

9.0 GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Acre-Foot. An acre-foot is the quantity of volume of water that covers one acre to a depth of one foot; equal to 43,560 cubic feet or 325,851 gallons.

Acres, Gross. Gross acres include the entire acreage of a site. 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.

Acres, Net. Net acres are 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 rights-of-way, public open-space, and floodways.

Active Fault. An active fault is a fault that has moved recently and that is likely to move again. It is usually defined as one that has shown movement within the last 11,000 years and can be expected to move within the next 100 years.

Administrative Record. The administrative record includes the compilation of notices, background reports, and environmental review documents that provide a record of the environmental review, public involvement, and decision-making processes required by CEQA related to the project.

Admixtures. Admixture is a material other than water, aggregates, or cement that is used as an ingredient of concrete or mortar to control setting and early hardening, workability, or to provide additional cementing properties.

Aesthetics. The perception of artistic elements, or elements in the natural or human-made environment that are pleasing to the eye.

Air Quality Criteria. Air quality criteria are the levels of pollution and length of exposure at which adverse effects on health and welfare occur.

Air Quality Standards. Air quality standards are the prescribed level of pollutants in the outside air that cannot be exceeded legally during a specified time in a specified geographical area.

Alluvial Fan. A fan-shaped accumulation of disintegrated soil material; deposited by water and located in a position where the water departs from a steep, narrow course to enter upon a flat plain or an open valley bottom.

Alluvium Material. Clay, silt, sand, gravel, or similar unconsolidated sediments, deposited by a streambed or other body of running water.

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. Ambient air is that portion of the atmosphere, outside of buildings, to which the general public has access.

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

Aquifer. A water-bearing unit of permeable rock or sediment that is capable of yielding water to wells.

Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). A Special Area designation established through the Bureau of Land Management's land use planning process (43 CFR 1610.7-2) where special management attention is needed to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historical, cultural, or scenic values; fish and wildlife resources; or other natural systems or processes; or to

protect life and safety from natural hazards. The level of allowable use within an ACEC is established through the collaborative planning process. Designation of an ACEC allows for resource use limitations to protect identified resources or values.

Arterial (Transportation). An arterial is a major street carrying the traffic of local and collector streets to and from freeways and other major streets, with controlled intersections and generally providing direct access to non-residential properties.

Asphalt Concrete. Commonly referred to as “asphalt,” “asphaltic concrete,” or “blacktop.” Approximately 75 percent of its volume is made up of aggregate. The aggregate is held together by asphalt cement, a binder consisting of semi-solid hydrocarbons remaining after lubricating oils and fuel oils have been removed from petroleum. Asphalt concrete is used almost exclusively for road and parking area surfaces. It is more flexible and less costly for these uses than Portland cement concrete, but has a shorter useful life.

Assessor’s Parcel Number (APN). Given to a parcel, or specified area, of land by County tax assessor.

Attainment. Attainment means that there is compliance with State and Federal ambient air quality standards within an air basin.

A-Weighted Decibel (dBA). The dB on the A-weighted scale is the sound level obtained by use of A-weighting. 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.

Basins. Basins are typically areas of shallow excavation where water percolation takes place. Flow of water into these basins brings suspended sediment, which is dropped to the basin floor with percolation of the water. This sediment requires periodic removal, which removal process also tills the basin floor, for percolation rates to remain efficient.

Biological Assessment (BA). A Biological Assessment is information prepared by, or under the direction of, a Federal agency to determine whether a proposed action is likely to (1) adversely affect listed species or designated critical habitat, (2) jeopardize the continued existence of species that are proposed for listing, or (3) adversely modify proposed critical habitat. Biological assessments must be prepared for "major construction activities." The outcome of this biological assessment determines whether formal consultation or a conference is necessary.

Biological Opinion (BO). A Biological Opinion is a document that includes (1) the opinion of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the National Marine Fisheries Service as to whether or not a Federal action is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species, or result in the destruction or adverse modification of designated critical habitat; (2) a summary of the information on which the opinion is based; and (3) a detailed discussion of the effects of the action on listed species or designated critical habitat.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Enacted in 1970, CEQA requires State and local agencies to estimate and evaluate the environmental implications of their actions. It aims to prevent environmental effects of the agency actions by requiring agencies, when feasible, to avoid or reduce the significant environmental impacts of their decisions. If a proposed activity has the potential for a significant adverse environmental impact, an environmental impact report (EIR) must be prepared and certified as to its adequacy before taking action on the proposed project (California Public Resources Code §§ 21000 et seq.)

