to human health or the environment when improperly treated, stored, transported, disposed of, or otherwise managed. A hazardous material than cannot be reused or recycled. A hazardous waste possesses at least one of four characteristics—ignitability, corrosivity, reactivity, or toxicity—or appears on special U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) or State lists. Hazardous waste is regulated under the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act and the *California Health and Safety Code*.

**Health Risk Assessment (HRA):** A document that identifies the risks and quantities of possible adverse health effects that may result from exposure to emissions of toxic air

contaminants. A health risk assessment cannot predict specific health effects; it only describes the increased possibility of adverse health effects based on the best scientific information available.

**Hearing loss:** The loss of auditory capacity. Can be caused by prolonged exposure to loud noise.

**Height:** The vertical distance from the adjacent grade to the highest point of that which is being measured.

**Heliport:** An identifiable area on land or water, including any building or facilities thereon, used or intended to be used for the landing and takeoff of helicopters. Does not include temporary landing and takeoff sites. Refueling and overnight maintenance are permitted.

**Helistop:** An identifiable area on land or water, including any building or facilities thereon, used or intended for the landing and takeoff of helicopters. Does not include temporary landing and takeoff sites. Refueling and overnight maintenance are not permitted.

**Herbicides:** Chemical compounds that are used to destroy or control the growth of weeds and other undesirable plants.

**Heritage Oak:** As detailed in the County of Los Angeles Oak Tree Ordinance, any tree in the genus *Quercus* that (1) measures 36 inches or more in diameter, as measured 4.5 feet above natural ground or (2) any oak of 36 inches or less in diameter having a significant historical or cultural importance.

**Hertz:** Unit of measurement of frequency, numerically equal to cycles per second.

**High-Occupancy Vehicle (HOV):** A motor vehicle that is carrying at least a minimum specified number of passengers (normally at least two or more, sometimes three or more). It can be a bus, a taxi with passengers, or a car or van used for carpooling.

**Hillside Management Area:** Any portion of a lot or parcel of land which contains terrain with a natural slope gradient 25 percent or greater (County of Los Angeles 2014).

**Highway:** High-speed, high-capacity, limited-access transportation facility serving regional and county-wide travel. Highways may cross at a different grade level.

**Hillsides:** Land that has an average percent of slope equal to or exceeding 15 percent.

**Historical resource:** A resource listed or eligible for listing on the California Register of Historical Resources, or included in a local register of historical resources. A determination of the nature of an unlisted historical resource can also be made by a lead agency, as detailed in the *California Public Resources Code* (Section 5020.1[j] or 5024.1). Historic resources include buildings, sites, objects, districts, and structures.

**Historically Significant (per CEQA):** The resource meets the criteria for listing on the California Register of Historical Resources” (*California Public Resources Code*, Section 5024.1; 14 CCR 4852), including if the resource:

- (1) Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California’s history and cultural heritage;
- (2) Is associated with lives of persons important in our past;
- (3) Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represents the work of an important creative individual, or possesses high artistic values; or
- (4) Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Holocene Era:** A geologic epoch extending from approximately 14,000 Years Before Present (YBP) through the present day.

**Holocene Maximum:** A period beginning in 3,500 YBP and exhibiting significantly warmer and wetter conditions than were experienced previously. Archaeologically, it was marked by a large population increase and movement into new environments along the south-central California coast and the Mojave Desert.

**Holocene time:** A geologic period, which began approximately 9600 BCE. The Holocene continues to the present.

**Hot Spot:** A localized concentration of an air pollutant associated with restricted dispersion conditions, often occurring in such places as street intersections or close to the source of emissions.

**Household:** The U.S. Census Bureau defines a household as all persons living in a housing unit whether or not they are related. A single person living in an apartment as well as a family living in a house is considered a household. Household does not include individuals in dormitories, prisons, convalescent homes, or other group quarters.

**Household Income:** The total income of all the persons living in a household. A household is usually described as very low income, low income, moderate income, and upper income based upon household size and income, relative to the regional median income.

**Households, Market Rate:** Households who, as determined by the county or county, have the financial capability to meet their housing needs without sacrificing other essential needs.

**Households, Non-Market-Rate:** Households who, as determined by the city or county, do not have the financial capability to meet their housing needs without sacrificing other essential needs.

**Housing and Community Development, California Department of (HCD):** The department of the California State Government which has responsibility for housing policy

and programs. HCD establishes the guidelines for preparation of local housing elements, prepares the statewide housing element, and offers technical assistance to local jurisdictions.

**Housing and Urban Development, U.S. Department of (HUD):** The cabinet level department of the federal government responsible for housing, housing assistance, and urban development at the national level. Housing programs administered through HUD include Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME, and Section 8.

**Housing Element:** One of the seven State-mandated elements of a local general plan, it assesses the existing and projected housing needs of all economic segments of the community, identifies potential sites adequate to provide the amount and kind of housing needed, and contains adopted goals, policies, and implementation programs for the preservation, improvement, and development of housing. Under State law, a housing element must be updated every five years.

**Housing and Urban Development, U.S. Department of (HUD):** A cabinet-level department of the federal government that administers housing and community development programs.

**Housing Subsidy:** Housing subsidies refer to government assistance aimed at reducing housing sales or rent prices to more affordable levels. Two general types of housing subsidy exist. Where a housing subsidy is linked to a particular house or apartment, housing subsidy is "project" or "unit" based. In Section 8 rental assistance programs the subsidy is linked to the family and assistance provided to any number of families accepted by willing private landlords. This type of subsidy is said to be "tenant based."

**Housing Unit:** The place of permanent or customary abode of a person or family. A housing unit may be a single-family dwelling, a multi-family dwelling, a condominium, a modular home, a mobile home, a cooperative, or any other residential unit considered real property under State law. A housing unit has, at least, cooking facilities, a bathroom, and a place to sleep. It also is a dwelling that cannot be moved without substantial damage or unreasonable cost.

**Human Scale:** The proportional relationship of a particular building, structure, or streetscape element to human form and function.

**Hydraulic conductivity:** The ability of water to migrate in the aquifer.

**Hydraulics:** The study and technological application of the behavior of fluids.

**Hydrocarbons (HC):** Compounds containing various combinations of hydrogen and carbon atoms. They may be emitted into the air by natural sources (e.g., trees) and as a result of fossil and vegetative fuel combustion, fuel volatilization, and solvent use. Hydrocarbons are a major contributor to smog.

**Hydroconsolidation:** Collapse with the addition of water, but under different mechanisms than liquefaction.

**Hydrogen Sulfide (H<sub>2</sub>S):** A colorless, flammable, poisonous compound having a characteristic rotten-egg odor. It is used in industrial processes and may be emitted into the air.

**Hydrology:** The study of the water cycle.

**Hydromodification:** Changes to the storm water runoff characteristics of a watershed caused by changes in land use.

**Hydrophobic:** Having low solubility in water.

**Illuminance:** The amount of total light received from a source by a unit of surface area.

**Impact:** The effect, influence, or imprint of an activity or the environment. Impacts include: direct or primary effects which are caused by the project and occur at the same time and place; indirect or secondary effects which are caused by the project and are later in time or farther removed in distance, but are still reasonably foreseeable. Indirect or secondary effects may include growth-inducing effects and other effects related to induced changes in the pattern of land use, population density, or growth rate and related effects on air and water and other natural systems, including ecosystems.

**Impact Fee:** A fee, also called a development fee, levied on the developer of a project by a city, county, or public agency as compensation for otherwise-unmitigated impacts the project will produce. The *California Government Code* (Sections 66000 et seq.) specifies that development fees shall not exceed the estimated reasonable cost of providing the service for which the fee is charged. To lawfully impose a development fee, the public agency must verify its method of calculation and document proper restrictions of use of the fund.

**Impervious Surface:** Ground surface that cannot be penetrated by water. Includes paved and compacted surfaces, as well as those covered by buildings.

**Important Farmlands:** Important farmlands include prime farmlands, farmlands of statewide importance, unique farmlands, and farmlands of local importance as defined and mapped by the California Department of Conservation (NRCS 2017a).

**Imported Water:** Water that has originated from one hydrologic region and is transferred to another hydrologic region.

**Impoundment:** A body of water, such as a pond, confined by a dam, dike, floodgate, or other barrier.

**Income Categories/Levels:** Four categories are used to classify a household according to the median income for the county. Under State housing statutes, these categories are as follows: Very Low (0 to 50 percent of county median); Low (50 percent to 80 percent of county median); Moderate (80 percent to 120 percent of county median); and Upper (over 120 percent of county median). Four levels are included relating to the Orange County HUD median income: Income I is defined as households earning 0 to 30 percent of the HUD county median income. Income II is defined as households earning 30 to 50 percent of the HUD

county median income. Income III is defined as households earning 50 to 80 percent of the HUD county median income. Income IV is defined as households earning 80 to 120 percent of the HUD county median income.

**Incorporation:** Creation of a new city.

**Incorporation by Reference:** Reliance on a previous environmental document for some portion of the environmental analysis of a project. An EIR or Negative Declaration may incorporate by reference all or portions of another document which is a matter of public record or is generally available to the public. Where all or part of another document is incorporated by reference, the incorporated language shall be considered to be set forth in full as part of the text of the EIR or Negative Declaration (State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15150).

**Indirect Impact:** Effects caused by an action that are later in time or farther removed in distance, but are still reasonably foreseeable. Indirect effects may include growth inducing effects and other effects related to induced changes in the pattern of land use, population density or growth rate, and related effects on air and water and other natural systems, including ecosystems.

**Indirect Source:** Any facility, building, structure, or installation, or combination thereof, which generates or attracts mobile source activity that results in emissions of any pollutant (or precursor) for which there is a State ambient air quality standard. Examples of indirect sources include employment sites, shopping centers, sports facilities, housing developments, airports, commercial and industrial development, and parking lots and garages.

**Indirect Source Control Program:** Rules, regulations, local ordinances and land use controls, and other regulatory strategies of air pollution control districts or local governments used to control or reduce emissions associated with new and existing indirect sources. Indirect source control programs include regulatory strategies such as transportation control measures (e.g., South Coast's Regulation XV for employer-based trip reduction); parking charges; land use controls that reduce the need for vehicle travel and increase transit, bicycle, and pedestrian access; and source-specific regulations such as truck idling and travel schedule requirements.

**Industrial:** The manufacture, production, and processing of consumer goods. Industrial is often divided into "heavy industrial" uses, such as construction yards, quarrying, and factories; and "light industrial" uses, such as research and development and less intensive warehousing and manufacturing.

**Inert Waste:** Includes materials that do not undergo physical or other changes after disposal, such as asphalt, concrete, dirt, and rock.

**Infiltration:** The introduction of underground water, such as groundwater, into wastewater collection systems. Infiltration results in increased wastewater flow levels.



**Infiltration basin:** A shallow impoundment that is designed to infiltrate storm water into the soil. Infiltration basins are believed to have a high pollutant removal efficiency, and can also help recharge the groundwater, thus restoring low flows to stream systems.

**Infiltration System:** An infiltration basin designed to capture runoff volume from the water quality design storm and infiltrate it to the soil.

**Infiltration trench:** A long, narrow, rock-filled trench with no outlet that receives storm water runoff. Runoff is stored in the void space between the stones and infiltrates through the bottom and into the soil matrix.

**Inflow:** Surface water, such as rainfall runoff, that enters a wastewater collection system through manhole covers and joints or cracks in pipes. Inflow results in increased wastewater flow levels.

**Infrastructure:** Permanent utility installations, including roads, water supply lines, sewage collection pipes, and power and communications lines.

**Initial Study:** Under CEQA, a preliminary analysis prepared by the Lead Agency to determine whether an EIR, a Negative Declaration, or Mitigated Negative Declaration must be prepared, or to identify the significant environmental effects to be analyzed in an EIR (State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15365).

**In-Situ:** A rock, mineral or fossil in its natural position, i.e., the situation in which it was originally formed or deposited.

**Institutional Use:** (1) Publicly or privately owned and operated activities such as hospitals, convalescent hospitals, intermediate care facilities, nursing homes, museums, and schools and colleges; (2) churches and other religious organizations; and (3) other non-profit activities of a welfare, educational, or philanthropic nature that cannot be considered residential, commercial, or industrial.

**Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE):** Organization for professional transportation engineers. ITE publishes the Trip Generation Manual, which provides information on trip generation for land uses and building types. For instance, if an individual needs to know the number of trip ends produced by an industrial park, the report provides a trip rate based upon the size of the building. The report also divides the trip rate into peak hour rates, weekday rates, etc.

**Integrated Waste Management Act (IWMA):** Also known as Assembly Bill (AB) 939 (Chapter 1095, Statutes of 1989), the IWMA created the Integrated Waste Management Board, required each jurisdiction in the state to submit detailed solid waste planning documents for Board approval, set diversion requirements of 25 percent in 1995 and 50 percent in 2000, established a comprehensive statewide system of permitting, inspections, enforcement, and maintenance for solid waste facilities, and authorized local jurisdictions to impose fees based on the types or amounts of solid waste generated.

**Integrated Waste Management Board (IWMB):** The State agency within CalEPA responsible for solid waste management (non-hazardous).

**Integrated Water Resources Management Strategy (IWRMS):** A planning policy document which identifies watershed management principles and related infrastructure and water resources planning initiatives incorporated into the Centennial Specific Plan. The Strategy provides a comprehensive framework for demonstrating the interrelationship of proposed systems for water supply, wastewater treatment/reclamation, flood control/drainage, water quality and sediment management.

**Intelligent Transportation System (ITS):** ITS improves transportation safety and mobility and enhances productivity through the integration of advanced communications technologies into the transportation infrastructure and in vehicles. ITS encompasses a broad range of wireless and wire line communications-based information and electronics technologies.

**Intensity, Building:** For residential uses, the actual number or the allowable range of dwelling units per net or gross acre. For non-residential uses, the actual or the maximum permitted floor area ratios (FARs).

**Inter-Agency:** Indicates cooperation between or among two or more discrete agencies in regard to a specific program.

***inter alia:*** Literally, “Among other things” (Latin). A term used in formal extract minutes to indicate that the minute quoted has been taken from a fuller record of other matters.

**Interest, Fee:** Entitles a land owner to exercise complete control over use of land, subject only to government land use regulations.

**Intermittent Stream:** A stream that normally flows for at least 30 days after the last major rain of the season and is dry a large part of the year.

**Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA):** This Congressional act requires states to develop a Statewide Transportation Plan and a Statewide Transportation Improvements Program (STIP) that identifies short-term project needs and priorities. It has also been a major source of funding for transportation planning and encourages the linking of transportation and community planning.

**Internal Trips:** Trips with both their origin and destination within the project site (e.g., traveling from your home in Centennial directly to the grocery store in Centennial is an internal trip).

