

8. Glossary and Acronyms

8.1 Glossary

A

alignment	In transportation, the horizontal and vertical ground plan of a roadway, railroad, transit route, or other facility as it would appear in plan and profile.
alluvial	Relating to or deposited by flowing water.
attainment area	An area considered to have air quality standards that are good or better than the National Ambient Air Quality standards as defined in the Clean Air Act.
A-weighted decibel (dBA)	Unit for measuring sound in which the sensitivity of the human ear to certain frequencies is taken into account.

B

Best management practice (BMP)	Techniques used in various industries to assure that projects, work, or processes meet regulatory or industry standards.
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C

cumulative impact	The effects of two or more individual impacts that, when considered together, are considerable or that compound or increase other environmental impacts.
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D

decibel (dB)	Unit for measuring sound, based on a logarithmic scale.
de minimis	Minimal importance.

E

equivalent sound-level (Leq)	The equivalent steady state sound level that in a stated period of time would contain the same acoustical energy.
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erosion The process by which the Earth's surface gets worn down due to natural processes such as water and wind flow.

expansive soils Soils characterized by their ability to undergo significant volume change (shrink and swell) due to variation in soil moisture content. Expansive soils are typically very fine grained with a high to very high percentage of clay. The amount and type of clay minerals in the soil influence volume change.

F

fault A fracture in the crust of the earth along which rocks on one side have moved relative to those on the other side.

frequency A measure of how rapidly sound pressure fluctuates over one second, in units of hertz.

fugitive dust Emissions of windblown dust from sources other than exhaust stacks (e.g., wheel dust from unpaved roads).

H

Holocene An epoch of the Quaternary period spanning the time from the end of the Pleistocene (8,000 years ago) to the present

hydraulics The study of the mechanical properties of liquids.

hydrology The study of the occurrence, distribution, movement and properties of water on Earth.

I

impact The effect of an action on the environment.

L

Leq Equivalent sound pressure level-the steady sound level that, over a specified period of time, would produce the same energy equivalence as the fluctuating sound level actually occurring.

liquefaction The phenomenon in which saturated granular sediments temporarily lose their shear strength during periods of earthquake-induced strong ground-shaking. The susceptibility of a site to liquefaction is a function of the depth, density, and water content of the granular sediments and the magnitude and frequency of earthquakes in the surrounding region.

M

mesic	Of, pertaining to, or adapted to a habitat having a moderate supply of moisture.
mitigation (mitigation measure)	Methods proposed to avoid, minimize, rectify, reduce, eliminate, or compensate for a significant impact.

N

noise	Unpleasant, unwanted, undesirable, or disturbingly loud sound that disrupts a person's quality of life by interfering with communication, sleep, and/or leisure.
nonattainment area	An area considered to have air quality standards that are worse than the National Ambient Air Quality standards as defined in the Clean Air Act.

P

peak ground acceleration	The measure of earthquake acceleration on the ground.
Pleistocene	The latest major geological epoch, colloquially known as the "Ice Age" due to the multiple expansion and retreat of glaciers.

Q

Quaternary	The most recent period in the Earth's history.
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S

safety	The protection of people from accidental occurrences that could injure or kill them and protection of property from such accidents.
sedimentation	A process used to settle out suspended solids in water under the influence of gravity.
seiche	A series of waves caused by an earthquake within an enclosed or semi-enclosed body of water.
sensitive receptor	An individual who is more susceptible to the effects of air pollution than the general population. Sensitive receptors generally include children and elderly individuals.

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seral¹ In ecological terms, a “sere” is the series of biotic communities formed by the process of ecosystem development called succession. In forested landscapes, the various vegetation communities that occupy disturbed sites and make up a sere are called “seral stages.” Seral-stage communities consist of vegetation types that are adapted to the site’s particular set of physical and biotic conditions. In the unmanaged forested landscape, various natural disturbance agents (such as fire, windthrow, landslides, and insects) are responsible for creating forests containing a full range of stand ages.

subsidence General term for the slow, long-term regional lowering of the ground surface with respect to sea level.

T

taxon, taxa A taxonomic category or group, such as a phylum, order, family, genus, or species. Taxa is the plural of taxon.

tsunami A series of waves generated by an undersea disturbance, such as an earthquake or landslide.

W

wetlands Areas “inundated or saturated by surface or ground water 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.” (33 CFR 328.3, 40 CFR 230.3).

¹ Ministry of Forests Research Program, British Columbia. 1998. Biodiversity Management Concepts in Landscape Ecology. Extension Note 18. “Seral Stages across Forested Landscapes: Relationship to Biodiversity, Part 7 of 7”. April.