Candidate Species. Plant and animal taxa considered for possible addition to the List of Endangered and Threatened Species. These are taxa for which the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has on file sufficient information on biological vulnerability and threat(s) to support issuance of a proposal to list, but issuance of a proposed rule is currently precluded by higher priority listing actions.

Capacity (Transportation). The maximum rate of flow at which vehicles can be reasonably expected to traverse a point or uniform segment of a lane or roadway during a specified time period under prevailing roadway, traffic, and control conditions.

Collector (Transportation). Relatively-low-speed, low-volume 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.

Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL). A 24-hour energy equivalent level derived from a variety of single-noise events, with weighting factors of 5 and 10 dBA applied to the evening (7 p.m. to 10 p.m.) and nighttime (10 p.m. to 7 a.m.) periods, respectively, to allow for greater sensitivity to noise during these hours.

Conditional Use Permit (CUP). Pursuant to a zoning ordinance, a conditional use permit may authorize uses not routinely allowed on a particular site. Conditional use permits require a public hearing and if approval is granted, are usually subject to the fulfillment of certain conditions by the developer. Approval of a conditional use permit is not a change in zoning.

Council of Governments (COG). There are 25 Council of Governments in California, made up of elected officials from member cities and counties. Council of Governments are regional agencies concerned primarily with transportation planning and housing; they do not directly regulate land use. An example of a Council of Government is Southern California Association of Governments.

Critical Habitat. Habitat designated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service pursuant to Section 4 of the Endangered Species Act, under the following criteria: (1) specific areas within the geographical area occupied by the species at the time it is listed, on which are found those physical or biological features (a) essential to conservation of the species, and (b) which may require special management or protection; or (2) specific areas outside the geographical area occupied by the species at the time it is listed but considered essential to the conservation of the species.

Cultural Resources. Prehistoric and historic districts, sites, buildings, objects, or any other physical evidence of human activity considered important to a culture, subculture, or a community for scientific, traditional, religious, or any other reason.

Cultural Site. A physical location of past human activities or events. Cultural resource sites are extremely variable in size and range from the location of a single cultural resource object to a cluster of cultural resource structures with associated objects and features. Prehistoric and historic sites, which are recorded as cultural resources, have sociocultural or scientific value and meet criterion of being more than fifty years old.

Culverts. Typically pipes or boxes used to pass water in a canal beneath a road crossing.

Cumulative Impact. As used in CEQA, the total impact resulting from the accumulated impacts of individual projects or programs over time.

Day-Night Average Level (L_{dn}). The average equivalent A-weighted sound level during a 24-hour day, obtained after the addition of 10 decibels to sound levels in the night after 10 p.m. and before 7 a.m. (Note: CNEL and L_{dn} represent daily levels of noise exposure averaged on an annual or daily basis, while L_{eq} represents the equivalent energy noise exposure for a shorter time period, typically one hour.)

Decibel (dB). The decibel (dB) is the unit of level that denotes the ratio between two quantities that are proportional to power; the number of decibels is 10 times the logarithm (to the base 10) of this ratio.

Discretionary Approval. A decision in which a governmental agency can use its judgment in deciding whether and how to carry out or approve a project (see also Discretionary Project in § 15357 of the *CEQA Guidelines*).

Discretionary Project. A project that 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 (*CEQA Guidelines* § 15357).

Disturbed Habitat. Disturbed habitat refers to areas that lack vegetation entirely but do not contain an impermeable surface. These areas are generally the result of severe or repeated mechanical perturbation.

Diversion Structures. Structures that divert water into basins. The diversion structures typically consist of concrete or cement block, with wooden gates and associated hardware. Activities include clearing encroaching vegetation, clearing of debris or sediment from the nearby canal, repair of the nearby canal, and repair of damage to the structure itself.

Down-gradient. The direction in which water flows (on a lower level).

Emission Standard. The maximum amount of pollutant legally permitted to be discharged from a single source, either mobile or stationary.

Endangered Species. As defined in the Federal Endangered Species Act, any species which is in danger of extinction throughout all of a significant portion of its range. For terrestrial species, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service determines endangered status.

