

24.0

FREQUENTLY USED ACRONYMS, ABBREVIATIONS, AND TERMS

24.1 ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AAGR	Average annual growth rate
AAQS	Ambient Air Quality Standard
ABAG	Association of Bay Area Governments
Acre	43,560 square feet
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
ADT	Average Daily Trips
afy	Acre-feet per year
Air Basin	North Central Coast Air Basin
ALUC	Airport Land Use Commission
AMBAG	Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments
Ammonia (NH ₃)	Gaseous ammonia released by the microbiological decay of plant and animal proteins
AMR	American Medical Response
APCD	Air Pollution Control District
APCO	Air Pollution Control Office
APEFZA	Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act
AQMD	Air Quality Management District

24.0 FREQUENTLY USED ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AQMP	Air Quality Management Plan
ASAE	American Society of Agricultural Engineers
ASTM	American Society for Testing and Materials
BAU	Business as usual
bgs	Below ground surface
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
BMP	Best Management Practices
BOS	San Benito County Board of Supervisors
CAA	Federal Clean Air Act
CAAA	Federal Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990
CalARP	California Accidental Release Program
CalEPA	California Environmental Protection Agency
CAL FIRE	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
CalOSHA	California Occupational Health and Safety
Caltrans	State of California Department of Transportation
CAPCOA	California Air Pollution Control Officers Association
CARB	California Air Resources Board
CBC	California Building Code
CCAA	California Clean Air Act
CCAR	California Climate Action Registry
CCAT	California Climate Action Team
CCIC	Central California Information Center
CCMA	Clear Creek Management Area
CCR	California Code of Regulations
CCRWQCB	Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CDPH	California Department of Public Health
CEC	California Energy Commission
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CESA	California Endangered Species Act
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations

CH ₄	Methane
CHP	California Highway Patrol
CIWMB	California Integrated Waste Management Board
CLG	Certified Local Government
CLUP	San Benito County Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan
CNDDDB	California Natural Diversity Database
CNPS	California Native Plant Society
CO	Carbon Monoxide
CO ₂	Carbon Dioxide
COG	Council of Governments
Corps	United States Army Corps of Engineers
CRHR	California Register of Historic Places
CRPR	California Rare Plant Rank
CSA	Community Service Area
CTS	California tiger salamander
CUPA	Certified Unified Program Agency
CVP	Central Valley Project
CWA	Clean Water Act
CWPP	Community Wildfire Protection Plan
dBA	A-weighted Decibel, the most common unit used for measuring environmental sound levels
DHS	Department of Health Services
DOF	California Department of Finance
DOT	United States Department of Transportation
DPR	California Department of Parks and Recreation
DEIR	Draft Environmental Impact Report
DTSC	California Department of Toxic Substances Control
DWR	California Department of Water Resources
EDD	California Employment Development Department
EHD	San Benito County Environmental Health Division
EIR	Environmental Impact Report

24.0 FREQUENTLY USED ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ERCI	Environmental Resources and Constraints Inventory
ESA	Environmental Site Assessment
EUI	Energy Utilization Index
FAA	Federal Aviation Administration
FAR	Floor-to-Area Ratio
FEIR	Final Environmental Impact Report
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FESA	Federal Endangered Species Act
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
FIRM	Flood Insurance Rate Maps
FMMP	California Department of Conservation Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program
FMP	Fire Management Plan
FRAP	CAL FIRE Fire and Resource Assessment Program
FSA	California Farmland Security Act
FTA	Federal Transit Administration
GPAC	General Plan Advisory Committee
gpd	Gallons per day
gpm	Gallons per minute
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GIS	Geographic Information System
HCD	California Department of Housing and Community Development
HCP	Habitat Conservation Plan
HHSA	San Benito County Health and Human Services Agency
HHW	Household Hazardous Waste
HNO ₃	Nitric Acid
HTC	Hexagon Transportation Consultants, Inc.
HUD	United States Department of Housing and Urban Development
IPCC	International Panel on Climate Change
IRWMP	Integrated Regional Water Management Plan

IWMP	Integrated Waste Management Plan
IS	Initial Study
JPA	Joint Powers Authority
LAFCo	Local Agency Formation Commission
LCFS	Low Carbon Fuels Standard
LESA	Land Evaluation and Site Assessment
Lmax	Maximum Instantaneous Noise Level , the maximum level of noise measured during a given measurement period
LOS	Level of Service
LRA	Local Responsibility Area
LUST	Leaking Underground Storage Tanks
MAF	Million acre-feet
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
MBUAPCD	Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District
MCF	Methane Conversion Factor
MCL	Maximum Contaminant Level
mgd	Million gallons per day
MHSA	Mental Health Services Act
MMP	Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan
MMT	Million metric tons
MOE	Measure of Effectiveness
MPO	Metropolitan Planning Organizations
MRP	Monitoring and Reporting Program
MRZ	Mineral Resource Zone
MSL	Mean Sea Level
MSR	Municipal Service Review
N ₂ O	Nitrous Oxide
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NAC	Noise Abatement Criteria
NAHC	California Native American Heritage Commission

24.0 FREQUENTLY USED ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

NCCAB	North Central Coast Air Basin
NCCP	Natural Community Conservation Plan
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NFIP	National Flood Insurance Program
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
Nitrogen	A chemical element, commonly used in fertilizer as a nutrient, which is also a component of animal wastes
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NMVOG	Nonmethane volatile organic compounds
NO	Nitric Oxide
NOA	Naturally Occurring Asbestos
NOAA Fisheries	National Marine Fisheries Service
NOI	Notice of Intent
NO ₂	Nitrogen Dioxide
NOP	Notice of Preparation
NO _x	Nitrogen Oxides
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NPS	California Native Plant Society
NRCS	National Resource Conservation Service (formerly, Soil Conservation Service, US Department of Agriculture)
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
NWR	National Wildlife Refuge
O ₃	Ozone
OES	California Office of Emergency Services
OH-	Hydroxyl Radical
OPR	Office of Planning and Research
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
OWM	EPA Office of Wastewater Management
PAH	Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons
Pb	Lead
PC	San Benito County Planning Commission