**Intersection Capacity:** The maximum number of vehicles that has a reasonable expectation of passing through an intersection in one direction during a given time period under prevailing roadway and traffic conditions.

**Intersection Capacity Utilization (ICU):** A measure of the volume to capacity ratio for an intersection. Typically used to determine the peak hour level of service for a given set of

intersection volumes (e.g., an intersection with an ICU of 0.60 has 60 percent of the total available capacity being used by traffic).

**Intersection Capacity Utilization Method (ICU):** A method of analyzing intersection level of service by calculating a volume-to-capacity (V/C) ratio for each governing "critical" movement during a traffic signal phase. The V/C ratio for each phase is summed with the others at the intersection to produce an overall V/C ratio for the intersection as a whole. The ICU is usually expressed as a percent. The percent represents that portion of the hour required to provide sufficient capacity to accommodate all intersection traffic if all approaches operate at capacity. The V/C ratio represents the percent of intersection capacity used. For example, a V/C ratio of 0.85 indicates that 85 percent of capacity is being used.

**Intrusive Noise:** Noise which intrudes over and above the existing ambient noise at a given location. The relative intrusiveness of a sound depends upon its amplitude, duration, frequency, and time of occurrence and tonal or information content as well as the prevailing ambient noise level.

**Inversion Layer:** A condition in the atmosphere through which the temperature increases with altitude, holding cooler surface air down along with its pollutants.

**Jobs/Housing Balance or Jobs/Housing Ratio:** The jobs/housing ratio divides the number of jobs in an area by the number of employed residents. A ratio of 1.0 typically indicates a balance. A ratio greater than 1.0 indicates a net in-commute; less than 1.0 indicates a net out-commute.

**Jurisdiction by Law:** Jurisdiction by law means the authority of any public agency: (1) To grant a permit or other entitlement for use; (2) To provide funding for the project in question; or (3) To exercise authority over resources which may be affected by the project. A city or county will have jurisdiction by law with respect to a project when the city or county having primary jurisdiction over the area involved is: (1) The site of the project; (2) The area in which the major environmental effects will occur; and/or (3) The area in which reside those citizens most directly concerned by any such environmental effects. Where an agency having jurisdiction by law must exercise discretionary authority over a project in order for the project to proceed, it is also a Responsible Agency (State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15366).

**Kilowatt (kW):** One kilowatt is equal to 1,000 watts. Refers to the instantaneous amount of electricity used or generated.

**Lacustrine:** Deposited in a lake environment.

**Landfill:** An area of land or an excavation in which wastes are placed for permanent disposal, and that is not a land application unit, surface impoundment, injection well, or waste pile. Class I and Class II landfills are both hazardous waste landfills. Class I landfills have stricter controls than Class II landfills and can accept wastes not permitted in Class II facilities.

**Landmark:** (1) A building, site, object, structure, or significant tree, having historical, architectural, social, or cultural significance and marked for preservation by the local, State,

or federal government. (2) A visually prominent or outstanding structure or natural feature that functions as a point of orientation or identification.

**Landslide:** Down slope movement of soil and/or rock, which typically occurs during an earthquake or following heavy rainfall.

**Landslide Complex:** The association of geologic structure and deep-seated landsliding.

**Landslide debris:** Geologic evidence and debris resulting from previous hillside earth movements.

**Land Use:** The purpose or activity for which a piece of land or its buildings is designed, arranged, or intended, or for which it is occupied or maintained.

**Land Use Classification:** A system for classifying and designating the appropriate use of properties.

**Land Use Element:** A required element of the General Plan that uses text and maps to designate the future use or reuse of land within a given jurisdiction's planning area. The land use element serves as a guide to the structuring of zoning and subdivision controls, urban renewal, and capital improvements programs, and to official decisions regarding the distribution and intensity of development and the location of public facilities and open space. Designates the general location and intensity of housing, business, industry, open space, education, public buildings and grounds, waste disposal facilities, and other land uses.

**Land Use Plan:** An adopted map depicting the approximate location of residential, commercial, public, semi-public, and private uses, open space, and road systems with a statistical summary of areas and densities for these land uses.

**Land Use Regulation:** A term encompassing the regulation of land in general and often used to mean those regulations incorporated in the General Plan, as distinct from zoning regulations (which are more specific).

**Large Family/Household:** A family of 5 or more persons.

**Late Horizon:** A period of time beginning in approximately 1,000 Years Before Present (YBP) and corresponding with the Little Ice Age.

**Late Pleistocene Era:** A geologic epoch within the Pleistocene, extending from approximately 130,000 YBP through 14,000 YBP.

**Lateral Spreading:** Lateral movement of soil, often as a result of liquefaction during an earthquake.

**L<sub>dn</sub>:** Day-Night Average Sound Level. The A-weighted average sound level for a given area (measured in decibels) during a 24-hour period with a 10-decibel (dB) weighting applied to night-time sound levels. The L<sub>dn</sub> is approximately numerically equal to the Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL) for most environmental settings.

**Leachate:** A product or solution formed by leaching (The removal of soluble material from a substance, such as soil or rock, through the percolation of water), especially a solution containing contaminants picked up through the leaching of soil ([www.dictionary.com](http://www.dictionary.com)).

**Lead Agency:** The public agency which has the principal responsibility for carrying out or approving a project. The Lead Agency will decide whether an EIR or Negative Declaration will be required for the project and will cause the document to be prepared (State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15367).

**Leq:** The energy equivalent level, defined as the average sound level on the basis of sound energy (or sound pressure squared). The  $L_{eq}$  is a “dosage” type measure and is the basis for the descriptors used in current standards, such as the 24-hour CNEL used by the State of California.

**Level of Concern (LOC):** The concentration of a potentially hazardous material in the air above which there may be serious irreversible health effects or death as a result of a single exposure for a relatively short period of time.

**Level of Service (LOS):** LOS is the qualitative measure that incorporates the collective factors of speed, travel time, traffic interruption, freedom to maneuver, safety, driving comfort and convenience, and operating costs provided by a highway facility under a particular volume condition. A scale based on a rating of A (best) to F (worst) used to evaluate circulation system performance based on Intersection Capacity Utilization (ICU) values, average vehicle delay, vehicle density, or volume/capacity ratios of arterial segments.

*Level of Service A:* Indicates a relatively free flow of traffic, with little or no limitation on vehicle movement or speed.

*Level of Service B:* Describes a steady flow of traffic, with only slight delays in vehicle movement and speed. All queues clear in a single signal cycle.

*Level of Service C:* Denotes a reasonably steady, high-volume flow of traffic, with some limitations on movement and speed, and occasional backups on critical approaches.

*Level of Service D:* Designates the level where traffic nears an unstable flow. Intersections still function, but short queues develop and cars may have to wait through one cycle during short peaks.

*Level of Service E:* Represents traffic characterized by slow movement and frequent (although momentary) stoppages. This type of congestion is considered severe, but is not uncommon at peak traffic hours, with frequent stopping, long-standing queues, and blocked intersections.

*Level of Service F:* Describes unsatisfactory stop-and-go traffic characterized by “traffic jams” and stoppages of long duration. Vehicles at signalized intersections usually have to wait through one or more signal changes, and “upstream” intersections may be blocked by the long queues.

**Life-Cycle Costing:** A method of evaluating a capital investment that takes into account the sum total of all costs associated with the investment over the lifetime of the project.

**Light (duty) Rail Transit (LRT):** “Street cars” or “trolley cars” that typically operate entirely or substantially in mixed traffic and in non-exclusive, at-grade rights-of-way. Passengers typically board vehicles from the street level (as opposed to a platform that is level with the train) and the driver may collect fares. Vehicles are each electrically self-propelled and usually operate in one or two-car trains.

**Light Spill:** When light shines beyond the intended area and illuminates an unintended area.

**Lignitic:** Coal-bearing.

**Lineament:** A linear topographic feature, often used to describe a portion of a fault line.

**Line Source:** A long, narrow source of air pollutant emissions such as a roadway or runway.

**Linked Trips:** A series of individual trips made between a primary origin and a primary destination. (e.g., traveling from your home in Centennial to a school in Centennial, then to a coffee shop in Centennial, then to your job in Valencia represents three trips (two internal and one external), and six trip ends.

**Liquefaction:** Liquefaction is the state or process in which surface and near-surface material (e.g., soils, alluvium) is transformed from a solid into a liquid state. This occurs due to increased pore pressure and reduced effective stress. Soil may become liquefied, for example, during and immediately following an earthquake.

**Little Ice Age:** A period of global cooling and advancement of ice sheets between 1280 and 1860.

**L<sub>max</sub>:** the highest noise level measured during the time noise is measured.

**Local Agency:** Local agency means any public agency other than a State agency, board, or commission. Local agency includes but is not limited to cities, counties, charter cities and counties, districts, school districts, special districts, redevelopment agencies, local agency formation commissions, and any board, commission, or organizational subdivision of a local agency when so designated by order or resolution of the governing legislative body of the local agency (State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15368).

**Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO):** A five- or seven-member commission for each County that reviews and evaluates all proposals for formation of special districts, incorporation of cities, annexation to special districts or cities, consolidation of districts, and merger of districts with cities. Each County's LAFCO is empowered to approve, disapprove, or conditionally approve such proposals. The five LAFCO members generally include two county supervisors, two city council members, and one member representing the general public. Some LAFCOs include two representatives of special districts.

**Local Enforcement Agency (LEA):** The local government entity that acts in the capacity as solid waste enforcement agency (*California Code of Regulations*, Title 14, Section 18011[a][14]).

**Los Angeles County Flood Control Act of 1915:** An Act of the California State Legislature which authorized the formation of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (District or LACFCD) for the purpose of controlling and conserving the district's flood, storm, and other waste waters for beneficial and useful purposes. The act enables the District to identify projects that would improve conservation and replenishment of water resources. The act also empowers the District to protect the harbors, waterways, public highways, and property within its jurisdiction from damage from such waters, providing for recreational use of district facilities and enhancing scenic beauty are also part of its duties.

**Lot:** An area of land created or established for purposes of sale, lease, finance, division of interest or separate use, separated from other lands by description on a final map or parcel map.

**Lot of Record:** A lot that is part of a recorded subdivision or a parcel of land that has been recorded at the county recorder's office containing property tax records.

**Low-Income Household:** A household with an annual income usually no greater than 80 percent of the area median family income adjusted by household size, as determined by a survey of incomes conducted by a city or a county, or in the absence of such a survey, based on the latest available eligibility limits established by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the Section 8 housing program.

**Mano:** The upper or hand-held stone used when grinding maize or other grains on a metate.

**Manufactured Slope:** A slope created by grading that consists of cut and fill material.

**Massive:** Rocks of any origin that are more or less homogenous in texture or fabric.

**Mass Grading:** A grading technique in which all lots, building pads, and streets are generally graded over the entire area resulting in the disruption of the majority of the onsite natural grade and vegetation and/or often resulting in, but not required to result in, a successive pad/terrace configuration.

**Master Association and Neighborhood Associations:** Each association will be a California nonprofit mutual benefit corporation or substantially similar entity.

*Master Association:* The master association will be established by the master developer. Through the master Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions (the "master CC&Rs"), the master developer as "Declarant" will subject the entire master planned development to (1) a common plan of development to implement a master planned community pursuant to California Department of Real Estate (DRE) Regulation 2792.32 and (2) the master association. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the master association will be responsible for the maintenance of all

common areas which are not subject to any neighborhood CC&Rs as defined below. As envisioned, the master association will incorporate communities of various types.

*Neighborhood Associations:* Neighborhood associations will have subordinate, concurrent jurisdiction with the master association. Any one neighborhood association will have jurisdiction over only a delineated, usually contiguous portion (rather than the entirety) of the master planned development. Neighborhood associations will reflect the various land uses; some neighborhood associations may be residential, while other may be commercial or industrial. Each merchant builder, acting as "Declarant" pursuant to a neighborhood Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions ("neighborhood CC&Rs") as developed by such merchant builder, will subject the corresponding real property owned by such merchant builder to (1) a common plan of development and (2) the corresponding neighborhood association. It is anticipated that each merchant builder will re-subdivide such real property in furtherance of that merchant builder's common plan of development for such real property.

**Master Plan of Arterial Highways (MPAH):** A diagram in the Circulation Element which illustrates the arterial designation of roadways. Each arterial designation defines the number of ultimate lanes planned for a given roadway. Arterial designations include: Freeway, Transportation Corridor, Expressway, Major Highway, Primary Highway, Secondary Highway, and Commuter Highway.

**Materials Recovery Facility (MRF):** An intermediate processing facility designed to remove recyclables and other valuable materials from the waste stream for purposes of recycling or composting. A "dirty MRF" removes reusable materials from unseparated trash. A "clean MRF" separates materials from commingled recyclables, typically collected from residential or commercial curbside programs.

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** Standards/limits set for Primary Drinking Water Standards for public water systems with respect to levels of contaminants that may cause adverse health effects.

**Maximum Credible Earthquake:** The largest Richter magnitude (M) seismic event that appears to be reasonably capable of occurring under the conditions of the presently known geological framework.

**Maximum Extent Practicable (MEP):** The extent to which storm water management practices are required to be implemented to reduce storm water pollution. All management practices that are effective at reducing storm water pollution are required to be implemented, except when any of the following conditions are met: (1) other effective management practices would achieve greater or substantially the same pollution control benefits; (2) the management practices would not be technically feasible; (3) the cost of management practice implementation would greatly outweigh pollution control benefits; or, (4) implementation of the management practice would compromise other legal or institutional constraints, expectations, and obligations imposed by federal or State statute or case law.



**Median:** A physical divider separating lanes of traffic that typically are traveling in opposite directions. A median is often installed to prohibit unsafe turning movements. It can also be used to beautify a streetscape.

**Median Income:** The annual income of each household size within a region which is defined annually by HUD. Half of the households in the region have incomes above the median and half have incomes below the median.

**Median Strip:** The dividing area, either paved or landscaped, between opposing lanes of traffic on a roadway.

**Megawatt (mW):** One megawatt is equal to 1,000 kilowatts, or one million watts. Refers to the instantaneous amount of electricity being used or generated.

**Memorandum of Understanding (MOU):** A common form of formal agreement between government agencies.

**Mercalli Intensity Scale:** A subjective measure of the observed effects (human reactions, structural damage, geologic effects) of an earthquake. Expressed in Roman numerals from I to XII.

**Merger (District):** Elimination of a special district by transferring its service responsibilities to a city government. The merging district's territory must be totally included inside the city.

**Metate:** A flat stone that has a shallow depression in the upper surface for holding maize or other grains to be ground with a mano.