Environment. In CEQA, “the physical conditions which exist within the area which will be affected by a proposed project, including land, air, water, mineral, flora, fauna, noise, and objects of historic or aesthetic significance.”

Environmental Impact Report (EIR). A report required pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act that assesses all the environmental characteristics of an area, determines what effects or impacts will result if the area is altered or disturbed by a proposed action, and identifies alternatives or other measures to avoid or reduce those impacts.

Equivalent Energy Level (L_{eq}). L_{eq} is the sound level corresponding to a steady-state sound level containing the same total energy as a time-varying signal over a given sample period. L_{eq} is typically computed over 1-hour, 8-hour, and 24-hour sample periods.

Erosion. Erosion is the loosening and transportation of rock and soil debris by wind, rain, or running water; or the gradual wearing away of the upper layers of earth.

Exotic Species. A species of plant or animal that is not native to the area where it is found. Any species that is not indigenous, native, or naturalized.

Expansive Soils. Expansive soils generally have a significant amount of clay particles which can give up water (shrink) or take on water (swell). The change in volume exerts stress on buildings and other loads placed on these soils. The extent of shrink/swell is influenced by the amount and kind of clay in the soil. The occurrence of these soils is often associated with geologic units having marginal stability. The distribution of expansive soils can be widely dispersed, and they can occur in hillside areas as well as low-lying alluvial basins.

Fault Zone. Represents a collection of relatively smaller scale fault segments and fault strands which typically have a similar strike, dip, and sense of movement.

Fault. A fault is a fracture in the earth’s crust forming a boundary between rock masses that have shifted.

Feasible. To be feasible, according to CEQA, means to be capable of being accomplished in a successful manner within a reasonable time taking into account economic, environmental, social, and technological factors.

Federal Land. Land owned by the United States, without reference to how the land was acquired or which Federal Agency administers the land, including mineral and coal estates underlying private surface.

Fill. This category is a catch-all for a wide range of aggregate uses ranging from general construction fill for altering landforms to trench backfill and pipe bedding. Depending on the use, this material can consist of crushed and graded aggregate and sand.

Findings. Findings required by CEQA are the conclusions made regarding the significance of a project in light of its environmental impacts. A Statement of Overriding Considerations does not obviate the need to make other required CEQA findings.

Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). For each community, FIRM is 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.

Flood, 100-Year. The 100-year flood is the magnitude of a flood expected to occur on the average every 100 years, based on historical data. The 100-year flood has a 1/100th, or 1.0 percent, chance of occurring in any given year.

Floodplain. A floodplain is a lowland or relatively flat area adjoining inland or coastal waters that is subject to a 1.0 percent or greater chance of flooding in any given year (i.e., 100-year flood).

Freeway. A freeway is a high-speed, high-capacity, limited-access road serving regional and countywide travel. Such roads are free of tolls, as contrasted with turnpikes or other toll roads. Freeways generally are used for long trips between major land use generators. Major streets cross at a different grade level.

General Plan. A fundamental policy document for a local government (i.e., county or city) usually including a plan establishing zones of allowable land uses and intensity of use (e.g., residential, commercial, industrial, open space).

General Rule. The “general rule” is that CEQA applies only to projects that have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA. (See *CEQA Guidelines* § 15061(b)(3)).

Ground Failure. Ground failure is ground movement or rupture caused by strong shaking during an earthquake. It includes landslide, lateral spreading, liquefaction, and subsidence.

Ground Shaking. Ground shaking is movement resulting from the transmission of seismic waves during an earthquake.

Groundwater Recharge. Groundwater recharge is 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 (aquifers).

Groundwater. Water under the earth’s surface, often confined to aquifers capable of supplying wells and springs.

Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). A comprehensive planning document pursuant to Section 10(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act that is a mandatory component of an incidental take permit for a project with no Federal nexus.

Habitat. Habitat is the physical location or type of environment in which an organism or biological population lives or occurs.

Hazardous Material. A substance or combination of substances that 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 hazardous waste is a hazardous material that cannot be reused or recycled.

Historic Preservation. Historic preservation is the preservation of historically significant structures and neighborhoods in order to facilitate restoration and rehabilitation of the building(s) to a former condition.