PEL	Permissible Exposure Limit
PM ¹⁰	Suspended Particulate Matter; Ten micron Particulates
PM ^{2.5}	Fine Particulate Matter
ppm	Parts per million
PPV	Peak particle velocity
PRC	California Public Resources Code
PRD	Permit Registration Documents
PSD	Prevention of Significant Deterioration
PTSF	Percent Time-Spent-Following
RCD	Resource Conservation District
REL	Reference Exposure Level
RHNA	Regional Housing Needs Allocation
ROG	Reactive Organic Gases
RPS	Renewable Portfolio Standard
RTP	Regional Transportation Plan
RWCQB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SAAQS	State Ambient Air Quality Standards
SAFETEA	Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act
SBCOG	San Benito County of Governments
SBCWD	San Benito County Water District
SCS	Sustainable Communities Strategy
SDWA	Safe Drinking Water Act
SHL	State Historic Landmark
SHMP	State of California Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Officer
SIL	Significant Impact Level
SIP	State Implementation Plan
SMARA	Surface Mining and Reclamation Act
SO ₂	Sulfur Dioxide
SOI	Sphere of Influence

24.0 FREQUENTLY USED ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

SO _x	Sulfur Oxides
SPFC	State Plan of Flood Control
SR	State Route
SRA	State Responsibility Area
SWIS	Solid Waste Information System
SWPPP	Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
TAC	Toxic Air Contaminants
TAZ	Traffic Analysis Zone
TDS	Total Dissolved Solids
TLV	Threshold Limit Value
TOG	Total Organic Gases
TWA	Time Weighted Average
µg/m ³	Micrograms per Cubic Meter
UBC	Uniform Building Code
UNFCCC	United Nations' Framework Convention on Climate Change
USBR	United States Bureau of Reclamation
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USEPA	US Environmental Protection Agency
USFS	United States Forest Service
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	United States Geological Survey
VdB	Vibration Decibel
VMT	Vehicle Miles Traveled
VOC	Volatile Organic Compounds
WMA	Wildlife Management Area
WTP	Water Treatment Plant
WUI	Wildland Urban Interface

24.2 TERMS

A-Weighted Sound Level (dBA). The sound pressure level in decibels as measured on a sound level meter using the A-weighting filter network. The A-weighting filter de-emphasizes the very low- and very high-frequency components of the sound in a manner similar to the frequency response of the human ear and correlates well with subjective reactions to noise.

Acre foot (AF). The volume of water required to cover one acre of land (43,560 square feet) to a depth of one foot. One acre foot is equal to 325,851 gallons or 1,233 cubic meters. Historically, an acre foot represents the amount of water typically used by one family during a year. This term is usually used to describe the volume of stormwater detention or retention basins and reservoirs.

Aggregate. A resource composed of sand, gravel, and crushed stone used in the construction of buildings, roads, and other structures and facilities.

Airport Land Use Commission (ALUC). Responsible for developing and maintaining comprehensive airport land use compatibility plans (ALUCPs) to protect public health and safety, ensuring compatible land uses in the areas around each airport, and ensuring consistency between local land use plans and comprehensive land use plans for airport areas.

Aquifer. A geologic formation that is water bearing, and stores and/or transmits water, such as to wells and springs. Use of the term is usually restricted to those water bearing formations capable of yielding water in sufficient quantity to constitute a usable supply.

Ambient Air Quality Standards. These standards measure outdoor air quality. They identify the maximum acceptable average concentrations of air pollutants during a specified period of time. These standards have been adopted at both State and Federal levels.

Ambient Noise Level. The composite of noise from all sources near and far. The normal or existing level of environmental noise at a given location.

Annex (verb). The process by which land is incorporated into an existing district or municipality, with a resulting change in the boundaries of the annexing jurisdiction.

Area of Potential Effects (APE). The geographic area or areas within which an undertaking or project may directly or indirectly cause changes in the character or use of historic properties. All projects or undertakings generate potential effects that may directly or indirectly affect cultural resources.

Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG). Regional planning agency for the Bay Area including Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano, and Sonoma Counties.

Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG). Regional planning agency for the Monterey Bay Area including San Benito, Santa Cruz, and Monterey Counties.

Associated and Non-Associated Gas Production. Indicates either the presence or non-presence of oil during natural gas production.

Automatic Aid. The process whereby the closest piece of emergency apparatus is dispatched to a call for assistance, regardless of jurisdiction.

Average Dry Weather Flow (ADWF). Flow during dry months (June August), with limited or no inflow and infiltration.

Backup. Wastewater that enters into basements and other low lying areas during a moderate to intense rainfall event. Similar to overflow, backup is normally a result of excess stormwater and groundwater entering into the sanitary sewer, or a blockage in the public or private sewer system.

Base Flow. The component of wastewater that originates from domestic users, such as residential, commercial, and institutional discharges.

Basin. A hydrologic unit defined as a part of the surface of the earth covered by a drainage system consisting of a surface stream or body of impounded surface water plus all tributaries.

Best Management Practices (BMP). Activities or structural improvements that help reduce the quantity and improve the quality of stormwater runoff. BMPs include treatment requirements, operating procedures, and practices to control site runoff, spillage or leaks, sludge or waste disposal, or drainage from raw materials storage.

Black Carbon (BC). Black Carbon, commonly called soot, is formed through the incomplete combustion of fossil fuels, biofuel, and biomass (e.g., wood, waste, and alcohol fuels). Black Carbon warms the planet by absorbing heat in the atmosphere and by reducing the ability of snow and ice to reflect sunlight.

British thermal unit (Btu). The quantity of heat required to raise the temperature of one pound of liquid water by one degree Fahrenheit at the temperature at which water has its greatest density.

Buildout. Development of land to its full potential or theoretical capacity as permitted under current or proposed planning or zoning designations.

California Climate Action Registry (CCAR). The California Climate Action Registry is a nonprofit voluntary registry for sources and producers of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

California Historical Landmarks (CHL). Buildings, sites, features, or events that are of statewide significance and have anthropological, cultural, military, political, architectural, economic, scientific, or technical, religious, experimental, or other historical value.

California Points of Historical Interest (CPHI). Sites, buildings, features, or events that are of local (city or county) significance and have anthropological, cultural, military, political architectural, economic, scientific or technical, religious, experimental, or other historical value.

California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR). Buildings, sites, structures, objects, and districts significant in the architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political, military, or cultural annals of California.