**Mexican Period:** California regional history between 1821 through 1848.

**Midden:** A mound of domestic refuse containing shells and animal bones marking the site of a prehistoric settlement.

**Middle Horizon (aka Intermediate Period):** Between 3,500 Years Before Present (YBP) and 1,500 YBP.

**Middleground Zone:** Visual elements in this zone can be seen at a moderate distance and partially dominate the view.

**Military Operations Area (MOA):** airspace established outside Class A airspace to separate or segregate certain nonhazardous military activities (Federal Aviation Regulations, Part 1, Section 1.1).

**Mineral Resource:** Land on which known deposits of commercially viable mineral or aggregate deposits exist. This designation is applied to sites determined by the State Division of Mines and Geology as being a resource of regional significance, and is intended to help maintain the quarrying operations and protect them from encroachment of incompatible land uses.

**Mineral Resource Zones:** Zones that have been identified as having potential mineral and aggregate resources. The State Mining and Geology Board recommends that these lands be preserved as open space or used for interim uses to allow for future extraction.

**Ministerial (Administrative) Decision:** Describes a governmental decision involving little or no personal judgment by the public official as to the wisdom or manner of carrying out the project. The public official merely applies the law to the facts as presented, but uses no special discretion or judgment in reaching a decision. A ministerial decision involves only the use of fixed standards or objective measurements, and the public official cannot use personal, subjective judgment in deciding whether or how the project should be carried out. Common examples of ministerial permits include automobile registrations, dog licenses, and marriage licenses. A building permit is ministerial if the ordinance requiring the permit limits the public official to determining whether the zoning allows the structure to be built in the requested location, the structure would meet the strength requirements in the Uniform Building Code, and the applicant has paid his fee (State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15369).

**Mitigation:** Mitigation refers to (1) avoiding the impact altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of an action; (2) minimizing impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation; (3) rectifying the impact by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the impacted environment; (4) reducing or eliminating the impact over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the action; or, (5) compensating for the impact by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments (State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15370).

**Mitigation Measure:** Action taken to reduce or eliminate environmental impacts. Mitigation includes avoiding the impact altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of an action; minimizing impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation; rectifying the impact by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected environment; reducing or eliminating the impact over time by preservation and maintenance during the life of the action; and compensating for the impact by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments.

**Mitigation Monitoring Program:** When a lead agency adopts a mitigated negative declaration or an EIR, it must adopt a program of monitoring or reporting which will ensure that mitigation measures are implemented. (See *California Public Resources Code*, Section 21081.6[a]; State CEQA Guidelines, Sections 15091[d] and 15097).

**Mixed Use:** Properties on which various uses, such as office, commercial, institutional, and residential, are combined in a single building or on a single site in an integrated development project with significant functional interrelationships and a coherent physical design. A “single site” may include contiguous properties.

**Mobile Sources:** A source of air pollution that is related to transportation vehicles, such as automobiles, motorcycles, trucks, off-road vehicles, boats, and airplanes.

**Moderate Income Household:** A household with an annual income between the lower income eligibility limits and 120 percent of the area median family income adjusted by

household size, usually as established by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the Section 8 housing program.

**Monterey Agreement:** Signed by California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and many of the agricultural and urban State Water Project (SWP) contractors in 1994, it established principles to be incorporated in contract amendments (the Monterey Amendments) to be offered to the SWP contractors. The overall goals of the Agreement were to resolve conflicts and disputes among SWP contractors regarding water allocations and financial responsibilities for SWP operations, to restructure and clarify procedures for SWP water allocation and delivery during times of shortage and surplus, and to reduce financial pressures on agricultural contractors in times of drought and supply reductions.

**Motor Vehicle:** A motor vehicle shall include any and all self-propelled vehicles as defined in the *California Motor Vehicle Code* including all on-highway type motor vehicles subject to registration under said code and all off-highway type motor vehicles subject to identification under said code.

**MS4:** See municipal separate storm sewer system.

**Mudflow (Mudslide):** A river flow or inundation of liquid mud down a hillside, usually as a result of a dual condition of loss of brush cover and the subsequent accumulation of water on or under the ground, preceded by a period of unusually heavy or sustained rain.

**Muller:** An implement of stone or other substance with a flat base for grinding paints, powders, etc., on a slab of stone.

**Multimodal:** More than one mode of transportation in the same geographic area.

**Multiple-Family (Multi-Family) Dwelling Unit:** A building or portion of a building containing two or more dwelling units with each dwelling unit occupied by only one household.

**Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP):** A cooperative, long-term habitat conservation planning program for southwestern San Diego County, as authorized under the federal and California Endangered Species Acts and the California Natural Communities Conservation Planning Act. The MSCP is designed to preserve an interconnected system of viable native habitat for the protection of multiple sensitive species by identifying priority conservation areas, Multiple-Habitat Planning Areas (MHPA), where development will be restricted and areas outside the MHPA where future development will be directed.

**Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit, Los Angeles:** The Los Angeles County MS4 Permit is being used as a benchmark for the entire Project site even though it only technically applies to that portion of the Project site located in the boundaries of the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (LARWQCB) because the portion of the Project site within the Lahontan Region is not currently covered under a separate MS4 Permit.

**Municipal Services:** Services traditionally provided by local government, including water and sewer, roads, parks, schools, and police and fire protection.

**National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS):** Standards set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for the maximum levels of air pollutants that can exist in the ambient air without unacceptable effects on human health or public welfare. There are two types of NAAQS. Primary standards set limits to protect public health and secondary standards set limits to protect public welfare.

**National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA):** In 1969, the National Environmental Policy Act was enacted establishing a national environmental policy and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) to advise the President on environmental issues. NEPA requires the preparation of environmental impact statements (EIS) for all major federal actions which would have a significant effect on the environment. NEPA served as a model for the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) enacted in 1970.

**National Flood Insurance Program:** A federal program that authorizes the sale of federally subsidized flood insurance in communities where such flood insurance is not available privately.

**National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permits:** Under the NPDES Program (Federal Clean Water Act), any person responsible for the discharge of a pollutant or pollutants into any waters of the United States from any point source must apply for and obtain a permit. According to Section 402 of the Clean Water Act, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is the issuing authority for all NPDES permits in a state until such time as the State elects to take over the administration and obtains EPA approval of its programs. (The State Water Resources Control Board [SWRCB] has this authority in California.) Dischargers are required to disclose the volume and nature of their discharges. Further, the EPA or equivalent State Agency has the authority to specify limitations to be imposed on discharges and to require monitoring and reporting as to compliance or non-compliance.

**National Primary Drinking Water Regulations:** Legally enforceable standards that apply to public water systems. Primary standards protect public health by limiting the levels of contaminants in drinking water. These limits are also known as maximum contaminant levels (MCLs).

**National Register of Historic Places:** The official inventory established by the National Historic Preservation Act of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering and culture.

**National Secondary Drinking Water Regulations:** Non-enforceable guidelines regulating contaminants that may cause cosmetic effects (such as skin or tooth discoloration) or aesthetic effects (such as taste, odor, or color) in drinking water. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) recommends secondary standards to water systems, but does not require systems to comply.

**Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP):** NCCP generally refers to a plan authorized pursuant to the Natural Communities Conservation Planning Act.

**Natural Grade:** The grade unaffected by construction techniques such as fill, landscaping, or berming.

**Neighborhood:** A planning area commonly identified as such in a community's planning documents, and by the individuals residing and working within the neighborhood. Documentation may include a map prepared for planning purposes, on which the names and boundaries of the neighborhood are shown.

**Neighborhood Park:** City- or county-owned land intended to serve the recreational needs of people living or working within one-half mile radius of the park.

**Net Site Area:** The total horizontal area within the property lines of a parcel of land. All rights-of-way or easements which physically prohibit the surface use of that portion of the property for other than vehicular ingress and egress are excluded.

**New Source Review (NSR):** A Clean Air Act requirement that State Implementation Plans must include a permit review, which applies to the construction and operation of new and modified stationary sources in non-attainment areas, to ensure attainment of national ambient air quality standards. The two major requirements of NSR are Best Available Control Technology and Emission Offsets.

**Nighttime Light and Glare:** Indirect reflected light generated on the Project site during the night. Nighttime sources of light would include streetlights, vehicle headlights, and lights used within and around buildings located throughout the Project site.

**Nitric Oxide (NO):** Precursor of ozone, nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), and nitrate; nitric oxide is usually emitted from combustion processes. Nitric oxide is converted to NO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere, and then becomes involved in the photochemical processes and/or particulate formation.

**Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>):** A secondary contaminant formed through a reaction between nitric oxide (NO) and atmospheric oxygen, irritates the lungs at high concentrations and contributes to ozone formation.

**Nitrogen Oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>):** Chemical compounds containing nitric oxide (NO), nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), and oxygen; reacts with volatile organic compounds in the presence of heat and sunlight to form ozone. It is also a major precursor to acid rain. A reddish brown gas that is a byproduct of combustion and ozone formation processes. Often referred to as NO<sub>x</sub>, this gas gives smog its "dirty air" appearance. NO<sub>2</sub> is a criteria air pollutant, and may result in numerous adverse health effects.

**Noise:** Any sound that is undesirable because it interferes with speech and hearing, or is intense enough to damage hearing, or is otherwise annoying. Noise is unwanted sound.

**Noise Attenuation:** Reduction of the level of a noise source with distance using a substance, material, or surface, such as earth berms and/or solid concrete walls.

**Noise Barrier:** A wall or other solid structure constructed with the objective of attenuating (i.e., reducing) noise behind the barrier; commonly, a noise wall along a roadway.

**Noise Cone:** A three-dimensional cone-shaped representation of noise impacts of aircraft use.

**Noise Contour:** A line connecting points of equal noise level as measured on the same scale. Noise levels greater than the 60 L<sub>dn</sub> contour (measured in dBA) require noise attenuation in residential development.

**Noise Disturbance:** An alleged intrusive noise which violates an applicable standard, as set forth in the Los Angeles County Code (see Section 12.08.230, Noise disturbance, of the Los Angeles County Code).

**Noise Element:** One of the seven State-mandated elements of a local general plan. It assesses noise levels of highways and freeways, local arterials, railroads, airports, local industrial plants, and other ground stationary sources, and adopts goals, policies, and implementation programs to reduce the community's exposure to noise.

**Noise Sensitive Use:** Any use (i.e., residential development) or designated geographic area (i.e., hospital complex) where “intrusive noise” is incompatible with the conduct of the noise sensitive uses or constitutes a “noise disturbance” for residents or works. “Noise sensitive areas” are not specifically defined in the County Code. Typical noise-sensitive uses can include schools, day-care centers, hospitals, and other types of uses.

**Non-Attainment:** The condition of not achieving a desired or required level of performance. Frequently used in reference to air quality. A geographic area identified by the USEPA and/or the California Air Resources Board as not meeting either National or California Ambient Air Quality standards for a given pollutant.

**Non-Conforming Use:** A use that was valid when brought into existence, but by subsequent regulation becomes no longer conforming. "Non-conforming use" is a generic term and includes (1) non-conforming structures (by virtue of size, type of construction, location on land, or proximity to other structures), (2) non-conforming use of a conforming building, (3) non-conforming use of a non-conforming building, and (4) non-conforming use of land. Thus, any use lawfully existing on any piece of property that is inconsistent with a new or amended General Plan, and that in turn is a violation of a zoning ordinance amendment subsequently adopted in conformance with the General Plan, will be a non-conforming use. Typically, non-conforming uses are permitted to continue for a designated period of time, subject to certain restrictions.

**Non-Growth Area:** A geographic subarea used in Ventura County population forecasts to refer to an area where urban development is not expected to occur.

**Non-Point Source:** Air pollution sources that are not at individual, stationary locations (i.e., mobile source or area source).

**Non-Point Source Discharge:** Discharge from a diffuse pollution source (i.e., without a single point of origin or not introduced into a receiving stream from a specific outlet).

**Non-Storm Water Discharge:** Any discharge to a storm drain system or receiving water that is not composed entirely of storm water.

**Notice of Completion:** A brief notice filed with the Office of Planning and Research (OPR) by a Lead Agency as soon as it has completed a draft EIR, and is prepared to send out copies for review (State CEQA Guidelines, Section15372).

**Notice of Determination (NOD):** A brief notice to be filed by a public agency after it approves or determines to carry out a project which is subject to the requirements of CEQA (State CEQA Guidelines, Section15373). The filing of the NOD starts the statute of limitations period.

**Notice of Exemption:** A brief notice which may be filed by a public agency after it has decided to carry out or approve a project and has determined that the project is exempt from CEQA as being ministerial, categorically exempt, an emergency, or subject to another exemption from CEQA. Such a notice may also be filed by an applicant where such a determination has been made by a public agency which must approve the project (CEQA Guidelines, Section15374).

**Notice of Preparation:** A brief notice sent by a Lead Agency to notify responsible agencies, trustee agencies, and involved federal agencies that the Lead Agency plans to prepare an EIR for the project. The purpose of the notice is to solicit guidance from those agencies as to the scope and content of the environmental information to be included in the EIR. Public agencies are free to develop their own formats for this notice (State CEQA Guidelines, Section15375).

**Oak Woodland Conservation Act:** Passed by the California Legislature in 2001, the Act established the Oak Woodland Conservation Program to be administered by the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB). The Oak Woodland Conservation Program was designed to provide \$10 million to help local jurisdictions protect and enhance their oak woodland resources. It offers landowners, conservation organizations, and cities and counties an opportunity to obtain funding for projects designed to conserve and restore California's oak woodlands, and authorizes the WCB to purchase oak woodland conservation easements and provide grants for land improvements and oak restoration efforts.

**Objective:** A description of a desired condition for a resource. A specific statement of desired future condition toward which the City or County will expend effort in the context of striving to achieve a broader goal. An objective should be achievable and, where possible, should be measurable and time-specific. The *California Government Code* (Section 65302) requires that general plans spell out the "objectives," principles, standards, and proposals of the general plan. "The addition of 100 units of affordable housing by 1995" is an example of an objective.

**Off-Site Noise-Sensitive Receptor:** Considered to be a single-family or multi-family residence, school, convalescent or acute care hospital, park or recreation area, and/or church.

**Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA):** A department within the California Environmental Protection Agency that is responsible for evaluating chemicals for adverse health impacts and establishing safe exposure levels. OEHHA also assists in performing health risk assessments and developing risk assessment procedures for air quality management purposes.

**Office Use:** The use of land by general business offices, medical and professional offices, administrative or headquarters offices for large wholesaling or manufacturing operations, and research and development.

**Ohm-cm:** In physics, ohm is a measure of resistivity. Resistivity is measured in ohm-centimeters (cm).

**Older Alluvium:** Soil or sediments deposited by a previously existing river or other running water. Alluvium is typically made up of a variety of materials, including fine particles of silt and clay and larger particles of sand and gravel.

**Open Space:** Land that has been left in its natural state and has not been developed with primary or accessory structures.