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. (*Advisory Guidelines for the Farmland Mapping and*

Monitoring Program, California Department of Conservation—Division of Land Resource Protection, 1984):

Prime Farmlands. Lands with the best combination of physical and chemical features for the production of agricultural crops.

Farmlands of Statewide Importance. Lands with a good combination of physical and chemical features for the production of agricultural crops.

Unique Farmlands. Lands of lesser quality soils used for the production of the State's leading agricultural cash crops.

Farmlands of Local Importance. Lands of importance to the local agricultural economy as determined by each County's board of supervisors.

Inactive Fault. An inactive fault is one that shows no evidence of movement in recent geologic time and no potential for movement in the relatively near future.

Incidental Take. Take of any listed species under the Federal and State Endangered Species Acts that is incidental to, and not the purpose of, the carrying out of an otherwise lawful activity.

Incorporation by Reference. "Incorporation by reference" is a CEQA term meaning reliance on a previous environmental document for some portion of the environmental analysis of a project. See *CEQA Guidelines* § 15150.

Initial Study. An Initial Study is a preliminary CEQA analysis prepared by a Lead Agency determining whether an EIR or Negative Declaration must be prepared, and identifying the significant environmental effects to be analyzed in an EIR.

Land Use. Any land use is the determination by a governing authority of the use to which land within its jurisdiction may be put so as to promote the most advantageous development of the community.

Lead Agency. The lead agency is the public agency that has the principal responsibility for carrying out or approving a project. The Lead Agency decides whether an EIR or Negative Declaration is required for a project and causes the appropriate document to be prepared.

Levee

Level of Service (LOS). LOS is a qualitative measure describing operational conditions within a traffic stream and how motorists and/or passengers perceive them.

Liquefaction. Liquefaction is the state or process in which soil material is transformed from a solid into a liquid state due to increased pore pressure and reduced effective stress. Soil may become liquefied, for example, during and immediately following an earthquake.

Local Cooperation Agreement. A Local Cooperation Agreement is the same as a Project Cooperation Agreement, which is a legally binding contract between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and a non-Federal sponsor that sets forth the responsibilities of each party in the implementation of a project. This document includes the items of local cooperation.

Maximum Noise Level (L_{max}). The maximum A-weighted sound levels measured on a sound level meter, during a designated time interval, using fast time averaging.

Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. § 703 [1994]), as amended. The Migratory Bird Treaty Act was originally drafted in 1916 and later agreed on between the United States and Canada and subsequently between the United States and Mexico. The Migratory Bird Treaty Act, along with subsequent amendments, provides legal protection for almost all breeding bird species occurring in the United States. The Migratory Bird Treaty Act restricts the killing, taking, collecting and selling or purchasing of native bird species or their parts, nests, or eggs. The treaty allows hunting of certain game bird species, for specific periods, as determined by federal and state governments. The intent of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act is to eliminate any commercial market for migratory birds, feathers, or bird parts, especially for eagles and other birds of prey.

Mineral Resource Zones (MRZs). MRZs are zones that have been identified as having potential mineral and aggregate resources. The State Mining and Geology Board recommends that MRZ lands be preserved as open space or used for interim uses to allow for future extraction.

MRZ-1: Areas where adequate information indicates that no significant mineral deposits are present, or where it is judged that little likelihood exists for their presence. This zone shall be applied where well-developed lines of reasoning, based upon economic geologic principles and adequate data, demonstrate that the likelihood for occurrence of significant mineral deposits is nil or slight.

MRZ-2: Areas where adequate information indicates that significant mineral deposits are present or where it is judged that a high likelihood for their presence exists. This zone shall be applied to known mineral deposits or where well-developed lines of reasoning, based upon economic geologic principles and adequate data, demonstrate that the likelihood for occurrence of significant mineral deposits is high.

MRZ-3:

Mitigation Measure. A mitigation measure is a change in a project designed to avoid, minimize, rectify, reduce, or compensate for a significant environmental impact.

Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP). 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 CEQA Statute § 21081.6(a) and *CEQA Guidelines* §§ 15091(d) and 15097).

National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). National standards established under the Clean Air Act by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). These standards prescribe levels of pollution in the outdoor air which may not be exceeded. There are two levels of NAAQS: primary, set at a level to protect the public health from air pollution damage; and secondary, set at a level to protect public welfare from air pollution damage.