California Scenic Highway Program. The California Scenic Highway Program was created by the State Legislature in 1963 to preserve and protect scenic highway corridors from change that would diminish the aesthetic value of lands adjacent to highways.

Carbon dioxide (CO₂). Carbon Dioxide is an odorless and colorless greenhouse gas. Outdoor levels of CO₂ are not high enough to result in negative health effects. CO₂ is emitted from natural sources (the decomposition of dead organic matter; respiration of bacteria, plants, animals, and fungus; evaporation from oceans; and volcanic out-gassing) and man-made sources (the burning of coal, oil, natural gas, and wood).

Carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e). A distinct measure for describing how much global warming a given type and amount of greenhouse gas may cause, using the functionally equivalent amount or concentration of CO₂ as the reference.

Carbon Sequestration. Carbon storage (sequestration) occurs in forests and soils, primarily through the natural process of photosynthesis. Atmospheric carbon dioxide is taken up through leaves and becomes carbon in the woody biomass of trees and other vegetation.

Catch Basin. An entryway to the storm drain system, usually located at street corners.

Census. The official United States decennial enumeration of the population conducted by the Federal government.

Channel Bank. The sloping side of a drainage or other open channel.

Channel Capacity. The flow rate (volume/time) a channel will carry without overtopping; or reduced capacity by required freeboard or other designated non drainage/flood protection uses.

Chlorofluorocarbon (CFC). CFCs are gases formed synthetically by replacing all hydrogen atoms in methane or ethane (C₂H₆) with chlorine and/or fluorine atoms. CFCs are nontoxic, nonflammable, insoluble, and chemically unreactive in the troposphere (the layer of the atmosphere nearest the earth's surface).

City. An incorporated municipality with local administrative and regulatory authority, usually governed by a mayor and council. When spelled with a capital "C," refers to a specific government agency or administration body. When spelled with a lower case "c," refers to the geographical area or a generic city.

Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL). The average A-weighted noise level during a 24-hour day, obtained after addition of five decibels in the evening from 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm and after addition of 10 decibels to sound levels measured in the night between 10:00 pm and 7:00 am.

Conservation Easement. A legal agreement between a landowner and another party that limits uses of the land in order to protect its biological and other resource value.

Critical Habitat. Specific areas designated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) as essential to the conservation of a Federally-listed species and which may require special management considerations or protection. On city, county, state, or private land where there is no Federal involvement, a critical habitat designation has no regulatory impact. In other words, designation of critical habitat generally does not affect non-Federal land unless and until the property owner needs a Federal permit or requests Federal funding for a project.

Cultural Resources. Tangible or observable evidence of past human activities, including prehistoric and historic archeological sites, historic buildings and structures, historic districts with multiple buildings or structures, archeological districts with multiple sites, and traditional cultural properties and landscapes. Cultural resources may include buildings, structures, objects, sites, districts, places, or any physical evidence of human activities over 45 years old. Native Americans may attribute cultural values to landscapes and natural features.

Culvert. A short, closed (covered) conduit or pipe that passes stormwater runoff under an embankment, usually a roadway.

Day/Night Noise Level, Ldn or DNL. The average A-weighted noise level during a 24-hour day, obtained after addition of 10 decibels to levels measured in the night between 10:00 pm and 7:00 am.

Decibel (dB). A unit describing the amplitude of sound, equal to 20 times the logarithm to the base 10 of the ratio of the pressure of the sound measured to the reference pressure. The reference pressure for air is 20.

Density (Residential). The number of permanent residential dwelling units per acre of land. Densities specified in the general plan may be expressed in units per gross acre or per net developable acre.

Detention. Temporary storage of stormwater runoff; typically a basin that has an outlet designed to control the release rate to downstream water bodies.

Development. A human made change to property, such as buildings or other structures, mining, dredging, filling, grading, paving, excavation, or drilling operations.

Digital Subscriber Line (DSL). Internet technology that uses existing two wire copper telephone wiring to deliver high speed data services at speeds greater than basic internet dial up.

Disinfection. A process following secondary or tertiary treatment that typically involves the use of chlorine or ultraviolet (UV) radiation to destroy bacteria and other pathogens.

Drainage. Surface or subsurface features or structures that collect and remove excess rainfall runoff or high groundwater.

Drainage Channel. An open channel such as a swale, constructed channel, or natural drainage course that conveys, stores and/or treats runoff.

Dry Weather Infiltration. Groundwater that enters into the sanitary sewer system during the driest period of the year when the groundwater table is lowest in elevation.

Dwelling Unit. A room or group of rooms (including sleeping, eating, cooking, and sanitation facilities, but not more than one kitchen) that constitutes an independent housekeeping unit, occupied or intended for occupancy by one household on a long term basis.

Easement. A limited right to make use of a property owned by another; for example, a right of way across the property.

Economic Region. Includes all land within the four counties of San Benito, Santa Cruz, Monterey, and Santa Clara.

Effluent. Treated wastewater that is discharged from a wastewater treatment facility.

Electricity. A natural phenomenon, either through lightning or the attraction and repulsion of protons and electrons to create friction, that in turn forms an electric current or power.

Electronic “E” Waste. Items include computers, computer monitors, televisions, printers, and electronic parts, which are excluded from solid waste landfills.

Endangered (also abbreviated “E”). A species whose survival and reproduction in the wild is in immediate jeopardy from one or more causes: including loss of habitat, change in habitat, over exploration, predation, competition, disease, or other factors.

Energy Resources. Sources of electricity and natural gas. Electrical generation may come from natural gas, biomass, hydroelectric plants, solar, or wind.

Erosion. Removal of soil and/or sediment (whether vegetated or not) by wind, water, or glacial ice. Erosion occurs naturally, but can be intensified by land clearing activities such as farming, development, road building, and timber harvesting.

Estimate. An approximate judgment or calculation.

Equivalent Noise Level (Leq). The average A-weighted noise level during the measurement period.

Ethnohistoric Resources. Native American objects, sites, buildings, or structures that generally date from 1776 to 45 years before the present. Ethnohistory is the study of native or non-Western peoples from a combined historical and anthropological viewpoint, using written documents, oral literature, and cultural material. Ethnohistory begins at different times at different places within California after the arrival of European settlers.

Exceedance Probability. The probability that a precipitation or runoff event of a specified size will be equaled or exceeded in any stated time unit.