**Open Space Element:** One of the seven State-mandated elements of a local general plan. It contains an inventory of privately and publicly owned open-space lands, and adopted goals, policies, and implementation programs for the preservation, protection, and management of open space lands.

**Ordinance:** A law or regulation set forth and adopted by a governmental authority, usually a city or county.

**Organic Compounds:** A large group of chemical compounds containing mainly carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, and oxygen. All living organisms are made up of organic compounds.

**Outdoor Advertising Structure:** Any device used or intended to direct attention to a business, profession, commodity, service, or entertainment conducted, sold, or offered elsewhere than upon the lot where such device is located.

**Outdoor Recreation Use:** A privately or publicly owned or operated use providing facilities for outdoor recreation activities.

**Outer Approach Zone:** Airspace in which an air-traffic controller initiates radar monitoring for incoming flights approaching an airport.



**Overcrowding:** As defined by the U.S. Census, a household with greater than 1.01 persons per room, excluding bathrooms, kitchens, hallways, and porches. Severe overcrowding is defined as households with greater than 1.51 persons per room.

**Overexcavate:** To excavate beyond a project footprint, or to a specific depth, as a means to remove soils exhibiting undesirable engineering characteristics.

**Overlay:** A land use designation on the land use map, or a zoning designation on a zoning map, that modifies the basic underlying designation in some specific manner.

**Overpayment:** The extent to which gross housing costs, including utility costs, exceed 30 percent of gross household income, based on data published by the U.S. Census Bureau. Severe overpayment, or cost burden, exists if gross housing costs exceed 50 percent of gross income.

**Oxides of Nitrogen:** A reddish-brown gas with an odor similar to bleach. The major source of this pollutant is the high temperature combustion of fossil fuels. Health effects include irritation and damage to lungs and lower resistance to respiratory infections.

**Ozone (O<sub>3</sub>):** A compound consisting of three oxygen atoms that is the primary constituent of smog. It is formed through chemical reactions in the atmosphere involving volatile organic compounds, nitrogen oxides, and sunlight. Ozone can irritate the lungs as well as damage to trees, crops, and materials. There is a natural layer of ozone in the upper atmosphere which shields the earth from harmful ultraviolet radiation. Ozone is a criteria pollutant.

**Ozone Precursors:** Chemicals such as non-methane hydrocarbons and oxides of nitrogen, occurring either naturally or as a result of human activities, which contribute to the formation of ozone, a major component of smog.

**PM:** Particulate matter (PM) pollution consists of very small liquid and solid particles floating in the air. These particles represent a concern to public health because the particles are small enough to be inhaled into the deepest part of the lung. There are two classifications of PM: PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>. PM<sub>10</sub> particles are less than 10 microns in diameter, and PM<sub>2.5</sub> particles are less than 2.5 microns in diameter.

**Paleoclimatic:** Relating to climate of some former period of geologic time.

**Paleoindian Period:** Approximately 12,000–10,500 Years Before Present (YBP).

**Paleontological Resource:** A geologic unit or formation from which fossils have previously been recovered, including unique or important fossils.

**Paleontological Site:** Any area or location containing a trace or impression, or the remains, of plants or animals from past ages.

**Palliative:** Tending or serving to relieve or lessen without curing; mitigate; alleviate.

**Palustrine:** A non-tidal marsh without flowing water.

**Parcel:** The basic unit of land entitlement. A designated area of land established by plat, subdivision, or otherwise legally defined and permitted to be used or built upon. A lot, or contiguous group of lots, in single ownership or under single control, usually considered a unit for purposes of development.

**Parcel Map:** A map depicting the establishment of up to four new lots by splitting a recorded lot. Parcel maps are subject to the California Subdivision Map Act and a city's subdivision regulations.

**Parks, Park Land, Parkland:** Open space lands whose primary purpose is recreation. Land that is publicly owned or controlled for the purpose of providing parks, recreation, or open space for public use.

**Parking Area, Public:** An open area, excluding a street or other public way, used for the parking of automobiles and available to the public, whether for free or for compensation.

**Parking Management:** An evolving TDM technique designed to obtain maximum utilization from a limited number of parking spaces. Can involve pricing and preferential treatment for high occupancy vehicles, non-peak period users, and short-term users.

**Parking Ratio:** The number of parking spaces provided per 1,000 square of floor area (e.g., 2:1 or "two per thousand").

**Parking, Shared:** A public or private parking area used jointly by two or more uses.

**Parking Space, Compact:** A parking space (usually 7.5 feet wide by 16 feet long when perpendicular to a driveway or aisle) permitted in some localities on the assumption that many modern cars are significantly smaller, and require less room, than a standard automobile. A standard parking space, when perpendicular to a driveway or aisle, is usually 8.5 feet wide by 18 feet long.

**Parkway:** An expressway or freeway designed for non-commercial traffic only; usually located within a strip of landscaped park or natural vegetation.

**Parkway Strip:** A piece of land located between the rear of a curb and the front of a sidewalk, usually used for planting low ground cover and/or street trees, also known as "planter strip."

**Particulate Matter:** Any material except uncombined water which exists in a finely divided form and is a liquid or solid at standard conditions. The size of particulate matter can vary from coarse, wind-blown dust particles to fine particle combustion products.

**Particulate Matter, Fine (PM<sub>2.5</sub>):** PM<sub>2.5</sub> is a mixture of very small particulates with an aerodynamic diameter equal to or less than 2.5 microns. PM<sub>2.5</sub> consists of particles directly emitted into the air and particulates formed in the air from the chemical transformation of gaseous pollutants. PM<sub>2.5</sub> particulates are emitted from activities such as industrial and residential combustion, and from vehicle exhaust. Particles 2.5 microns or smaller infiltrate the deepest portions of the lungs, increasing the risks of long-term disease, including chronic respiratory disease, cancer, and increased and premature death.

**Particulate Matter, Respirable (PM10):** PM10 is any particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter equal to or less than 10 microns (about  $1/7$  the diameter of a single human hair). PM10 consists of particles directly emitted into the air and particulates formed in the air from the chemical transformation of gaseous pollutants. PM10 particulates are emitted from activities such as industrial and residential combustion, and from vehicle exhaust. PM10 causes adverse health effects, atmospheric visibility reduction. It is a criteria pollutant.

**Parts Per Million (ppm):** The number of weight or volume units of a minor constituent present within each one million units of the major constituent of a solution or mixture, such as salts in water.

**PC:** Passenger cars.

**PC/H:** Passenger cars per hour.

**PC/H/LN:** Passenger cars per hour per lane.

**Passenger Trips:** Relate to the volume of passenger service provided by public transportation—such as buses, trains, and aircraft.

**Passive Solar System:** system that distributes collected heat via direct transfer from a thermal mass rather than mechanical power. Passive systems rely on building design and materials to collect and store heat and to create natural ventilation for cooling.

**Peak Hour or Peak Period:** The one hour period during which the roadway carries the greatest number of vehicles. Traffic volumes are not constant throughout the day. Peak hours are the times during which volumes are significantly higher than others. Most areas have two peak hours—morning while people travel to work and late afternoon or evening as they leave work and return home. In some cases as third, though usually smaller, peak occurs during the middle of the day. As development intensifies and traffic volumes increase, the durations of the peaks are extended until eventually the peak hour becomes a peak period which may last for two or three hours. Peak period volumes are important as these are the times of day when the most severe congestion occurs, and intersections must be designed to accommodate these volumes if smooth traffic flow is to be maintained. The peak hour refers to the one-hour period during the a.m. peak period (typically 7 AM to 9 AM) and the one-hour period during the PM peak period (typically 3 PM to 6 PM) in which the greatest number of vehicle trips are generated by a given land use or are traveling on a given roadway.

**Percent Slope:** A common way of expressing the steepness of the slope of terrain, which is derived by dividing the change in elevation by the horizontal distance traversed. An increase of 20 feet elevation over a 100 foot distance is a 20 percent slope.

**Percent Variation in Travel Time:** The RTP defines this as the day-to-day change in travel times experienced by travelers. Variability results from accidents, weather, road closures, system problems, and other non-recurrent conditions.

**Perched Groundwater:** Groundwater supported by a zone of material of low permeability located above an underlying main body of groundwater with which it is not hydrostatically connected.

**Percolation:** The downward movement of water through the soil or alluvium to the groundwater table.

**Performance Standards:** Zoning regulations that permit uses based on a particular set of standards of operation rather than on particular type of use. Performance standards provide specific criteria limiting noise, air pollution, emissions, odors, vibration, dust, dirt, glare, heat, fire hazards, wastes, traffic impacts, and visual impact of a use.

**(Permanent) Open Space:** The area which will be preserved as natural open space lots, minor greenway lots, and landscape lots as identified on the VTTMs.

**Permeability (soil):** That quality of the soil or other geologic formations that enables it to transmit water or air.

**Permit:** The possession of a permit issued by the city, or where no permits are issued, the sanctioning of the activity by the jurisdiction as noted in a public record.

**Permittees:** The Permittees are the Los Angeles County cities and the County (collectively “the Co-Permittees”).

**Person:** Person includes any person, firm, association, organization, partnership, business, trust, corporation, limited liability company, company, district, city, county, city and county, town, the State, and any of the agencies or political subdivisions of such entities (State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15376).

**Person Trips:** Indicates the number of people, and are of interest in situations where there may be opportunities to accomplish more one-person trips with less vehicle trips—such as a carpool.

**Pesticide:** Any material used to control pests. Includes insecticides, herbicides, and rodenticides.

**Petroglyphs:** Small abraded pits.

**pH:** A measure of acidity or alkalinity of a material, liquid, or solid. It is measured on a scale of 0 to 14 with 7 representing a neutral state, 0 representing the most acid and 14 the alkaline.

**Photochemical Smog:** The atmospheric condition that results when reactive organic gases and nitrogen oxides emitted into the atmosphere react in the presence of sunlight to form other pollutants, such as oxidants.

**Photoionization Detector:** A portable vapor and gas detector that detects a variety of organic compounds.

**Photovoltaic:** The conversion of sunlight into a photovoltaic cell into electricity.

**Physiographic:** Physical geography of the Earth.

**Physiological responses:** An automatic instinctive reaction to a stimulus. Can include changes in pulse rate and blood pressure.

**Pivot Field:** A “pivot field” is a circular agricultural field with a centralized “pivot” irrigation system.

**Plan Line:** A precise line that establishes future rights-of-way along any portion of an existing or proposed street or highway and that is depicted on a map showing the streets and lot line or lines and the proposed right-of-way lines, and the distance thereof from the established centerline of the street or highway, or from existing or established property lines.

**Plane-parallel Shears:** This term describes a deformation of rock resulting from stresses that cause contiguous parts of a geologic body to slide in relation to each other in a direction parallel to their plane of contact (The American Geologic Institute 1984).

**Planned Community:** A large-scale development whose essential features are a definable boundary; a consistent, but not necessarily uniform, character; overall control during the development process by a single development entity; private ownership of recreation amenities; and enforcement of covenants, conditions, and restrictions by a master community association.

**Planned Unit Development (PUD):** A description of a proposed unified development, consisting at a minimum of a map and adopted ordinance setting forth the regulations governing, and the location and phasing of all proposed uses and improvements to be included in the development.

**Planning and Research, Governor's Office of (OPR):** A division of the Governor's Office responsible for coordinating State, regional, and local planning in California, including publishing guidelines for the preparation and content of city and county general plans.

**Planning Area:** The area directly addressed by the general plan. A city's planning area typically encompasses the city limits and potentially annexable land within its sphere of influence.

**Planning Commission:** A body, usually having five or seven members, created by a city or county in compliance with California law that requires the assignment of the planning functions of the city or county to a planning department, planning commission, hearing officers, and/or the legislative body itself, as deemed appropriate by the legislative body.

**Plans, Specifications, and Estimates (PS&E):** The bid documents, including general design, specifications, and estimated costs.

**Plant Community:** A group of plant species commonly occurring together in roughly similar proportions.

**Pleistocene Era:** A geologic epoch extending from approximately 1.8 million Years Before Present (YBP) through 14,000 YBP.

**Point Source:** Specific points of origin where pollutants are emitted into the atmosphere or water system such as from factory smokestacks or effluent discharge.

**Policy:** A specific statement of principle or of guiding actions that implies clear commitment but is not mandatory. A general direction that a governmental agency sets to follow, in order to meet its goals and objectives before undertaking an action program.

**Pollutant:** Any introduced gas, liquid, or solid that makes a resource unfit for its normal or usual purpose.

**Pollution:** The presence of matter or energy whose nature, location, or quantity produces undesired environmental effects.

**Pollution, Non-Point:** Sources for pollution that are less definable and usually cover broad areas of land, such as agricultural land with fertilizers that are carried from the land by runoff, or automobiles.

**Pollution, Point:** In reference to water quality, a discrete source from which pollution is generated before it enters receiving waters, such as a sewer outfall, a smokestack, or an industrial waste pipe.

**California Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (Porter-Cologne Act):** A 1969 Act of the California Legislature designed to preserve, enhance and restore the quality of the State's water resources. The Act established the State Water Resources Control Board and nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards as the principal State agencies with the responsibility for controlling water quality in California. Under the Act, water quality policy was established and the discharges of pollutants from point and non-point sources were regulated.

**Potable Water:** Suitable and safe for drinking.

**Poverty Level:** As used by the U.S. Census, families, and unrelated individuals are classified as being above or below the poverty level based on a poverty index that provides a range of income cutoffs or "poverty thresholds" varying by size of family, number of children, and age of householder. The income cutoffs are updated each year to reflect the change in the Consumer Price Index.

**Precursor:** A chemical compound that leads to the formation of a pollutant. Reactive organic gases and nitrogen oxides are precursors of photochemical oxidants.

**Preservation:** As used in historic preservation, the process of sustaining the form and extent of a structure essentially as it exists. Preservation aims at halting further deterioration and providing structural stability but does not contemplate significant rebuilding.

**Preserve:** An area in which beneficial uses in their present condition are protected; for example, a nature preserve or an agricultural preserve. To keep safe from destruction or decay; to maintain or keep intact.

**Previously placed fill:** Fill material placed prior to the implementation of a proposed project, most often found in previously disturbed project sites.

**Prime Agricultural Land:** (1) Land used actively in the production of food, fiber, or livestock. (2) All land which qualifies for rating as Class I or Class II in the Soil Conservation Service land use compatibility classifications. (3) Land which qualifies for rating 80 through 100 in the Storie Index Rating (See Prime Farmland).

**Prime Farmland:** Lands with the best combination of physical and chemical features able to sustain long-term production of agricultural crops. The land must be supported by a developed irrigation water supply that is dependable and of adequate quality during growing season. The land must have been used for the production of irrigated crops at some time during the two update cycles prior to the mapping date (NRCS 2017a).