National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA). The primary Federal law providing for the protection and preservation of cultural resources. The NHPA established the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), the Advisory Council on Historical Preservation (ACHP), and the State Offices of Historic Preservation (OHP).

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permits. According to 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 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 Register of Historic Places (NRHP). A list of buildings, sites, districts, structures and objects significant in American history, architecture, archeology, and culture maintained by the Secretary of the Interior. Expanded as authorized by Section 2(b) of the Historic Sites Act of 1935 (16 U.S.C. 463) and Section 101(a)(1)(A) of the National Historic Preservation Act.

Native (Indigenous) Species. A species of plant or animal that naturally occurs in an area and that was not introduced by humans.

Natural Community Conservation Planning (NCCP). Regional conservation planning efforts that have been conducted in accordance with the Natural Community Conservation Planning (NCCP) Act of 1991 are designed to provide protection and conservation to threatened and endangered species through a multi-species habitat-based and long-term approach which both ensures a balance between the conservation of the species and habitats and the economic growth of the community in

which they exist. The NCCP process provides an alternative to protecting species on a single species basis as in the Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA) and California Endangered Species Act (CESA). Under the NCCP Act, the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) is responsible for implementing process planning and conservation guidelines for NCCP programs. Local governments and landowners may then prepare the NCCPs so that they comply with both the FESA and CESA. The first program under the NCCP Act addressed coastal sage scrub habitat and the species that inhabit or use coastal sage scrub, focusing on coastal sage scrub habitat protection and the preparation of NCCPs within southern California, including portions of Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Riverside, San Diego and Orange Counties.

Noise Contours. Noise contours are lines drawn about a noise source indicating equal levels of noise exposure.

Noise. Noise is any sound that is undesirable because it interferes with speech and hearing, or is intense enough to damage hearing, or is otherwise annoying (unwanted sound).

Notice of Determination (NOD). An NOD is a brief notice filed with the State Clearinghouse to document project approval. The filing of the NOD starts the statute of limitations period (See *CEQA Guidelines* § 15373).

Notice of Preparation (NOP). An NOP is a brief notice to notify the public, Responsible and Trustee Agencies that an EIR is being prepared for a project. The notice serves to solicit guidance from those agencies and the public about the scope and content of the environmental information to be included in the EIR (See *CEQA Guidelines* § 15375).

Occupied Critical Habitat. Critical habitat that contains individuals of the species at the time of the project analysis. A species does not have to occupy critical habitat throughout the year for the habitat to be considered occupied (e.g., migratory birds). Subsequent events affecting the species may result in this habitat becoming unoccupied.

Ozone. A colorless gas formed by a complex series of chemical and photochemical reaction of reactive organic gasses, principally hydrocarbons, with the oxides of nitrogen, which is harmful to the public health, the biota, and some materials; a molecule of three oxygen atoms, O₃. A principle component of “oxidant” in photochemically polluted atmospheres.

Particulate Matter (particles). Very fine sized solid matter or droplets, typically averaging one micron or smaller in diameter.

Peak Hour (Transportation). The hour of highest traffic volume on a given section of roadway between 7:00 AM and 9:00 AM or between 4:00 PM and 6:00 PM.

Percolation Basin. Aboveground storage place built so as to encourage the percolation of water contained therein underground.

Porous Pavement. Porous pavement is an infiltration Best Management Practice (BMP) that consists of porous pavement blocks placed over a shallow recharge bed of sand and gravel. The modular pavement blocks allow water to seep into the recharge bed, where the sand and gravel layers percolate the design volume into the natural surrounding soils.

Portland Cement Concrete (PCC). This material is commonly referred to as “cement concrete” or just “concrete.” Between 60 and 70 percent of its volume is made up of aggregate. The remainder of concrete is a binder (defined as cement) made from combinations of limestone or other calcareous (calcium bearing) material and clay, shale or similar substance. Cement is imported to the ready mix plants in the area. Concrete is a principal building material for bridges, foundations and many roads.

Potentially Active Fault. A potentially active fault can be: (1) A fault that last moved within the Quaternary Period before the Holocene Epoch (the last 2 million to 11 thousand year); and/or (2) A fault that, because it is judged to be capable of ground rupture or shaking, poses an unacceptable risk for a proposed structure.