Excessive I/I. Measured inflow and infiltration within a sanitary sewer system that is considered to be more expensive to transport and treat at the municipality's wastewater treatment plant than to eliminate through rehabilitation.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The Federal agency that regulates floodplains and manages the nation's flood insurance program.

Flood. A temporary rise in flow rate and/or stage (elevation) of any watercourse or stormwater conveyance system that results in runoff exceeding normal flow boundaries and inundating adjacent, normally dry areas.

Flood Control. Regulations and practices that reduce or prevent the damage caused by stormwater runoff.

Floodplain. Any land area susceptible to inundation by stormwater from any source. FEMA defines the floodplain to be the area inundated by the 100 year flood.

Floodplain Management. The implementation of policies and programs to protect floodplains and maintain their flood control function.

Floor Area Ratio (FAR). The ratio of the gross building area on a site, excluding structured parking, to the net developable area of the site. The new developable area is the total area of a site excluding parts that cannot be developed (e.g., rights-of-way, public parks).

Freeboard. The vertical distance between the maximum design water surface of a channel and the top bank provided to account for differences between predicted and actual water surface elevations and/or to provide an allowance for protection.

Frequency. How often an event will occur expressed by the return period or exceedance probability.

Frequency (Hz). The number of complete pressure fluctuations per second above and below atmospheric pressure. Normal human hearing is between 20 Hz and 20,000 Hz. Infrasonics sound are below 20 Hz and Ultrasonic sounds are above 20,000 Hz.

General Permit. A permit issued under the NPDES program to cover a certain class or category of stormwater discharges. These permits reduce the administrative burden of permitting stormwater discharges.

General Plan. A compendium of county or city policies regarding its long term development, in the form of goals, policies, implementation measures, and maps. The general plan is a legal document required of each local agency by the California Government Code Section 65301 and adopted by the board of supervisors or city council.

Generators. Entities that own, operate, and maintain generation assets to supply energy and ancillary services to the competitive market.

Geothermal. Geothermal resources are used to generate electricity or heat by using naturally occurring geological heat sources. The use of geothermal resources is a form of renewable energy. Large scale electrical generation is possible in areas near geysers or hot springs by one of three methods: using naturally occurring steam, using superheated ground water, or using geothermal heat to heat a heattransfer fluid.

Gigawatthours (GWh). A unit of measurement for electricity equal to one thousand megawattwathours or one billion watt hours.

Global Warming Potential (GWP). GWP is one type of simplified index based upon radiative properties that can be used to estimate the potential future impacts of emissions of different gases upon the climate system in a relative sense. The reference gas in this case is CO₂. One teragram of carbon dioxide equivalent (Tg CO₂ e) is essentially the emissions of the gas multiplied by the GWP.

Greenhouse Effect. The earth's natural warming process is known as the "greenhouse effect." Certain atmospheric gases that trap heat in the atmosphere, causing the greenhouse effect, are referred to as greenhouse gases (GHGs).

Greenhouse Gases (GHG). Gases that contribute to the greenhouse effect. Some GHGs such as carbon dioxide occur naturally, and are emitted to the atmosphere through natural processes and human activities. Other GHGs (e.g., fluorinated gases) are created and emitted solely through human activities. The principal GHGs that enter the atmosphere because of human activities include: water vapor, carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), and fluorinated gases (hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), and sulfur hexafluoride (SF₆)).

Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory. A greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory is an accounting of the amount of greenhouse gases emitted to or removed from the atmosphere over a specific period of time (e.g., one year) for a specified area. Inventories may be global or local. A GHG inventory also provides information on the activities that cause emissions and removals, as well as background on the methods used to make the calculations. Policy makers use GHG inventories to track emission trends, develop strategies and policies, and assess progress in controlling GHG emissions.

Groundwater. Water that occurs beneath the land surface, specifically within pore spaces of saturated soil, sediment, or rock formations. Groundwater does not include moisture held by capillary action in the upper, unsaturated areas of aquifers.

Groundwater Basin. An aquifer or series of aquifers with defined lateral boundaries and bottom layer. In some cases the boundaries of successively deeper aquifers may differ and make it difficult to define the limits of the basin.

Hazardous Waste. Discarded items from industrial or agricultural processes that would be designated hazardous due to the concentration, volume, and chemical content.

Historical Archeological Resources. Sites, historic occupations, and activities that are at least 45 years old. Evidence of historic activity can include the physical remains of cultural and designed landscapes, battlegrounds, cemeteries, mines, canals, trails, roads, railroads, and farmsteads.

Historic-era Built Environment Resources. Buildings, structures, objects, or districts. “Buildings” such as houses, barns, churches, hotels, or similar constructions, are created principally to shelter or house various forms of human activity. “Structure” is used to distinguish buildings whose functional constructions are usually made for purposes other than creating human shelter. The term “object” is used to distinguish from buildings and structures entities that are primarily artistic in nature or are relatively small in scale, and of simple or vernacular construction. A “district” possesses a significant concentration, linkage, or continuity of sites, buildings structures, or objects united historically or aesthetically by plan or physical development (Office of Historic Preservation 1995).

Household Hazardous Waste. Items that are discarded at specially designated facilities. These items include paints, cleaning chemicals, solvents, fluorescent light bulbs, non-commercial pesticides, insecticides, and motor oil.

Hydrofluorocarbons (HFC). HFCs are synthetic, man-made chemicals that are used as a substitute for CFCs. Of all the greenhouse gases, they are one of three groups with the highest global warming potential.

Hydrograph. A numeric or graphical representation of variation over time in stage (depth) or flow rate of water.

I/I. An abbreviation for inflow and infiltration into a sanitary sewer system.

Implementation. This term implies that something is constructed and becomes operational, or becomes effective.

Industrial Waste. Solid or liquid material that is discarded from industrial facilities.

Infiltration. The penetration of water through the ground surface into subsurface soil or the penetration of water from the soil into sewer or other pipes through defective joints, connections, or manhole wells.

Inflow. Surface stormwater that enters into the sanitary sewer through direct sources, such as vented manhole covers, downspouts, area drains, and uncapped cleanout.