**Private Project:** A "private project" means a project which will be carried out by a person other than a governmental agency, but the project will need a discretionary approval from one or more governmental agencies for: (a) a contract or financial assistance, or (b) a ease, permit, license, certificate, or other entitlement for use (State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15377).

**Private Road/Private Street:** Privately owned (and usually privately maintained) motor vehicle access that is not dedicated as a public street. Typically the owner posts a sign indicating that the street is private property and limits traffic in some fashion. For density calculation purposes, some jurisdictions exclude private roads when establishing the total acreage of the site; however, aisles within and driveways serving private parking lots are not considered private roads.

**Professional Offices:** A use providing professional or consulting services in the fields of law, medicine, architecture, design, engineering, accounting, and similar professions, but not including financial institutions or real estate or insurance offices.

**Program:** An action, activity, or strategy carried out in response to adopted policy to achieve a specific goal or objective. Policies and programs establish the "who," "how" and "when" for carrying out the "what" and "where" of goals and objectives.

**Program EIR:** An EIR prepared on a series of actions that can be characterized as one large project. A program EIR generally establishes a framework for tiered or project-level environmental documents that are prepared in accordance with the overall program (See CEQA Guidelines, Section 15168[a]).

**Project:** “Project: means the whole of an action which has a potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment, and that is any of the following: (1) an activity directly undertaken by any public agency including but not limited to public works construction and related activities clearing or grading of land, improvements to existing public structures, enactment and amendment of zoning ordinances, and the adoption and amendment of local General Plans or elements thereof pursuant to Sections 65100–65700 of the *California Government Code*; (2) an activity undertaken by a person which is supported in whole or in part through public agency contacts, grants, subsidies, loans, or other forms of assistance from one or more public agencies; (3) an activity involving the issuance to a person of a lease, permit, license, certificate, or other entitlement for use by one or more public agencies. The definition of “project” does not include (1) proposals for legislation to be enacted by the State Legislature; (2) continuing administrative or maintenance activities, such as purchases for supplies, personnel-related actions, general policy and procedure making (except as they are applied to specific instances covered above); (3) the submittal of proposals to a vote of the people of the state or of a particular community; (4) the creation of government funding mechanisms or other government fiscal activities, which do not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment. The term “project” refers to the activity which is being approved and which may be subject to several discretionary approvals by governmental agencies. The term “project” does not mean each separate governmental approval. Where the Lead Agency could describe the project as either the adoption of a particular regulation under subsection (a)(1) or as a development proposal which will be subject to several governmental approvals under subsections (a)(2) or (a)(3), the Lead Agency shall describe the project as the development proposal for the purpose of environmental analysis. This approach will implement the Lead Agency principle as described in Article 4 (State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15378).

**Project Description:** Describes the basic characteristics of the project including location, need for the project, project objectives, technical and environmental characteristics, project size and design, project phasing, and required permits. The level of detail provided in the project description varies according to the type of environmental document prepared.

**Project EIR:** An EIR that examines the impacts that would result from development of a specific project (See State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15161).

**Project Lot Area:** The total land area of a project after all required dedications or reservations for public improvements, including, but not limited to, streets, parks, schools, flood control channels, etc.

**Projectile Point:** An object affixed to a pole or stick of some kind, which has been fashioned for use as a weapon, out of stone, metal, bone, or other material.

**Prominent Landform or Ridgeline:** A visually prominent landform or ridgeline means any landform visible from the valley floor that forms a part of the skyline or is seen as a distinct edge against a backdrop of land at least 500 feet horizontally behind it.



**Prominent Visual Features:** As used in this EIR, features that are unique to the west Antelope Valley and/or are prominent in relation to their relative surroundings.

**Property Line:** The boundary line between two pieces of property ([www.thefreedictionary.com](http://www.thefreedictionary.com)).

**Proposed or Candidate Species:** A third species designation under the Endangered Species Act. A third status is that of "candidate species". Under this status, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has concluded that listing of a species as Threatened or Endangered is warranted but immediate listing is precluded. Because Proposed Species may soon be listed as Threatened or Endangered, these species could become listed prior to or during implementation of a proposed development project.

**Pro Rata:** Refers to the proportionate distribution of the cost of something to something else or to some group, such as the cost of infrastructure improvements associated with new development apportioned to the users of the infrastructure on the basis of projected use.

**Pseudo-Static:** Earthen material under seismic stress but not presently in motion.

**Public Agency:** Public agency includes any State agency, board, or commission and any local or regional agency, as defined in these Guidelines. It does not include the courts of the State. This term does not include agencies of the federal government (State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15379).

**Public Facilities:** Institutional response to basic human needs, such as health, education, safety, recreation, and inspiration. Also, includes facilities and services such as, but not limited to, police, fire, libraries, parks, and flood control.

**Public Right-of-Way:** Any street, avenue, boulevard, highway, sidewalk, or alley or similar place which is owned or controlled by a governmental entity.

**Public Space:** Any real property or structures thereon which are owned or controlled by a governmental entity.

**Pump Station:** A complete pumping installation, including a storage box, pump or pumps, standby pumps, connecting pipes, electrical equipment, pump house, and outlet chamber.

**Quasi-public:** A use owned or operated by a non-profit, religious or charitable institution and providing educational, cultural, recreational, religious, or similar types of public programs.

**Quiescent:** Still

**Rare Species:** In accordance with the State CEQA Guidelines, a "Species" means a species or subspecies of animal or plant or a variety of plant. A Rare Species as one present in such small numbers throughout its range that it may become Endangered if its present environment worsens. The Rare Species designation applies only to California native plants.

**Re-Refined Oil:** Re-refined oil is recycled oil product (CIWMB 2006).

**Reactive Organic Compound (ROC)/Reactive Organic Gases (ROG):** A photochemically reactive chemical gas, composed of non-methane hydrocarbons, which may contribute to the formation of smog. Also sometimes referred to as Non-Methane Organic Gases (NMOGs).

**Recharge:** The physical process where water naturally percolates or sinks into a groundwater basin.

**Recharge Basin:** A surface facility, often a large pond, used to increase the infiltration of surface water into a groundwater basin.

**Reclamation:** The reuse of resources, usually those present in solid wastes or sewage.

**Recompaction:** The reconsolidation of disturbed earth.

**Recreation, Active:** A type of recreation or activity that requires the use of organized play areas including, but not limited to, softball, baseball, football and soccer fields, tennis and basketball courts, and various forms of children's play equipment.

**Recreation, Passive:** Type of recreation or activity that does not require the use of organized play areas.

**Recycle:** Per Section 40180 of the *California Public Resources Code*, the process of collecting, sorting, cleansing, treating, and reconstituting materials that would otherwise become solid waste, and returning them to the economic mainstream in the form of raw material for new, reused, or reconstituted products that meet the quality standards necessary to be used in the marketplace.

**Regional:** Pertaining to activities or economies at a scale greater than that of a single jurisdiction, and affecting a broad geographic area.

**Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA):** The Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) is based on State projections of population growth and housing unit demand and assigns a share of the region's future housing need to each jurisdiction within the SCAG region. These housing need numbers serve as the basis for the update of each California city and county Housing Element.

**Regional Park:** A park typically 150–500 acres in size focusing on activities and natural features not included in most other types of parks and often based on a specific scenic or recreational opportunity.

**Regional Transportation Plan (RTP):** The RTP is created by the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) or the regional planning commission.

**Registered Environmental Assessor:** The Registered Environmental Assessor (REA) Program, under the jurisdiction of the California Department of Toxic Substances Control, registers environmental compliance experts on a voluntary basis. Each registrant listed in

the REA registry has been evaluated by the REA program staff and found to possess suitable education and experience. An Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) performed by a Registered Environmental Assessor (REA) is your primary means to minimize liability from the “innocent landowner” defense.

**Regulation:** A rule or order prescribed for managing government.

**Remediate:** To mitigate a specific environmental impact.

**Reservoir:** A pond, lake, tank, basin, or other space either natural or created in whole or in part by the building of engineering structures.

**Residential Land Use:** Land designated in the city or county general plan and zoning ordinance for buildings consisting only of dwelling units. May be improved, vacant, or unimproved. Any parcel or area of land devoted to housing and ancillary uses.

**Residential Care Facility:** A facility that provides 24-hour care and supervision to its residents.

**Residential, Multiple Family:** Usually three or more dwelling units on a single site, which may be in the same or separate buildings.

**Residential, Single-family:** A single dwelling unit on a building site.

**Resistivity:** A measure of how strongly a material opposes the flow of electric current. Resistivity is measured in ohm-centimeters (cm).

**Resources, Non-renewable:** Refers to natural resources, such as fossil fuels and natural gas, which, once used, cannot be replaced and used again.

**Resource Sector:** An area judged to contain a significant deposit of construction-quality aggregate.

**Responsible Agency:** A public agency that proposes to carry out or approve a project, for which a Lead Agency is preparing or has prepared an EIR or Negative Declaration. For the purposes of CEQA, the term "Responsible Agency" includes all public agencies other than the Lead Agency which have discretionary approval power over the project (State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15381).

**Return Flow:** Irrigation water not consumed by evapotranspiration but returned to either ground or surface water. Also known as “return water”.

**Reverse:** A type of fault similar to a normal fault, except the footwall moves downward relative to the hanging wall.

**Reverse Commute:** The travel from the city center to suburban locations, moving counter to the primary or major volume of traffic flow.

**Reviewing Agencies:** Local, State, and federal agencies with jurisdiction over the project area or resources potentially affected by the project. Cities and counties are also considered reviewing agencies.

**Rezoning:** An amendment to the map and/or text of a zoning ordinance to effect a change in the nature, density, or intensity of uses allowed in a zoning district and/or on a designated parcel or land area.

**Rhyolite:** A usually light-colored, fine-grained extrusive igneous rock that is compositionally similar to granite.

**Richter Scale:** A logarithmic scale developed in 1935–1936 by Dr. Charles F. Richter and Dr. Beno Gutenberg to measure earthquake magnitude by the amount of energy released, as opposed to earthquake intensity as determined by local effects on people, structures, and earth materials. A measure of the size or energy release of an earthquake at its source. The scale is logarithmic; the wave amplitude of each number on the scale is ten times greater than that of the previous whole number.

**Rideshare:** A travel mode other than driving alone, such as buses, rail transit, carpools, and vanpools.

**Ridgeline:** A line connecting the highest points along a ridge and separating drainage basins or small-scale drainage systems from one another.

**Right-Lateral:** Movement of a strike-slip fault where, if an observer were standing on one side of the fault, the opposite side would move to the right.

**Right-of-Way (ROW):** That portion of property which is dedicated or over which an easement is granted for public streets, utilities, or alleys.

**Rilling:** An erosion process which forms numerous small shallow channels.

**Riparian Lands:** Riparian lands are comprised of the vegetative and wildlife areas adjacent to perennial and intermittent streams. Riparian areas are delineated by the existence of plant species normally found near freshwater.

**Rippability:** A measure of an earthen material's ability to be excavated with conventional excavation equipment.

**Risk Assessment:** The qualitative and quantitative evaluation of the risk posed to human health and/or the environment by the actual or potential presence and/or use of specific pollutants.

**Risk of Upset:** The risk associated with potential explosions, fires, or release of hazardous substances in the event of an accident or natural disaster.

**Road Deck:** The part of the bridge structure on which the road is constructed.

**Runoff:** That portion of rain or snow that does not percolate into the ground and is discharged into streams instead.

**Road Deck:** The part of a bridge structure which the road is constructed on.

**Roadway Capacity:** The RTP defines roadway capacity as vehicles per hour per lane (vphpl) by type of facility.

**Safe Drinking Water Act:** The Act (*California Health and Safety Code*, Sections 116350–116405) is intended to protect public health by regulating the nation’s public drinking water supply and authorizes the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) to set national standards for drinking water to protect against both naturally occurring and man-made contaminants.

**Safe Drinking Water Bond Act (2006) (Proposition 84):** Passed by voters in 2006, the Act authorized the State to issue \$5.4 billion in bonds for a wide variety of projects related to water safety, rivers, beaches, levees, watersheds, and parks and forests.

**Safety Element:** One of the seven State-mandated elements of the general plan. It establishes the policies and programs to protect the community from risks associated with seismic, geologic, flood, and wildfire hazards.

**Sanitary Landfill:** The controlled placement of refuse within a limited area, followed by compaction and covering with a suitable thickness of earth and other containment material.

**Sanitary Sewer:** A system of subterranean conduits that carries refuse liquids or waste matter to a plant where the sewage is treated, as contrasted with storm drainage systems (that carry surface water) and septic tanks or leech fields (that hold refuse liquids and waste matter on the site). Underground pipes that carry off only domestic or industrial waste, not storm water.

**Santa Clarita Valley Consolidated Traffic Model:** A model jointly developed by Los Angeles County and the City of Santa Clarita.

**Scale:** Refers to the geographic area and data resolution under examination in an assessment or planning effort.

**Scarified:** To break up the surface of (topsoil or pavement) ([www.dictionary.com](http://www.dictionary.com)).

**Scarp:** A transition zone between different geologic features that involves a sharp elevation differential, characterized by a cliff or steep slope. Can include a line of cliffs formed by the faulting or fracturing of the Earth’s crust.

**Scenic Highway Corridor:** The area outside a highway right-of-way that is generally visible to persons traveling on the highway.

**Scenic Highway/Scenic Route:** A highway, road, drive, or street that, in addition to its transportation function, provides opportunities for the enjoyment of natural and man-made

scenic resources and access or direct views to areas or scenes of exceptional beauty or historic or cultural interest. The aesthetic values of scenic routes often are protected and enhanced by regulations governing the development of property or the placement of outdoor advertising.

**Scrubber:** An air pollution control device that uses a high energy liquid spray to remove aerosol and gaseous pollutants from an air stream. The gases are removed either by absorption or chemical reaction.

**Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL):** Standards set for public water systems with respect to levels of contaminants that do not cause adverse health effects but can impact the color and odor of water.

**Secondary Treatment:** Generally, a level of treatment that produces 85 percent removal efficiencies for biological oxygen demand and suspended solids. Usually carried out through the use of trickling filters or by the activated sludge process.

**Section 106:** Provision in National Historic Preservation Act that requires federal agencies to consider effects of proposed undertakings on properties listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

**Section 4(d):** A section of the Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA) that allows special rules to apply to a species listed as Threatened. Can specify the conditions allowing incidental take.

**Section 2081:** A section of the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) that governs the take of listed Endangered species.

**Section 4(f):** Provision in U.S. Department of Transportation Act that prohibits federal approval or funding of transportation projects that require “use” of any historic site unless (1) there is “no feasible and prudent alternative to the project” and (2) the project includes “all possible planning to minimize harm”.