Prime Agricultural Land. Prime agricultural lands are Class I and II soils as mapped by the Soil Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Project. According to CEQA, a project is the whole of an action that has the potential to result in significant environmental change in the environment, directly or ultimately (See *CEQA Guidelines* § 15378).

Project Description. A 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. A project EIR is an EIR that examines the impacts that would result from development of a specific project (See *CEQA Guidelines* § 15161).

Recharge Basins. The recharge basins were constructed on-site by the San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District. These basins contain standing water intermittently during the year. The water in the recharge basins filters through the soil to the groundwater basin and does not remain on the surface long enough to provide habitat for sensitive species. When dry, the basins can be characterized as similar to disturbed habitat.

Responsible Agencies. All public agencies other than the Lead Agency that have discretionary approval power over the project (See *CEQA Guidelines* § 15381).

Right-of-Way. An easement, lease, permit, or license across an area or strip of land to allow access or to allow utility to pass through public or private lands.

Riparian. Riparian land is of or relating to land lying immediately adjacent to a river or stream and having specific characteristics of that transitional area (e.g., riparian vegetation).

Riprap. Large cobble or boulders generally in excess of one foot in diameter. It is used to protect creek banks and shorelines from the erosive forces of currents or wave action. It is also used at culvert outflows to absorb energy and prevent soil erosion.

Riversidean Alluvial Fan Sage Scrub. Riversidean alluvial fan sage scrub is a Mediterranean shrubland type that occurs in washes and on gently sloping alluvial fans. Alluvial scrub is made up predominantly of drought-deciduous soft-leaved shrubs, but with significant cover of larger perennial species typically found in chaparral (Kirkpatrick and Hutchinson 1977). Riversidean alluvial fan sage scrub occurs on alluvial benches throughout the Wash Planning Area, in various stages of succession. More mature areas tend to have woodier vegetation, a higher percentage of cover, and greater diversity than younger areas.

Riversidean Sage Scrub. Dominated by a characteristic suite of low-stature, aromatic, drought-deciduous shrubs and subshrub species. It is a more xeric expression of coastal sage scrub, occurring further inland in drier areas where moisture and climate are not moderated by proximity to the marine environment. Riversidean sage scrub typically occurs on steep slopes, severely drained soils or clays that are slow to release stored soil moisture (Holland 1986).

Ruderal. Ruderal refers to a species or plant community that occurs on a highly disturbed site.

Santa Ana River Woollystar (*Eriastrum densifolium* ssp. *sanctorum*). The Santa Ana River woollystar is a perennial herb that blooms in the summer. The entire plant is woolly with blue, star-like flowers. It is Federal endangered, California State endangered, and California Native Plant Society List 1B.

Scoping Meeting. A scoping meeting is an optional meeting pursuant to CEQA in which the lead agency meets with members of the public or agency representatives after the Notice of Preparation has been issued to discuss environmental issues related to a project. Scoping sessions provide the opportunity to discuss environmental issues, project alternatives, and potential mitigation measures that may warrant in-depth analysis in the environmental review process.

Section 4 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. Section 4 outlines procedures and criteria for (1) identifying and listing threatened and endangered species; (2) identifying, designating, and revising critical habitat; (3) developing and revising recovery plans; and (4) monitoring species removed from the list of threatened or endangered species.

Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. Section 7 outlines procedures for interagency cooperation to conserve federally listed species and designated critical habitats. Section 7(a)(1) requires Federal agencies to use their authorities to further the conservation of listed species. Section 7(a)(2) requires Federal agencies to consult to ensure that they are not undertaking, funding, permitting, or authorizing actions likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or destroy or adversely modify designated critical habitat. Other paragraphs of this section establish the requirement to conduct conferences on proposed species, allow applicants to initiate early consultation, and require the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service to prepare biological opinions and issue incidental take statements. Section 7 also establishes procedures for seeking exemptions from the requirements of section 7(a)(2) from the Endangered Species Committee.

Section 9 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. Section 9 prohibits the taking of endangered species of fish and wildlife. Additional prohibitions include (1) import or export of endangered species or products made from endangered species, (2) interstate or foreign commerce in listed species or their products, and (3) possession of unlawfully taken endangered species.