Insurance Services Office Ratings. Public protection classifications are designated by the State Insurance Services Office (ISO). The ISO bases its classifications on a number of factors, including fire department location, equipment, staffing, water supply, and communications abilities. Ratings range from 1 to 10, with 1 being the best possible fire protection, and 10 being the worst.

Interceptor. Sanitary sewer interceptors are those lines that convey sewage from neighborhood to neighborhood en route to the wastewater treatment plant. Pipe diameters are generally larger than lines placed within residential developments.

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The IPCC assesses the scientific, technical, and socio-economic information relevant for the understanding of the risk of human-induced climate change.

Internet. A network that links computer networks all over the world by satellite and telephone, connecting users with service networks such as e mail and the World Wide Web.

Intrusive. 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 informational content as well as the prevailing ambient noise level.

Kilowatt hours (kWh). A unit of measurement for electricity equal to one thousand watt hours.

L01, L10, L50, and L90. The A-weighted noise levels that are exceeded 1, 10, 50, and 90 percent of the time during the measurement period.

Ladder Fuels. Combustible materials (both live and dead) that provide a path for a surface fire to climb up into the crowns of shrubs or trees. Standing dead trees with many limbs near the ground are an example of ladder fuels. Pruning and thinning can remove ladder fuels.

Land Use. The occupation or use of land or water area for any human activity or any purpose defined in the general plan.

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).

Less-than-Significant Impact (LS). A less-than-significant impact is an impact that would not result in a substantial and adverse change in the environment and would not require mitigation.

Levee. A dike or embankment constructed to confine flow to a stream channel and to provide protection to adjacent land. A levee designed to provide 100 year flood protection must meet FEMA standards.

Level of Protection. The amount of protection that a drainage or flood control measure provides.

Low Impact Development. Development that incorporates a combination of drainage design features and pollution reduction measures to reduce development impacts on hydrology (peak runoff flow rates) and water quality.

Lift Station. A pumping facility that conveys wastewater flow from an area that would not naturally drain to the wastewater treatment plant, or into the gravity sewer system for delivery and treatment.

Lmax and Lmin. The maximum and minimum A-weighted noise level during the measurement period.

Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO). A commission within 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.

Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI). ICLEI, now called ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability.

Megawatt hours (MWh). A unit of measurement for electricity equal to one thousand kilowatt hours or one million watt hours.

Mello Roos Bonds (Also known as Special Local Bonds). Schools Districts may form special districts to sell bonds for school construction projects. The bonds, which require approval of two thirds of the voters, are repaid by property owners located within the special district.

Methane (CH₄). CH₄ is highly flammable GHG, and may form explosive mixtures with air. Methane has both natural sources (such as in swamplands) and anthropogenic sources (such as growing rice, raising cattle, using natural gas, mining coal, fossil-fuel combustion, and biomass burning).

Midden (Anthropic) Deposits. Deposits of earth that have been affected by prehistoric human occupation, usually dark in color, rich in organic minerals, often containing artifacts or other items of human manufacture or use, frequently including human remains.

Mineral Deposit. A mass of naturally occurring mineral material, such as metal ores or nonmetallic mineral, usually of economic value. The mineral material may be of value for its chemical and/or physical characteristics.

Mobile Source. A moving source of air pollution such as on road or off road vehicles, boats, airplanes, lawn equipment, and small equipment engines.

Most Likely Descendent (MLD). A list of Native American descendants of many California tribes maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission. These individuals review projects and determine whether a project will impact areas or sites of significance to the Native American community.

Multi-Component Archeological Resources. Archeological sites that exhibit more than one occupational or cultural component, for example a site containing both prehistoric and historic remains.

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

Municipal Service Review. A Municipal Service Review (MSR) is a study conducted for a city, county, or special district, examining all public service needs for the area and recommending actions to promote the efficient provision of public services. The MSR is a prerequisite to a Sphere of Influence determination or change and may also lead a LAFCO to take other actions under its authority. In adopting the required MSR for each agency's Sphere of Influence (SOI),

LAFCO must include a written statement of its determinations with respect to each of the following topics: infrastructure needs or deficiencies; growth and population projections for the affected area; financing constraints and opportunities; cost avoidance opportunities; opportunities for rate restructuring; opportunities for shared facilities; government structure options, including advantages and disadvantages of consolidation or reorganization of service provision; evaluation of management efficiencies; and local accountability and governance.

Mutual Aid. The provision of resources (personnel, apparatus, and equipment) to a requesting jurisdiction already engaged in emergency operations, which have exhausted or will shortly exhaust local resources.

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit. The regulatory document that defines the discharge requirements, monitoring requirements, and operational requirements for a particular wastewater treatment facility or other discharger to a surface water. The surface water quality program authorized by Congress as part of the 1987 Clean Water Act. This is EPA's program to control the discharge of pollutants to waters of the United States.

National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Listing of buildings, structures, objects, sites, and districts of local, state, or national significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture.

Natural Gas. A mixture of hydrocarbon gases that occurs with petroleum deposits, principally methane together with varying quantities of ethane, propane, butane, and other gases, used as a fuel in a variety of applications from cooking stoves to heaters and industrial processes.

Nitrous oxide (N₂O). N₂O, also known as laughing gas, is a colorless greenhouse gas. Nitrous oxide is considered harmless in small doses, but heavy exposure can cause brain damage.

Nitrogen Oxides (NO_x). NO_x are composed of nitric oxide (NO), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and other oxides of nitrogen. NO_x are primarily created from the combustion process and are a major contributor to smog and acid rain formation.

Non-Point Source (NPS) Pollutants. Pollutants from many diffuse sources. Rainfall or snowmelt moving over and through the ground causes NPS pollution. As the runoff moves, it picks up and carries away natural and human made pollutants, finally depositing the pollutants into lakes, rivers, wetlands, coastal waters, and even underground sources of drinking water.

North Central Coast Air Basin (NCCAB). An air basin is a geographic area that exhibits similar meteorological and geographic conditions. California is divided into 15 air basins to assist the statewide regional management of air quality issues. The NCCAB includes San Benito, Santa Cruz, and Monterey Counties.

Official State Scenic Highway. A scenic highway officially designated by the State Scenic Highway Advisory Committee after application from a local jurisdiction, and only when the highway is identified on State Scenic Highway Master Plans.

Oil and Grease Traps. Devices that collect oil and grease, removing these contaminants from water flows.