**Section 10(a):** A section of the federal ESA that governs issuance of a permit to allow incidental take of a listed Endangered species.

**Sediment:** Organic or inorganic material that is carried by or is suspended in water and that settles out to form deposits in the storm drain system or receiving waters.

**Sedimentation:** Process by which material suspended in water is deposited in a body of water.

**Seiche:** A free or standing-wave oscillation of the surface of water in an enclosed or semi-enclosed basin (such as a lake, bay, or harbor). It is generally caused by local changes in atmospheric pressure, aided by winds, tidal currents and small earthquakes.

**Seismic:** Caused by or subject to earthquakes or earth vibrations.

**Seismic Hazards Mapping Act:** Legislation acted by the California legislature in April of 1997. Unlike the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act, the Seismic Hazards Mapping Act addresses non-surface fault rupture earthquake hazards, including liquefaction and seismically induced landslides. The act requires the creation and publication of maps showing areas where such impacts could occur.

**Seismically induced settlement:** The densification of soils resulting from seismic motion. During strong ground-shaking, soil grains may become more tightly packed due to the collapse of voids or pore spaces, resulting in a reduction in the thickness of the soil column.

**Seismicity:** The frequency or magnitude of earthquake activity in a given area.

**Senescence:** Growing old; aging ([www.dictionary.com](http://www.dictionary.com)).

**Sensitive Receptors:** Sensitive receptors are people or institutions with people that are particularly susceptible to illness from environmental pollution, such as the elderly, very young children, people already weakened by illness (e.g., asthmatics), and persons engaged in strenuous exercise.

**Septic System:** A sewage-treatment system that includes a settling tank through which liquid sewage flows and in which solid sewage settles and is decomposed by bacteria in the absence of oxygen. Septic systems are often used for individual-home waste disposal where an urban sewer system is not available.

**Setback:** The horizontal distance between the property line and any structure.

**Settlement:** (1) The drop in elevation of a ground surface caused by settling or compacting. (2) The gradual downward movement of an engineered structure due to compaction. *Differential* settlement is uneven settlement, where one part of a structure settles more or at a different rate than another part.

**Shall:** In accordance with Section 15005 of the State CEQA Guidelines, “shall” or “must” identifies a mandatory element which all public agencies are required to follow.

**Shatter:** A splintered or fragmented condition.

**Shears:** The deformation of a rock in response to compressive stress resulting in the formation of particular textures.

**Shopping Center:** A group of commercial establishments, planned, developed, owned, or managed as a unit, with common off-street parking provided on the site.

**Short-Term Noise:** Noise from a temporary noise source that would occur for a limited period of time such that a substantive reduction in the quality of the receptor’s environment is not realized.

**Should:** In accordance with Section 15005 of the State CEQA Guidelines, “should” identifies guidance provided by the Secretary for Resources based on policy considerations contained

in CEQA, in the legislative history of the statute, or in federal court decisions which California courts can be expected to follow. Public agencies are advised to follow this guidance in the absence of compelling, countervailing considerations.

**Significant Ecological Area:** First identified in the County of Los Angeles General Plan of 1976, SEAs are areas that contain unique, dwindling, or other rare plant and animal resources that need to be more specifically studied for the purpose of public education, research, and other non-disruptive outdoor uses.

**Significant Impact or Significant Effect on the Environment:** As defined by the State CEQA Guidelines, a substantial, or potentially substantial, adverse change in any of the physical conditions within the area affected by the project including land, air, water, minerals, flora, fauna, ambient noise, and objects of historic or aesthetic significance. An economic or social change by itself shall not be considered a significant effect on the environment. A social or economic change related to a physical change may be considered in determining whether the physical change is significant. The lead agency will determine whether a project may have a significant effect on the environment based on substantial evidence in light of the whole record (State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15382).

**Siltation:** The accumulating deposition of eroded material; the gradual filling in of streams and other bodies of water with sand, silt, and clay.

**Single Noise Event Level (SEL):** The cumulative (not average) sound exposure during a particular noise event, integrated into a one-second time frame.

**Single-family Dwelling, Attached:** A dwelling unit occupied or intended for occupancy by only one household that is structurally connected with at least one other such dwelling unit. Single-family attached units are typically defined by school districts as units that share a common wall and are not for rental purposes.

**Single-family Dwelling, Detached:** A dwelling unit occupied or intended for occupancy by only one household that is structurally independent from any other such dwelling unit or structure intended for residential or other use.

**Single-Family Housing:** A conventionally built house consisting of a single dwelling unit occupied by one household.

**Single Occupant Vehicle (SOV):** One person per vehicle.

**Single Room Occupancy (SRO):** A single room, typically with a sink and closet, but which requires the occupant to share a communal bathroom, shower, and kitchen.

**Site:** A parcel of land used or intended for one use or a group of uses and having frontage on a public or an approved private street. A lot.

**Site Acceleration:** Site acceleration during a seismic event is measured as a percent of gravity, or g. For instance, 0.76g is 76 percent of the force of gravity.



**Sky Glow (Light pollution):** An adverse effect of manmade light. It is often used to denote urban sky glow (brightening of the night sky due to man-made lighting) but also includes glare (intense and blinding light), light trespass (light falling where it is not wanted or needed; spill light), visual clutter, and other adverse effects of lighting (IDA 2005). In many cases, sky glow is visible from great distances, particularly in evenings when there is moisture in the air.

**Sleep Interference:** The capacity for noise to hamper normal sleep patterns.

**Slide:** A slide is a down slope movement of a soil or rock mass occurring dominantly on shallower slopes at surfaces of rupture or on relatively thin zones of intense shear strain. The displaced mass often slides beyond the toe of the surface rupture covering the original ground surface of the slope. Slides consist of two main types: rotational and translational. Rotational slides move along a surface of rupture that is curved and concave. Translational slides move along a planar or undulating surface of rupture

**Slope:** Land gradient described as the vertical rise divided by the horizontal run, and expressed in percent.

**Slope Face:** The slopes located directly below, or leading up to, the crest of a significant ridgeline or prominent landform.

**Slope Steepness:** The relationship (the ratio) between the change in elevation (rise) and the horizontal distance (run) over which that change in elevation occurs. The percent of steepness of any given slope is determined by dividing the rise by the run on the natural slope of land, multiplied by 100.

**Sloughing/Sloughage:** Shallow slides of loose or crumbling material.

**Slump:** Loosely consolidated materials or rock layers that move a short distance down a slope leaving a concave scarp, or eroded face.

**Smart Growth:** A movement in urban and transportation planning that concentrates density within central core areas of urban development. Smart Growth advocates compact, transit-oriented, walkable, bicycle-friendly land uses, including mixed-use development with a range of housing choices. It also advocates preservation of open space and many other environmental amenities.

**Smog:** A combination of smoke and other particulates, ozone, hydrocarbons, nitrogen oxides, and other chemically reactive compounds which, under certain conditions of weather and sunlight, may result in a murky brown haze that causes adverse health effects. The primary source of smog in California is motor vehicles.

**Solar System, Active:** A system using a mechanical device, such as a pump or a fan, and energy in addition to solar energy to transport a conductive medium (air or water) between a solar collector and the interior of a building for the purpose of heating or cooling.

**Solar System, Passive:** A system that uses direct heat transfer from thermal mass instead of mechanical power to distribute collected heat. Passive systems rely on building design and materials to collect and store heat and to create natural ventilation for cooling.

**Solid Waste:** Any non-hazardous garbage, refuse or sludge, which is primarily solid but may also include portions of liquid, semi-solid or contained gaseous material resulting from residential, industrial, commercial, agricultural, mining operations, and community activities.

**Source Reduction:** Per Section 40196 of the *California Public Resources Code*, “source reduction” means any action which causes a net reduction in the generation of solid waste. Source reduction includes, but is not limited to, reducing the use of nonrecyclable materials, replacing disposable materials and products with reusable materials and products, reducing packaging, reducing the amount of yard wastes generated, establishing garbage rate structures with incentives to reduce waste tonnage generated, and increasing the efficiency of the use of paper, cardboard, glass, metal, plastic, and other materials.

**Source Reduction and Recycling Element (SRRE):** Plans prepared by all jurisdictions in accordance with the *California Public Resources Code*, Section 41000 et seq. (cities) and Section 41300 et seq. (counties). The SRRE sets forth a jurisdiction's basic strategy for management of solid waste generated within its borders, with emphasis on implementation of source reduction, recycling, and composting programs. The SRRE should also identify the amount of landfill and/or transformation capacity necessary to dispose of solid waste that cannot be reduced at the source, recycled, or composted. It is one of several solid waste planning documents required by the Integrated Waste Management Agency.

**South Coast Air Basin (SoCAB):** A geographic area defined by the San Jacinto Mountains to the east, the San Bernardino Mountains to the north, and the Pacific Ocean to the west and south. The SoCAB is under the jurisdiction of the South Coast Air Quality Management District.

**South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD):** The agency responsible for protecting public health and welfare through the administration of federal and State air quality laws, regulations, and policies in the South Coast Air Basin.

**Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG):** The organization, known in federal law as a Council of Governments or Metropolitan Planning Organization. As the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization, Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) represents the counties of Imperial, Riverside, San Bernardino, Orange, Los Angeles, and Ventura, and the cities within these six counties. SCAG is mandated by the federal government to research and prepare plans for transportation, growth management, hazardous waste management, and air quality. Additional mandates exist at the State level.

**Special Animal:** A species of interest to the California Natural Diversity Database.

**Species of Local Concern:** A species that has no official status with the resource agencies, but is being watched because, in the region, there is a unique population.

**Specific Plan:** A legal tool authorized by Section 65450 et seq. of the *California Government Code* for the systematic implementation of the general plan for a defined portion of a community's planning area. A specific plan must specify in detail the land uses, public and private facilities needed to support the land uses, phasing of development, standards for the conservation, development, and use of natural resources, and a program of implementation measures, including financing measures. The Office of Planning and Research's *The Planners Guide to Specific Plans* provides direction and references to planning practitioners for the development of specific plans.

**Speech interference:** The capacity for noise to prevent intelligible oral communication.

**Speed:** a rate of motion; experienced by travelers regardless of mode.

**Sphere of Influence:** A plan for the probable physical boundaries and service area for a local agency, as determined by the Local Agency Formation Commission. Typically, a sphere of influence is the territory that a city or district is expected to annex. Therefore, spheres of influence are usually larger in area than the actual boundaries of a city or district, although they can be the same as the city or district boundaries.

**Spillover:** Spillover occurs when light goes over its intended range (eSchoolToday 2017).

**Spread:** A spread is a sudden lateral movement of a cohesive rock or soil mass along softer underlying material generally composed of homogenous clays or cohesionless fill. Spread includes a general subsidence of fractures of the mass of cohesive material into the softer underlying material. This type of landslide is often triggered by seismic activity.

**Stabilization fill:** Placement of compacted earthen material along a slope face to mitigate surficial slope failures, such as raveling, erosion, and/or rockfalls.

**Stacking:** The process of vehicles forming a line or queue. If the stacking extends into the through-lanes, delays and unsafe conditions become prevalent.

**Standard Urban Stormwater Mitigation Plan (SUSMP):** A document which identifies practicable policies to ensure to the maximum extent practicable that development does not increase pollutant loads from a project site and considers urban runoff flow rates, velocities and durations. The SUSMP addresses only land development and capital improvement projects and is focused on project design requirements and related post-construction requirements, not on the construction process itself.

**State Agency:** State agency means a governmental agency in the executive branch of the State Government or an entity which operates under the direction and control of an agency in the executive branch of State Government and is funded primarily by the State Treasury (State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15383).

**State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO):** Official appointed or designated, pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act, to administer a State's historic preservation program.

**State Implementation Plan (SIP):** A plan prepared by each State, and subject to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) approval, which describes existing air quality conditions and identifies actions and programs to be undertaken by the State and its subdivisions to attain and maintain National Ambient Air Quality Standards. A SIP is a compilation of all of a State's air quality plans and rules that have been approved by the federal USEPA. In California, air districts prepare non-attainment plans that are included in the State's SIP.

**Statement of Overriding Considerations:** A statement indicating that even though a project would result in one or more unavoidable adverse impacts, specific economic, social or other stated benefits are sufficient to warrant project approval.

**State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP):** A capital improvement program of transportation projects funded with revenues from the State Highway Account and other sources.

**State Water Project (SWP):** An aqueduct system that delivers water from northern California to central and southern California.

**Static:** Not prone to seismic forces, motion; still.

**Stationary Source:** A source of air pollution that is not mobile. Any building, structure, facility, or installation which emits or may emit any affected pollutant directly or as a fugitive emission. Building, structure, facility, or installation means any pollutant-emitting activities, including activities located in California coastal waters adjacent to the District boundaries, which (1) belong to the same industrial grouping and (2) are located on one or more contiguous or adjacent properties (except for activities located in coastal waters) and (3) are under the same or common ownership, operation, or control or which are owned or operated by entities which are under common control.

**Statute of Limitations:** The time period within which a lawsuit may be filed or other legal action to challenge a CEQA document and approval.

**Statutory Exemptions:** Exemptions from CEQA granted by the Legislature (See State CEQA Guidelines, Sections 15260–15285).

**Storie Index:** A numerical system (0p100) rating, the degree to which a particular soil can grow plants or produce crops, based on four factors: soil profile, surface texture, slope, and soil limitations.

**Storm Drain Inlet:** A drainage structure that collects surface runoff and conveys it to an underground storm drain system.

**Storm Runoff:** Surplus surface water generated by rainfall that does not seep into the Earth but flows overland to flowing or stagnant bodies of water.

**Storm Water:** Storm water means storm water runoff, snow melt runoff, and surface runoff and drainage.

**Storm Water Drainage System:** Streets, gutters, inlets, conduits, natural or artificial drains, channels and watercourses, or other facilities that are owned, operated, maintained, and used for the purpose of collecting, storing, transporting, or disposing of storm water.

**Storm Water Quality Management Program (SQMP):** A document which summarizes the measures to be taken to comply with the NPDES Permit and reduce the discharges of pollutants in storm water to the maximum extent practicable.

**Streetscapes:** Landscaped areas adjacent to public or private streets to buffer adjacent developments which may serve as a means for reducing noise impact.

**Structure:** Anything, including a building, located on the ground in a permanent location or attached to something having a permanent location on the ground.

**Stream:** A body of water that flows at least periodically or intermittently through a bed or channel that has banks and supports fish or other aquatic life.

**Street Cross-Section:** A term used to describe the total number of lanes on a street. For instance, a street that has two lanes of northbound traffic, two lanes of southbound traffic, and a refuge lane is commonly referred to as a five-lane cross-section.

**Strike-Slip:** a fault in which the primary displacement is horizontal and parallel to the direction of the fault plane.