8.2 Acronyms

AAQS	Ambient Air Quality Standards
APCD	Air Pollution Control District
APNs	Assessor Parcel Numbers
AQMD	Air Quality Management District
AQMP	Air Quality Management Plan
BACT	Best available control technology
bgs	Below Ground Surface
BMPs	Best Management Practices
CAA	Clean Air Act
CAAQS	California Ambient Air Quality Standards
Cal-EPA	California Environmental Protection Agency
Cal-OSHA	California Occupational Safety and Health Administration
CARB	California Air Resources Board
CAA	Federal Clean Air Act of 1970
CCAA	California Clean Air Act of 1988
CCC	California State Coastal Conservancy
CCR	Code of California Regulations
CDF	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CDPH	California Department of Public Health
CEC	California Energy Commission
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CGS	California Geological Survey
CI	<i>Coccidioides immitis</i> fungus (San Joaquin Valley Fever)
CLOMR	Conditional Letter of Map Revision
CMB	Crushed miscellaneous base
CMP	Congestion Management Program
CNEL	Community Noise Equivalent Level
CNPS	California Native Plant Society
CO	Carbon monoxide
CPUC	California Public Utilities Commission
CRHR	California Register of Historic Resources
CRPR	California Rare Plant Rank
CUP	Conditional Use Permit
CWA	Clean Water Act
CY	Cubic yards
dB	Decibels
dBA	A-weighted decibels

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DBH	Diameter at Breast Height
DFIRM	Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map
DOORS	Diesel Off-Road Online Reporting System
DPM	Diesel particulate matter
DPS	Distinct Population Segment
DTSC	Department of Toxic Substances Control
DWR	Department of Water Resources
EHD	Environmental Health Division
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FIRM	Flood Insurance Rate Map
FIS	Flood Insurance Study
FTA	Federal Transit Administration
g	Gravity
GBV	Ground-Borne Vibration
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GMA	Groundwater Management Agency
HAPs	Hazardous air pollutants
HP	High pressure
HRMP	Habitat Restoration and Monitoring Plan
ICU	Intersection capacity utilization
LARWQCB	Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board
Ldn	Day/Night average noise level
Leq	Energy equivalent or energy average level
Leq(h)	Average or mean noise level over a period of time (1-hour)
LID	Low impact development
LLAP	Local Levee Assistance Program
Lmax	Instantaneous maximum noise level
LOMR	Letter of Map Revision
LOS	Levels of service
LSCR	Lower Santa Clara River
MBI	Michael Baker International
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
MLD	Most likely descendant
MOE	Measure of Effectiveness
MRP	Mineral Resource Protection
MS4	Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NAHC	Native American Heritage Commission
NAVD	North American Vertical Datum
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NFIP	National Flood Insurance Program

NO ₂	Nitrogen Dioxide
NOP	Notice of Preparation
NO _x	Nitrogen Oxides
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NPPA	Native Plant Protection Act
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
NTC	Noise threshold criteria
O ₃	Ozone
O&M	Operations and Maintenance
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
PCE	Passenger car equivalent
PCH	Pacific Coast Highway
PERP	Portable Equipment Registration Program
PM	Particulate matter
PM10	Respirable particulate matter
PM2.5	Fine particulate matter
ppm	Parts per million
PPV	Peak particle velocity
PSI	Pounds per square inch
PWA	Public Works Agency
RACT	Reasonably Available Control Technology
RC	Reinforced concrete
RCP	Reinforced concrete pipe
RMS	Root mean square
ROC	Reactive Organic Compounds
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Boards
SCAG	Southern California Association of Governments
SCCAB	South Central Coast Air Basin
SCE	Southern California Edison
SCRT	Santa Clara River Trail
SFHA	Special Flood Hazard Areas
SIP	State Implementation Plan
SO ₂	Sulfur Dioxide
SRP	Scenic Resource Protection
SWPPP	Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
TACs	Toxic air contaminants
µg/m ³	Micrograms per cubic meter
UPRR	Union Pacific Rail Road
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USEPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
USFWS	US Fish and Wildlife Service

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USGS	United States Geological Survey
V/C	Volume/capacity
VCAPCD	Ventura County Air Pollution Control District
VCFPD	Ventura County Fire Protection District
VCWPD	Ventura County Watershed Protection District
VdB	Vibration decibels
VDECS	Verified Diesel Emission Control Strategies
VOC	Volatile organic compound
VRSD	Ventura Regional Sanitation District
WDR	Waste discharge requirements
WEPP	Worker Environmental Education Program