Oil Sheen. A thin, glistening layer of oil on the surface of water.

Oil/Water Separator. A device installed (usually at the entrance to a drain) which removes oil and grease from water entering the drain.

Oil Well Status Cancelled, Permitted/Active, Dry, Idle or Plugged/Abandoned. This status reference indicates the activity at each well. “Cancelled” indicates that prior to drilling, the proposed drilling operation was cancelled. “Dry” conditions indicate that either the well was dry initially or became dry after a production period. Dry wells are “abandoned.” “Idle” implies that the well has been capped for later use, while “plugged” or “shut-in” refers to the fact that the well has been plugged or destroyed.

Open Space Land. Open space land is any parcel, area, or waterway that is essentially unimproved and devoted to an open space use. Under Section 65560 of the California Government Code, open space land is broadly defined as land designated for the preservation of natural resources (e.g., lakeshore and watershed lands); managed production of resources (e.g., lands for agriculture, pasture, forestry, recharge of groundwater basins); outdoor recreation (e.g., parks, scenic highway corridors, areas with outstanding scenic, historic, and cultural values); or public health and safety (e.g., flood plains, unstable soil areas).

One Hundred Year (100 year) Flood. The flood event that has a 1 percent chance of occurring in any given year.

One Hundred Year (100 year) Runoff. The storm runoff that has a 1 percent chance of occurring in any given year.

Outfall. The point where wastewater or drainage discharges from a sewer pipe, ditch, or other conveyance to a receiving body of water.

Ozone Precursors. There are several chemical steps in creating ozone. Ozone precursors are chemicals that lead to the eventual creation of ozone. Ozone precursors occur either naturally, or as a result of human activities such as the use of combustion engines. Ozone is a pungent, colorless, toxic gas created in the atmosphere rather than emitted directly into the air. Ozone is produced in complex atmospheric reactions involving oxides of nitrogen and reactive organic gases, acting with ultraviolet energy from the sun in a photochemical reaction.

Paleo-Indians. Refers to early Native Americans living approximately 12,500 to 8,500 years before the present, who left evidence that they hunted modern as well as now-extinct fauna. Their distinctive Clovis and Folsom fluted projectile points have been found and securely dated at numerous archeological sites in the American Southwest (Haynes 1969; Meltzer 2006). Evidence of their presence in California, however, consists of scattered finds of basally thinned, fluted projectile points found at surface sites, and in a few instances, in subsurface contexts (Rondeau et al. 2007).

Paleontological Resources. Any fossilized remains, traces, or imprints of organisms preserved in or on the earth's crust, that provide information about the history of life on earth, evolution, and our place, as humans, in the world, with the exception of archeological resource as defined by the Archeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (16 U.S.C. 470bb[1]), or any cultural item as defined by the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 (25 U.S.C. 3001[2]).

Peak Dry Weather Flow (PDWF). Peak dry weather flow or peak flow during dry months is determined by multiplying the ADWF by a diurnal daily peaking factor.

Peak Wet Weather Flow (PWWF). Peak wet weather flow is PDWF plus infiltration and inflow during wet weather.

Perfluorocarbons (PFCs). Perfluorocarbons have stable molecular structures, and do not break down through chemical processes in the lower atmosphere. PFCs have very long lifetimes – between 10,000 and 50,000 years. Two common PFCs are tetrafluoromethane (CF₄) and hexafluoroethane (C₂F₆).

Permitted Reserve. The part of a reserve that has approval by a lead agency for mineral extraction, the absence of which would preclude surface mining operations.

Petroleum Oil. A mixture of hydrocarbon fluids that occurs within petroleum deposits. Petroleum oil and gas are a byproduct of the burial and heating of subsurface geologic layers. Petroleum oil, when refined, is used to fuel combustion engines in vehicles and other applications.

Planning Area. The physical area directly addressed in the general plan. Planning areas for cities typically encompass all areas in the city limits and additional potentially annexable land. Planning areas for counties typically encompass all areas in the county boundary (i.e., county line).

PM₁₀. Dust and other particulates exhibit a range of particle sizes. Federal and State air quality regulations reflect the fact that smaller particles are easier to inhale and can be more damaging to health. PM₁₀ refers to dust and particulates that are 10 microns in diameter or smaller.

PM_{2.5}. PM_{2.5} refers to dust and particulates that are 2.5 microns in diameter or smaller.

Point Source Pollutant. Pollutants from a single, identifiable source such as a factory, refinery, or place of business.

Pollutant Loading. The total quantity of pollutants in stormwater runoff. TDML (Total Daily Maximum Loading) is the limiting of pollutant loading into a body of water, such as a lake or river.

Power Plants. Sources for generating electricity.

Prehistoric Archeological Resources. Sites, features, artifacts, objects, or materials used by Native Americans. Prehistoric archeological sites exhibit evidence of human activity, often identified by the presence of “midden” (anthropic deposits) created by human activity. Sites may contain evidence of thousands of years of human activity dating from the early Holocene (approximately 7,000 to 12,500 years ago) to the time of European contact in California, as early as AD 1776, and continuing into the Post-Contact ethnohistoric period. Physical evidence of prehistoric sites often includes stone artifacts and flakes produced while making or maintaining stone artifacts, food waste (shell or animal bone), and discolored, dark soil resulting from decay of organic matter (referred to as midden or anthropic deposits), fire hearths, stone alignments, bedrock grinding slicks, bedrock milling cups (bedrock mortars), or human skeletal remains.

Primary Treatment. Treatment of wastewater prior to secondary treatment involving screening, settling, and removal of suspended solids.

Project Area. The 2035 General Plan project area includes all unincorporated areas of San Benito County, except for those areas under the management of a state or federal agency. For more information regarding the location and area of the project, see Chapter 3, *Project Description*.

Projection. A prediction of the future setting based on extrapolations from past observations.

Public/Quasi Public Uses. Provides for public facilities such as schools, fire stations, hospitals, sanitariums, libraries, museums, government offices and courts, churches, meeting halls, cemeteries and mausoleums, public facilities, and similar and compatible uses.

Radiocarbon Dating. A method of establishing the age of archeological finds using carbon-14 to determine the age of organic materials from the present to about 62,000 years ago.

Rare. A plant species that, although not presently threatened with extinction, is present in such small numbers throughout all or a significant portion of its range that it may become endangered if its environment worsens.