**Structure:** Anything constructed or erected which requires a fixed location on the ground, or is attached to something having a fixed location on the ground (Section 22.08.190 S. of the Los Angeles County Code).

**Subdivision:** The division of a lot, tract, or parcel of land into two or more lots, tracts, parcels, or other division of land for lease, sale, or financing, in accordance with the Subdivision Map Act (*California Government Code*, Section 66410 et seq.). The lots can either improved or unimproved, and be separately conveyed by sale or lease, and which can be altered or developed.

**Subdivision Development Plan:** Specific development plans for an unapproved tentative map, including, but not limited to: plot plans, building elevations, grading plans, and landscape plans applicable to individual lots within a tentative map.

**Subdivision Map Act:** Division 2 (Sections 66410 et seq.) of the *California Government Code*, this act vests in local legislative bodies the regulation and control of the design and improvement of subdivisions, including the requirement for tentative and final maps.

**Subregional:** Pertaining to a portion of a region.

**Subsidence:** Sinking of the land surface due to a number of factors, of which groundwater extraction is one; the gradual settling or sinking of an area with little or no horizontal motion.

**Subsidize:** To assist by payment of a sum of money or by the granting of terms or favors that reduce the need for monetary expenditures. Housing subsidies may take the forms of mortgage interest deductions or tax credits from federal and/or State income taxes, sale or lease at less than market value of land to be used for the construction of housing, payments to supplement a minimum affordable rent, and the like.

**Sustainable Yield:** The average amount of water that can be pumped from an aquifer on an annual basis without affecting its long-term capacity.

**Substantial Adverse Effect:** The loss or harm of a magnitude which, based on current scientific data and knowledge, would (1) substantially diminish population numbers of a species or distribution of a habitat type within the region or (2) eliminate the functions and values of a biological resource in the region.

**Substantial Adverse Change:** Demolition, destruction, relocation, or alteration such that the significance of an historical resource would be impaired (*California Public Resources Code*, Section 5020.1[q]).

**Sulfate:** A salt of sulfuric acid. Many examples of sulfates are known, and many of these are highly soluble in water.

**Sulfur Dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>):** A strong smelling, colorless gas that is formed by the combustion of fossil fuels. Power plants, which may use coal or oil high in sulfur content, can be major sources of SO<sub>2</sub>. SO<sub>2</sub> and other sulfur oxides contribute to the problem of acid deposition. SO<sub>2</sub> is a criteria air pollutant.

**Sulfur Oxides:** Pungent, colorless gases (sulfates are solids) formed primarily by the combustion of sulfur-containing fossil fuels, especially coal and oil. Considered major air pollutants, sulfur oxides may impact human health and damage vegetation.

**Sump:** a pit, well, or the like in which water or other liquid is collected ([www.dictionary.com](http://www.dictionary.com)).

**Surcharging:** The placement of fill to a specified height above grade.

**Surficial landslide:** A landslide involving only top layers of earthen material.

**Surficial unit/deposit:** Deposits of loose sediment on the surface above underlying bedrock and can include previously placed fill, topsoil, colluvium, alluvium, and landslide debris.

**Sustainability:** Community use of natural resources in a way that does not jeopardize the ability of future generations to live and prosper.

**Sustainable Development:** Development that maintains or enhances economic opportunity and community well-being while protecting and restoring the natural environment upon which people and economies depend. Sustainable development meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

**Substantial Evidence:** Substantial evidence as used in these guidelines means enough relevant information and reasonable inferences from this information that a fair argument can be made to support a conclusion, even though other conclusions might also be reached. Whether a fair argument can be made that the project may have a significant effect on the environment is to be determined by examining the whole record before the lead agency. Argument, speculation, unsubstantiated opinion or narrative, evidence which is clearly erroneous or inaccurate, or evidence of social or economic impacts which do not contribute to or are not caused by physical impacts on the environment does not constitute substantial evidence. Substantial evidence shall include facts, reasonable assumptions predicated upon facts, and expert opinion supported by facts (State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15384).

**Sulfur Dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>):** A colorless, extremely irritating gas or liquid. Sulfur dioxide enters the atmosphere as a pollutant mainly as a result of burning high sulfur-content fuel oils and coal and from chemical processes occurring at chemical plants and refineries. There are National Ambient Air Quality Standards and California Air Quality Standards for sulfur dioxide.

**Sump:** In drainage, any low area that does not permit the escape of water by gravity flow.

**Surface Water:** Water in lakes, streams or rivers, as distinct from subsurface groundwater.

**Surface Water Runoff:** Precipitation, snow melt, or irrigation water in excess of what can infiltrate the soil surface and be stored in small surface depressions.

**Swale:** An elongated or depressed landform within a landscaped area, which is designed to carry storm or other runoff.

**Table A Amount:** The maximum contractual quantity of water that an SWP Contractor can request each year.

**Take:** Under the Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA), it means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct. In the context of the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) means to hunt, pursue, kill, or capture a listed species, as well as any other actions that may result in adverse impacts when attempting to take individuals of a listed species. The CESA definition of "Take" is more inclusive than the FESA definition.

**Taking:** A real estate term traditionally used to mean acquisition by eminent domain but broadened by the U.S. Supreme Court to mean any government action that denies economically viable use of property.

**Tax-Increment Financing District:** A special district created from a redevelopment area in which the future growth in property tax revenues generated is used to finance the redevelopment program itself. In most cases, redevelopment agencies issue bonds against this property tax increment to pay for public investments inside the redevelopment area.

**Temporal Attribution:** Assessment of time.

**Temporary Construction Site Best Management Practices (BMPs):** BMPs that are only temporarily required to address a short-term storm water contamination threat.

**Telecommuting:** An arrangement in which a worker is at home or in a location other than the primary place of work, and communicates with the workplace and conducts work via wireless or telephone lines, using modems, fax machines, or other electronic devices in conjunction with computers.

**Temporary Noise:** Noise from a noise source that is not permanent. A temporary noise source can be considered long-term, as audible noise level increases at the same receptor that occur for several years.

**Tentative Map:** The initial map setting forth in detail a proposed land subdivision, which must comply with the city's or county's subdivision and zoning regulations and the State Subdivision Map Act. The subdivision of land depicted on the tentative map does not take effect until approval and recordation of the Final Map.

**Tertiary Treatment:** The treatment of wastewater beyond the secondary or biological stage. Normally implies the removal of nutrients, such as phosphorous and nitrogen, and a high percentage of suspended solids.

**Therm:** The amount of energy necessary to raise 100,000 pounds of water one degree Fahrenheit.

**Thermal Mass:** Large quantities of heavy or dense material with a high heat capacity, used in solar buildings to absorb heat, which is then stored and re-radiated as needed for heating and cooling.

**Thousand Square Feet (TSF):** Used in quantifying non-residential land uses, and refers to building floor area.

**Threatened Species:** The State of California considers a Threatened species to be one present in such small numbers throughout its range that it is likely to become an Endangered Species in the near future in the absence of special protection or management. The CESA authorizes the CDFW to issue permits authorizing incidental take of Threatened and Endangered Species.

**Threshold of Significance:** Criteria for each environmental issue area to assist with determinations of significance of project impacts.

**Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations:** Title 24 is part of the California Buildings Standards Code, the building regulations of California. Part 6 is the Energy Code.

**Tonnes:** Metric tons.

**Topographic Map:** A map showing the various topographic features of a given area, such as hills, valleys, mountains, slope of land surfaces, usually by means of contours or lines connecting points of equal elevation.



**Topography:** The physical shape of the ground surface. Configuration of a surface, including its relief and the position of natural and man-made features.

**Topple:** A topple is a forward rotation of a mass of soil or rock out of a steep slope at a hinge or pivot point below the center of gravity of the displaced mass. Topples usually involve the overturn of interacting columns or blocks at or near a vertical face and may lead to falls or slides of the displaced mass. Movement of material during a topple ranges from extremely slow to extremely rapid.

**Topsoil:** The upper layer of soil, usually the top 2 to 8 inches.

**Total Dissolved Solids (TDS):** A quantitative measure of the residual minerals dissolved in water that remains after evaporation of a solution. Usually expressed in milligrams per liter or parts per million.

**Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL):** An estimate of the total quantity of pollutants (from all sources: point, non-point, and natural) that may be allowed into waters without exceeding applicable water quality criteria.

**Total Organic Gases (TOG):** Gaseous organic compounds, including reactive organic gases and the relatively unreactive organic gases such as methane.

**Total Suspended Particulate (TSP):** Particles of solid or liquid matter—such as soot, dust, aerosols, fumes, and mist—up to approximately 30 microns in size.

**Townhouse; Townhome:** A one-family dwelling in a row of at least three such units in which each unit has its own front and rear access to the outside, no unit is located over another unit, and each unit is separated from any other unit by one or more common and fire-resistant walls. Townhouses usually have separate utilities; however, in some condominium situations, common areas are serviced by utilities purchased by a homeowners association on behalf of all townhouse members of the association.

**Toxic Air Contaminant (TACs):** Airborne chemical compounds determined by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA), including the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment and the California Air Resources Board, to pose a present or potential threat to public health. Air pollutants (excluding ozone, carbon monoxide, PM10, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen dioxide) that may reasonably be anticipated to cause cancer, developmental effects, reproductive dysfunctions, neurological disorders, heritable gene mutations, or other serious or irreversible acute or chronic health effects in humans. Toxic air pollutants are considered under a different regulatory process (*California Health and Safety Code*, Sections 39650 et seq.) than pollutants subject to California Ambient Air Quality Standards. Health effects to TACs may occur at extremely low levels, and it is typically difficult to identify levels of exposure which do not produce adverse health effects.

**Traffic Calming:** The process of designing streets or adding design elements to tame fast traffic and address unsafe traffic conditions. Design elements include, for example, speed humps, narrowed streets, added traffic circle.

**Traffic Model:** A mathematical representation of traffic movement within an area or region based on observed relationships between the kind and intensity of development in specific areas. Many traffic models operate on the theory that trips are produced by persons living in residential areas and are attracted by various non-residential land uses.

**Transit:** The conveyance of persons or goods from one place to another by means of a local, public transportation system.

**Transit Capacity:** The RTP defines this as the seating capacity utilized by mode.

**Transit-dependent:** Refers to persons unable to operate automobiles or other motorized vehicles, or those who do not own motorized vehicles. Transit-dependent citizens must rely on transit, para-transit, or owners of private vehicles for transportation. Transit-dependent citizens include the young, the handicapped, the elderly, the poor, and those with prior violations in motor vehicle laws.

**Transit-Oriented Development (TOD):** A mixed-use community within an average 2,000-foot walking distance of a transit stop and core commercial area. TODs mix residential, retail, office, and public uses in a walkable environment, making it convenient for residents and employees to travel by transit, bicycle, foot, or car.

**Transit, Public:** A system of regularly-scheduled buses and/or trains available to the public on a fee-per-ride basis. Also called “Mass Transit.”

**Transition Zone:** Controlled airspace extending upward from 700 or more feet above the ground wherein procedures for aircraft approach have been designated. The transition zone lies closer to an airport than the outer approach zone and outside of the inner approach zone.

**Translational Slide:** A mass that moves down and outward along a relatively planar surface and has little rotational movement or backward tilting.

**Transportation Analysis Zone (TAZ):** A geographic area that identifies land uses and associated trips that is used for making land use projections and performing traffic modeling.

**Transportation Control Measures (TCMs):** Air pollution control measures in the Air Quality Management Plan that are directed to reducing air emissions by reducing vehicle miles traveled, vehicle idling, or traffic congestion. Federal and State law specifies requirements for TCMs. Steps taken by a locality to adjust traffic patterns (e.g., bus lanes, right turn on red) or reduce vehicle use (ridesharing, high-occupancy vehicle lanes) to reduce vehicular emissions of air pollutants.

**Transportation Demand Management (TDM):** A strategy for reducing demand on the road system by reducing the number of vehicles using the roadways and/or increasing the number of persons per vehicle. TDM attempts to reduce the number of persons who drive alone on the roadway during the commute period and to increase the number in carpools, vanpools, buses and trains, walking, and biking. TDM can be an element of Transportation Systems Management. Strategies to change travel behavior in order to increase the efficiency of the transportation system and achieve specific objectives such as reduced traffic

congestion, road and parking cost savings, increased safety, improved mobility for non-drivers, energy conservation and pollution emission reductions.

**Transportation Equity Act of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (TEA 21):** TEA 21 was enacted June 9, 1998, as Public Law 105-178. TEA-21 authorizes and funds the federal surface transportation programs for highways, highway safety, and transit for the 6-year period of 1998-2003. The TEA 21 Restoration Act, enacted July 22, 1998, provided technical corrections to the original law.

**Transportation Systems Management (TSM):** A comprehensive strategy developed to address the problems caused by additional development, increasing trips, and a shortfall in transportation capacity. Transportation Systems Management focuses on more efficiently utilizing existing highway and transit systems rather than expanding them. TSM measures are characterized by their low cost and quick implementation time frame, such as computerized traffic signals, metered freeway ramps, and one-way streets.

**Trash:** Any human-derived materials including paper, plastics, metals, glass, and cloth.

**Travel route:** A landscape feature (such as a ridgeline, drainage, canyon, or riparian strip) within a larger open space that is used frequently by animals to facilitate movement and to provide access to necessary resources.

**Trip:** The trip is the basic measurement used to describe transportation volumes. A one-way journey that proceeds from an origin to a destination via a single mode of transportation; the smallest unit of movement considered in transportation studies. Each trip has one “production end” (or origin, often from home, but not always), and one “attraction end” (destination). A trip represents travel between a single origin and a single destination, and each trip is made up of two trip ends. (e.g., traveling from home to the grocery store with no stops in between is one trip, and it is made up of a home trip end and a grocery store trip end.)

**Trip Assignment:** The allocation of vehicle trips to available routes between locations in a traffic study area.

**Trip End:** Every trip has two ends—an origin and a destination. Conversely, every origin or destination generates two trip ends—one arriving and one leaving. For example, traveling from home to work and back involves two trips—home to work and work to home, and four trip ends—home as the origin and home as the destination. Quantification of trip ends is useful in describing the contribution of specific land uses to traffic volumes. A trip generation measure which represents the total trips entering and leaving a location. (e.g., a building that generates 100 daily trip ends has 50 vehicles entering the site and 50 vehicles leaving the site each day.)

**Trip Generation:** The number of vehicle trip ends associated with (i.e., produced by) a particular land use or traffic study site. A trip end is defined as a single vehicle movement. Roundtrips consist of two trip ends.

**Trophic:** Of or involving the feeding habits or food relationship of different organisms in a food chain.

**Trustee Agency:** A State agency having jurisdiction by law over natural resources affected by a project which are held in trust for the people of the state of California. Trustee agencies include the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, State Lands Commission, the State Department of Parks and Recreation, and the University of California (with regard to sites within the Natural Land and Water Reserves System) (State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15386).

**Tsunami:** A sea wave produced by large-scale, short-duration disturbance of the ocean floor such as from subsidence, an earthquake, or a volcanic eruption.

**Tuffaceous:** Rock formed as a deposit from springs or streams.

**Tuff beds:** Clusters of consolidated rocks of any size ejected from a volcano. Tuff is a general term for all consolidated pyroclastic rocks, meaning rocks formed of unworked solid material of any size ejected from a volcano.

**Turbidity:** The cloudiness or haziness of a fluid caused by individual particles (suspended solids) that are generally invisible to the naked eye. The measurement of turbidity is a key test of water quality.

**Turn Lane:** A lane devoted to vehicles making a turning movement to go in a different direction. Turn lanes are necessary to ensure the free-flow of traffic in the through lanes by providing a separate area/lane for turning traffic to slow down and complete the turning maneuver without impeding the through traffic.

**Undercutting:** Excavation at the base of an unstable slope to allow for stabilization measures.

**Underground Storage Tank (UST):** Refers to tanks used to store gasoline underground.

**Unifacial:** Flaked in such a way as to produce a cutting edge that is sharp on one side only.

**Uniform Building Code (UBC):** A national, standard building code that sets forth minimum standards for construction, published by the International Conference of Building Officials (ICBO).

**Uniform Housing Code (UHC):** State housing regulations governing the condition of habitable structures with regard to health and safety standards, and which provide for the conservation and rehabilitation of housing in accordance with the Uniform Building Code (UBC).

**United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA):** The federal agency with primary responsibility setting of policy and guidelines and carrying out legal mandates for the protection of natural interests in environmental resources, including the Clean Water

Act, Clean Air Act, Safe Drinking Water Act, and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. California is included within USEPA Region IX, headquartered in San Francisco.

**Unique archaeological resource:** An archaeological artifact, object, or site about which it can be clearly demonstrated that, without merely adding to the current body of knowledge, there is a high probability that it meets any of the following criteria:

- (1) Contains information needed to answer important scientific research questions and that there is a demonstrable public interest in that information.
- (2) Has a special and particular quality such as being the oldest of its type or the best available example of its type.
- (3) Is directly associated with a scientifically recognized important prehistoric or historic event or person.

**Unique Farmland:** Lands used for the production of specific high-value food and fiber crops, such as citrus, tree nuts, olives, cranberries, and other fruits and vegetables. It has the special combination of soil quality, growing season, moisture supply, temperature, humidity, air drainage, elevation, and aspect needed for the soil to economically produce sustainable high yields of these crops when properly managed. The water supply is dependable and of adequate quality. Nearness to markets is an additional consideration. Unique farmland is not based on national criteria. It commonly is in areas where there is a special microclimate, such as the wine country in California (NRCS 2017a).

**Unit:** A “unit” is defined as a structure or foundation on which uses associated with development are placed. Uses may include and are not limited to residential, industrial, commercial, construction, institutional, public administration purposes, railroad yards, cemeteries, airports, golf courses, sanitary landfills, sewage treatment plants, water control structures, and other development purposes. Highways, railroads, and other transportation facilities are mapped as part of this unit if they are part of a surrounding urban area.

**Urban:** Of, relating to, characteristic of, or constituting a city. Urban areas are generally characterized by moderate and higher density residential development (i.e., three or more dwelling units per acre), commercial development, and industrial development, and the availability of public services required for that development, specifically central water and sewer, an extensive road network, public transit, and other such services (e.g., safety and emergency response). Development not providing such services may be “non-urban” or “rural.” CEQA defines “urbanized area” as an area that has a population density of at least 1,000 persons per square mile (*California Public Resources Code*, Section 21080.14[b]).

**Urban and Built-Up Land:** Lands occupied by residential, industrial, commercial, and institutional land; construction sites; public administrative sites; railroad yards; cemeteries; airports; golf courses; sanitary landfills; sewage treatment plants; water control structures and spillways; other land used for such purposes; small parks (less than 10 acres) within urban and built-up areas; and highways, railroads, and other transportation facilities if they are surrounded by urban areas. Also included are tracts of less than 10 acres that do not meet the above definition but are completely surrounded by Urban and Built-up land (NRCS 2017c).

**Urban Design:** The attempt to give form, in terms of both beauty and function, to selected urban areas or to whole cities. Urban design is concerned with the location, mass, and design of various urban components and combines elements of urban planning, architecture, and landscape architecture.

**Urbanized Area:** Urbanized area means a central city or a group of contiguous cities with a population of 50,000 or more, together with adjacent densely populated areas having a population density of at least 1,000 persons per square mile. A Lead Agency shall determine whether a particular area meets the criteria in this section either by examining the area or by referring to a map prepared by the U.S. Bureau of the Census which designates the area as urbanized. Use of the term “urbanized area” in Section 15182 is limited to areas mapped and designated as urbanized by the U.S. Bureau of the Census. (State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15387).

**Use Permit:** The discretionary and conditional review of an activity or function or operation on a site or in a building or facility.

**Utility Corridors:** Rights-of-way or easements for utility lines on either publicly or privately owned property.

**Variance:** An adjustment in regulations. Variances are based on discretionary decisions and may be granted to allow deviations from ordinance regulations governing such development factors such as setbacks, height, lot coverage, lot area and width, signs, off-street parking, landscaping, and wall, fencing, and screening standards. Variances may not be granted to authorize a use or activity which is not otherwise expressly authorized by the zone regulations governing the property. A variance usually is granted only upon demonstration of hardship based on the peculiarity of the property in relation to other properties in the same zone district.

**Vegetated buffers:** Strips of natural vegetation along wetlands and waterways designed to mimic natural systems, slow down surface runoff, capture storm water to improve infiltration, and filter out contaminants. In addition to protecting surface waters, vegetated buffers can improve groundwater supplies by promoting recharge and filtering contaminants.

**Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT):** The total number of vehicle miles traveled over a specified length of time (e.g., daily, monthly, or yearly) or over a specified road or transportation corridor.

**Vehicle Trip:** Vehicle trip describes the number of vehicles traveling from point to point.

**Vehicle Trip Ends:** A single or one-direction vehicle movement with either the origin or destination inside a traffic study site.

**Vehicles Per Day (VPD):** Similar to ADT, but more typically applied to trip generation (i.e., the amount of traffic generated by a given amount of land use).

**Vehicles Per Hour (VPH):** Used for roadway volumes (counts or forecasts) and trip generation estimates. Measures the number of vehicles in a one hour period, typically the AM or PM peak hour.

**Vernalis Adaptive Management Plan (VAMP):** An agreement between multiple water agencies to maintain targeted stream flows for 31 days each spring, typically mid-May through mid-April. The purpose of VAMP is to help salmon smolt migrate downstream.

**Very Low Income Household:** A household with an annual income usually no greater than 50 percent of the area median family income adjusted by household size, as determined by a survey of incomes conducted by a city or a county, or in the absence of such a survey, based on the latest available eligibility limits established by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the Section 8 housing program.

**Vesting Tentative Tract Map:** A map which meets the requirements of subdivision (a) and Section 66452 of the *California Government Code*.

**Vibration:** Ground and structure oscillations due to low frequency sound-waves. Vibration is measured either in Hertz (oscillations in pressure resulting from low frequency sound waves) or in inches per second (physical motion of structures). Los Angeles County Code prohibits the operation of any device that creates vibration velocity levels of more than 0.01 inch per second (in/sec) over the frequency range of 1 to 100 Hertz (Hz) at or beyond the property boundary of the source if on private property, or at 150 feet from the source if on a public space or public right-of-way.

**View Corridor:** The line of sight—identified as to height, width, and distance—of an observer looking toward an object of significance to the community (e.g., ridgeline, river, historic building, etc.); the route that directs the viewers' attention.

**Viewpoint:** A location from which a site is visible; a specific location from which a view perspective is taken.

**Viewshed:** The surface area that is visible from a given viewpoint or series of viewpoints. It is also the area from which that viewpoint or series of viewpoints may be seen (a collection of viewpoints). The viewshed aids in identifying the views that could be affected by the proposed action. A viewshed is a broader perspective of a geographic area and incorporates both close-range and long-range elements.

**Volatile:** Any substance that evaporates readily.

**Volatile Organic Compound (VOC):** Carbon-containing compounds that evaporate into the air, except for specific exempt compounds found to be non-photochemically reactive and thus not participating in smog formation. VOCs contribute to the formation of smog and/or may themselves be toxic. VOCs often have an odor; some examples include gasoline, alcohol, and solvents used in paints. VOC is synonymous with reactive organic gases and reactive organic compounds.

**Volume-to-Capacity Ratio (V/C):** In reference to public services or transportation, ratio of peak hour use to capacity. A measure of the operating capacity of a roadway or intersection, in terms of the number of vehicles passing through, divided by the number of vehicles that theoretically could pass through when the roadway or intersection is operating at its designed capacity. Abbreviated as "V/C". At a V/C ratio of 1.0, the roadway or intersection is operating at capacity. If the ratio is less than 1.0, the traffic facility has additional capacity. Although ratios slightly greater than 1.0 are possible, it is more likely that the peak hour will elongate into a "peak period." In evaluating the performance of a roadway, V/C ratios should be considered together with the letter grade system, which is more of a qualitative assessment based heavily on speeds and travel time. This is typically used to describe the percentage of capacity utilized by existing or projected traffic on a segment of an arterial or intersection. (e.g., a roadway with a V/C of 0.60 has 60 percent of the total available capacity being used by traffic.)

**Warehousing Use:** A use engaged in storage, wholesale, and distribution of manufactured products, supplies, and equipment, excluding bulk storage of materials that are inflammable or explosive or that present hazards or conditions commonly recognized as offensive.

**Waste Stream:** Any and all waste that has been generated and is being processed toward permanent disposition.

**Wastewater:** Water that has been previously used by a municipality, industry, or agriculture and has suffered a loss of quality as a result of use.

**Wastewater Reclamation:** Treatment and management of municipal, industrial, or agricultural wastewater to produce water of suitable quality for additional beneficial uses.

**Water Quality Basin:** A storm water detention facility that holds water for a period of time and that provides natural treatment of storm water runoff (through vegetation) in compliance with Standard Urban Stormwater Management Plan (SUSMP) requirements.

**Water Quality Criteria:** A policy identifying beneficial uses for a particular receiving water body (e.g., wildlife habitat, agricultural supply, fishing), along with the water quality criteria necessary to support those uses. This can include the identification of specific levels of constituents, such as lead, suspended sediment, and fecal coliform bacteria, that represent the quality of water that support a particular use.

**Water Reclamation Facility:** A site at which wastewater is cleaned using biological and chemical processes so that it can be returned to the environment to augment the natural systems. It can include both aquifer and stream enhancement.

**Water Recycling Act of 1991:** Legislation, (*California Water Code*, Sections 13575–13583), that established a statewide water recycling goal. As defined by the Act, recycled water is wastewater that has been treated to a quality that allows the water to be used again.

**Watercourse:** Natural or once natural flowing (perennially or intermittently) water including rivers, streams, and creeks. Includes natural waterways that have been



channelized, but does not include manmade channels, ditches, and underground drainage and sewage systems.

**Waters of the State:** Any surface water or groundwater, including saline waters, within the boundaries of the state (as defined by the Porter-Cologne Act).

**Waters of the U.S.:** "Waters of the U.S." can be divided into three categories: territorial seas, tidal waters, or non-tidal waters. The term "waters of the U.S." is defined by the *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR, Title 33, Navigation and Navigable Waters; Part 328, Definition of waters of the United States; §328.3, Definitions) and includes (1) all waters that have, are, or may be used in interstate or foreign commerce (including sightseeing or hunting); (2) all interstate waters including interstate wetlands; (3) all other where the use, degradation, or destruction of which could affect interstate or foreign commerce; (4) all impoundments of waters otherwise defined as "waters of the U.S." under the definition; (5) all tributaries of waters identified above; (6) the territorial seas; and (7) all wetlands adjacent to waters (other than waters that are themselves wetlands) identified above.

**Watershed:** The land area that drains into a stream. The watershed for a major river may encompass a number of smaller watersheds that ultimately combine at a common point (SWRCB 2011).

**Weaving:** The process of exiting a site and merging across multiple lanes "with traffic" to reach an intersection and go in a different direction.

**Weekday:** Any day, Monday through Friday, which is not a legal holiday.

**Wetlands:** An area at least periodically wet or flooded; where the water table stands at or above the land surface (bogs and marshes). Also those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas.

**Whole of an Action:** An action that may result in either a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment (See State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15378).

**Wildlife Corridor:** A natural corridor, such as an undeveloped ravine, that is frequently used by wildlife to travel from one area to another.

**Wildlife Crossing:** A small, narrow area, relatively short in length and generally constricted in nature, that allows wildlife to pass under or through an obstacle or barrier that otherwise hinders or prevents movement.

**Williamson Act:** Known formally as the "California Land Conservation Act of 1965", it was designed as an incentive to retain prime agricultural land and open space in agricultural use, thereby slowing its conversion to urban and suburban development. The program entails a 10-year contract between the city or county and an owner of land whereby the land is taxed on the basis of its agricultural use rather than the market value. The land becomes subject to

certain enforceable restrictions, and certain conditions need to be met prior to approval of an agreement.

**Williamson Act Lands:** Lands preserved for agricultural production. Lands under Williamson Act contracts are assessed according to their agricultural use value rather than as potentially developable lands.

**Windrow:** A line of trees to reduce the force of a prevailing wind.

**Xeriscape:** Environmental design of residential and park land using various methods for minimizing the need for water use ([www.dictionary.com](http://www.dictionary.com)).

**Years Before Present (YBP):** “Before Present” assumes that 1950 is “present,” so in this case 10,000 YBP would be 8,050.

**Zero Lot Line:** A detached single family unit distinguished by the location of one exterior wall on a side property line.

**Zone:** A specifically delineated area or district in a municipality within which regulations and requirements uniformly govern the use, placement, spacing and size of land and buildings.

**Zoning:** The division of a municipality by legislative regulations into areas or zones for the purpose of regulating land use, types of buildings, required yards and setbacks, parking, and other prerequisites to development. Zones are generally shown on a map and the text of the zoning ordinance specifies requirements for each zoning category. A program that implements policies of the General Plan.

**Zoning Map:** Section 65851 of the *California Government Code* permits a legislative body to divide a county, a city, or portions thereof, into zones of the number, shape, and area it deems best suited to carry out the purposes of the zoning ordinance. These zones are delineated on a map or maps, called the Zoning Map.

**Zoning Ordinance:** A law dividing all land in the city into zones that specifies uses permitted and standards required in each zone.

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