Rational Method. A method of predicting peak runoff rates. The Rational Method is based on a runoff coefficient, predicted rainfall intensity, and drainage shed area.

Reactive Organic Gases (ROG). ROG are photo-chemically reactive and are composed of non-methane hydrocarbons. These gases contribute to the formation of smog.

Recharge. Re supplying of water to the aquifer. Recharge generally comes from snowmelt and stormwater runoff.

Recreational Area. Any public or private space set aside or primarily oriented to recreational use. This includes both parks and community centers.

Reserve. The part of the resource base that can be economically extracted or produced in the foreseeable future. The term reserve does not imply that extraction facilities are in place and operational.

Resources. A concentration of naturally occurring solid, liquid, or gaseous material in or on the earth's crust in a location and in such an amount that economic extraction of the commodity is feasible. Typical materials with economic value include gold, precious metals, and materials used in construction, such as sand, gravel, and clay.

Retention. A process that halts the downstream progress of stormwater runoff. This is typically accomplished using total containment involving the creation of storage areas that use infiltration devices, such as dry wells, to dispose of stored stormwater via percolation over a specified period of time (as opposed to the more common detention pond).

Return Period. The long term average number of years between occurrences of an event being equaled or exceeded.

Riparian. Of, on, or pertaining to the bank of a natural course of water. For example, riparian vegetation is composed of plant species normally found near streams, lakes, and other freshwater bodies, such as lakes, ponds, and reservoirs.

Riparian Corridors. A corridor of riparian vegetation adjacent to perennial and intermittent streams or other freshwater bodies.

Runoff. Drainage or flood discharge that leaves an area as surface flow or as pipeline flow.

Rural Designated Scenic Highway. A route outside urban boundaries that traverses a visual corridor within which natural scenic resources and aesthetic values will be protected and enhanced.

Sanitary Sewer. Pipes, pump stations, manholes, and other facilities that convey untreated (raw) wastewater from various sources to wastewater treatment facilities.

Scenic Corridor. The visible land area outside of a transportation corridor (road) right of way and generally described as the "view from the road." A Scenic Corridor must be defined adjacent to all Scenic Roads and Highways.

Secondary Treatment. Treatment of wastewater that typically follows primary treatment, and involves biological processes and settling tanks to remove organic material.

Sensitive Receptors. Populations or uses that are more susceptible to the effects of air pollution than the general population, such as long term health care facilities, rehabilitation centers, retirement homes, convalescent homes, residences, schools, childcare centers, and playgrounds.

Serpentine Mineral. A common group of minerals consisting of hydrous sheet silicates. Serpentine minerals are commonly found as alteration products of olivine, pyroxene, and amphibole.

Serpentinite. A rock composed mainly of serpentine minerals.

Service Line. Facilities owned and maintained by property owners that convey waste from a structure to the public system.

Significant Impact (PS). CEQA, as defined in Public Resources Code (PRC) §21068, defines a significant impact as that which has "a substantial, or potentially substantial, adverse change in any of the physical conditions within the area affected by the project." Levels of significance can vary by project, based on the change in the existing physical condition and the "substantial body of opinion that considers or will consider the effect to be adverse." The State CEQA Guidelines provide a list of consequences that would normally be regarded as having a significant effect on the environment. This RDPEIR uses the CEQA definition of significant impacts together with the local environmental standards established by the County. Mitigation measures are proposed, when feasible, to reduce the magnitude of significant impacts.

Significant and Unavoidable Impact (SU). A significant and unavoidable impact is one that would result in a substantial adverse effect on the environment which could not be mitigated to a less-than-significant level. A project could still proceed with significant unavoidable impacts, but the County would then be required to prepare a Statement of Overriding Considerations, pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines § 15093, that would explain why the County would proceed with the project despite the occurrence of the impacts.

Solid Waste. Non-hazardous solid discarded items from households and industry. Solid waste includes primarily waste paper and food organic waste. Other common waste items are plastic, cloth, metal cans, and yard waste.

Sound Pressure Level. The sound force per unit area, usually expressed in micro Pascals (or 20 micro Newtons per square meter), where one Pascal is the pressure resulting from a force of one

Newton exerted over an area of one square meter. Sound pressure level is expressed in decibels as 20 times the logarithm to the base 10 of the ratio between the pressures exerted by the sound to a reference soundpressure (e.g., 20 micro Pascals). Sound pressure level is the quantity that is directly measured by a sound level meter.

Special-Status Species: Rare, threatened, or endangered plant or animal species protected by Federal, State, or other agencies in accordance with any of the following: FESA, CESA, State Species of Concern list or Special Animals list (case-by-case basis), CDFG Fully Protected Species List [Sections 3511 (birds), 4700 (mammals), 5050 (reptiles and amphibians), and 5515 (fish) of the California Fish and Game Code], California Native Plant Protection Act (plants listed as rare, threatened or endangered by the California Native Plant Society (CNPS); or Section 15380 of the CEQA guidelines.

Specific Plan. A legal tool authorized by Government Code Section 65450, et seq., 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.

Sphere of Influence (SOI). The probable physical boundaries and service area of a local agency, that is intended to represent the area into which the city or district may expand and extend public services, as determined by the Local Agency Formation Commission of the county.

State Responsibility Areas (SRA). Areas classified by the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection as being the primary financial responsibility of the State for preventing and suppressing fires. These lands include: lands covered wholly or in part by timber, brush, undergrowth or grass, whether of commercial value or not; lands that protect the soil from erosion, retard run off of water, or accelerated percolation; lands used principally for range or forage purposes; lands not owned by the Federal Government; and lands not incorporated. Lands are removed from SRA when housing densities average more than three units per acre over an area of 250 acres.

Stationary Source. A non-mobile source of air pollution such as a power plant, refinery, distribution center, chrome plating facility, dry cleaner, port, rail yard, or manufacturing facility.

Stormwater. Precipitation that accumulates in natural and/or constructed storage and stormwater systems during and immediately following a storm event.

Stormwater Facilities. Systems such as watercourses, constructed channels, storm drains, culverts, and detention/retention facilities that are used for conveyance and/or storage of stormwater runoff.

Stormwater Management. Functions associated with planning, designing, constructing, maintaining, financing, and regulating the facilities (both constructed and natural) that collect, store, control, and/or convey stormwater.

Storm Water Management Plan (SWMP). A document submitted to the Regional Water Quality Control Board. The SWMP describes how a jurisdiction will reduce the discharge of pollutants in stormwater to the maximum extent practical and effectively limit non storm water discharges into the jurisdiction's storm drain system.

Stormwater System. The entire assemblage of stormwater facilities located within a watershed.

Sub basin or Sub shed. An area within the watershed that can be analyzed independently and that contributes a component of total watershed runoff.

Sulfur hexafluoride (SF6). Sulfur hexafluoride is an inorganic, odorless, colorless, nontoxic, nonflammable gas. It also has the highest GWP of any gas evaluated (23,900). In high concentrations in confined areas, the gas presents the hazard of suffocation because it displaces the oxygen needed for breathing.

Surcharge. A condition in which the wastewater flow rate in a sewer system exceeds the capacity of the sewer lines to the extent that raw sewage begins to rise within manholes.

Surface Water. Water that remains on the surface of the ground, including rivers, lakes, reservoirs, streams, wetlands, impoundments, seas, and estuaries.

Sustainability, is an international association of local governments, as well as national and regional local government organizations, that have made a commitment to sustainable development.

Swale. A low lying or depressed, at least seasonally wet, stretch of land. Often lined with grass (grassy swale) and used as a conveyance for stormwater.

Taxable Retail Sales. Retail sales activity as measured by transactions subject to sales and use tax.

Take. To harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct" (emphasis added).

Ten Year (10 year) Runoff. The storm runoff that has a 10 percent chance of occurring in any given year.

Teragram (Tg). A teragram is equal to one trillion grams, or one billion kilograms.

Tertiary Treatment. Treatment of wastewater that follows secondary treatment, and involves filtration or membrane processes to remove fine suspended and colloidal material, providing a more advanced level of treatment than secondary treatment alone.

Threatened (also abbreviated “T”). A species that is abundant in parts of its range, but declining in overall numbers and likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

Title 22. A section of the California Water Code that establishes water quality requirements for wastewater reclamation. As an example, Title 22 requires filtration of any reclaimed effluent used for full body contact recreation or fresh food crop irrigation. Title 22 requires lesser levels of treatment for other uses of reclaimed effluent.

Tonne. Also known as a “metric ton” (MT), a measurement equal to 1,000,000 grams (or 1,000 kilograms). One tonne converts to 2,204.62 pounds. By comparison, the standard ton used in the United States (a short ton) is equal to 2,000 pounds.

Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). A quantitative assessment of the total pollutant load that can be discharged from all sources each day while still meeting water quality objectives.

Toxic Hot Spot. A designation of a body of water that does not meet water quality standards and that will require an urban stormwater cleanup program and special monitoring.

Transmission and Distribution Lines. Distribution networks for electricity and natural gas.

Urban. The term urban is used to describe land uses common to a city or unincorporated community. Urban land uses include residential, commercial, industrial, and related institutional uses.

Urban Designated Scenic Highway. A route that traverses a visual corridor, offers an unhindered view of attractive urban and/or natural resources, and is within the urban boundaries of the cities of San Juan Bautista or Hollister.

Urban Runoff. Stormwater from urban areas that tends to contain heavy concentrations of pollutants from vehicles and industry.

Vernal pools. Seasonally flooded landscape depressions underlain by a subsurface that limits drainage. A type of ephemeral wetland, vernal pools result from an unusual combination of soil conditions, summer-dry Mediterranean climate, topography, and hydrology. Vernal pools support a specialized biota, including a relatively large number of threatened and endangered species.

Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR). Issued by the Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) to govern wastewater discharges to land.

Waste Generation Rates. The amount of solid waste generated. These rates are used to assess the annual anticipated landfill volume used.

Wastewater. Sewage (either treated or untreated) from residential, commercial, industrial, and institutional sources.

Wastewater Collection System. The totality of the pipes, pump station, manholes, and other facilities that convey untreated (raw) wastewater from the various sources to a wastewater treatment facility.

Watercourse. A lake, stream, creek, channel, stormwater conveyance system, or other topographic feature, over which stormwater flows at least periodically.

Water Year. A continuous twelve month period for which hydrologic records are compiled and summarized. Months may vary by location and agency, but October 1st through September 30th is commonly used by USGS. A given water year is named for the year in which it ends, i.e., the water year from October 1, 2008, through September 30, 2009, is water year 2009.

Waters of the United States. A body of water with a defined bed and bank and an ordinary high water mark. Also defined in Section 404 of the Clean Water Act as hydric features regulated by the Clean Water Act that are not defined as wetlands. Waters of the U.S. include lakes, rivers, and intermittent streams.

Watershed. That geographical area which drains to a specified point on a water course, usually a confluence of streams or rivers (also known as a drainage area, catchment, or river basin).

Water vapor (H₂O). Water vapor (H₂O) is the most abundant, important, and variable GHG in the atmosphere. Water vapor is not considered a pollutant; in the atmosphere it maintains a climate necessary for life.

Watt. An electrical unit of power equal to the rate of energy transfer produced in a circuit by one volt acting through a resistance of 1 ohm, a unit of measurement of resistance.

Wetlands. Areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater to support a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. This definition of wetlands requires three wetland identification parameters to be present: wetland hydrology, hydric soils, and hydrophytic vegetation. Wetlands can be areas that are consistently inundated or seasonally inundated. Wetlands are delineated according to the USACE 1987 Wetlands Delineation Manual, and are a subset of Waters of the United States. Examples include swamps, bogs, fens, marshes, and estuaries.

24.0 FREQUENTLY USED ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Wet weather Infiltration. Peak infiltration that is measured 6 to 12 hours after a measured storm event, excluding base flow and dry weather infiltration.

Vacant. Parcels of land or buildings that are not actively used for any purpose.

Zoning. Local codes regulating the use and development of property. A zoning ordinance divides the county or city into land use districts or “zones” represented on zoning maps, and specifies the allowable uses within each of those zones. It establishes development standards for each zone, such as minimum lot size, maximum height of structures, building setbacks, and yard size.

Zoning Code. Zoning and planning regulations of the county and any amendments, modifications, or revisions heretofore or hereafter made in such regulations.