Section 10 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. Section 10 provides exceptions to Section 9 prohibitions. The exceptions most relevant to Section 7 consultations are takings allowed by two kinds of permits issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service: (1) scientific take permits and (2) incidental take permits. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service can issue permits to take listed species for scientific purposes, or to enhance the propagation or survival of listed species. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service can also issue permits to take listed species incidental to otherwise legal activity.

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

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

Silt Ponds

Slender-horned spineflower (*Dodecahema leptoceras*). The slender-horned spineflower is an annual spreading herb that blooms in the spring. The flower petals and sepals are white to pink, and hairy. It is Federal endangered, California State endangered, and California Native Plant Society List 1B.

Special Status Species. Plant or animal species listed as endangered, threatened, candidate, or sensitive by Federal or State governments.

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.

Streambed Alteration Agreement (California Fish and Game Code, Sections 1600 et seq.). Defines the responsibilities of CDFG and requires public and private applicants to obtain an agreement for projects which would “divert, obstruct, or change the natural flow or bed, channel, or bank of any river, stream, or lake designated by CDFG in which there is at any time an existing fish or wildlife resource or from which those resources derive benefit, or would use material from the streambed designated by the department.” CDFG wardens and/or unit biologists typically have the responsibility for formulating and issuing Streambed Alteration Agreements.

Subsidence. Ground subsidence is typically a gradual settling or sinking of the ground surface with little or no horizontal movement, although fissures (cracks and separations) are common. Subsidence can range from small or local collapses to broad regional lowering of the earth’s surface. The causes of subsidence are as diverse as the forms of failure, and include dewatering of peat or organic soils;

dissolution in limestone aquifers; first-time wetting of moisture-deficient, low-density soils (hydrocompaction); natural compaction; liquefaction; crustal deformation; subterranean mining; and withdrawal of fluids (groundwater, petroleum, or geothermal). Most of the damage caused by subsidence is the result of oil, gas, or groundwater extraction from below the ground surface, or the organic decomposition of peat deposits. Ground subsidence may occur as a response to natural forces such as earthquake movements, which can cause abrupt elevation changes of several feet.

Take. To harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect listed species or attempt to engage in any such conduct. **Harm** is defined by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to include significant habitat modification or degradation that results in death or injury to listed species by significantly impairing behavioral patterns such as breeding, feeding, or sheltering. **Harass** is defined by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as actions that create the likelihood of injury to listed species to such an extent as to significantly disrupt normal behavior patterns that include, but are not limited to, breeding, feeding, or sheltering.

Threatened Species. Any species that is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

Thresholds of Significance. Thresholds of significance are criteria for each environmental issue area to assist with determinations of significance of project impacts. They are based on *CEQA Guidelines* Appendix G.

Total Suspended Particulates. Solid or liquid particles small enough to remain suspended in air. PM¹⁰ is the portion of TSP that can be inhaled.

Trustee Agency. According to CEQA, a Trustee agency is a State agency that has jurisdiction by law over natural resources affected by a project which are held in trust for the people of the State of California (See *CEQA Guidelines* § 15386).

Tsunami. Tsunamis are sea waves produced by large-scale, short-duration disturbances of the ocean floor such as from subsidence, an earthquake, or a volcanic eruption.

Up-Gradient. The up-gradient side is the direction from which water flows (on a higher level).

Utility Corridor. A linear corridor usually designed for facilities such as power lines, pipelines, fiber-optic cables, roads, etc.

Viewshed. The landscape that can be directly seen under favorable atmospheric conditions from a viewpoint or along a transportation corridor.

Volume (Transportation). The volume of traffic is the total number of vehicles that pass over a given point or section of a roadway during a given time interval. Volumes may be expressed in terms of annual, daily, hourly, or sub-hourly periods.

Wastewater. Wastewater is water carrying dissolved or suspended solids from homes, farms, businesses, and industries. The wastewater treatment process includes any process that modifies characteristics of the wastewater, usually for the purpose of meeting effluent standards.

Water Spreading Basins. Also called recharge basins, water spreading basins are surface facilities used to increase the infiltration of surface water into a groundwater basin.

Watershed. A region drained by a stream, lake, or other body of water. In other words, it is a bowl or basin-shaped area in which all water within the area (rain, snow, etc.) will flow to the same outlet point. The Santa Ana River watershed is located in southern California, south and east of the City of Los Angeles. The watershed includes much of Orange County, the northwestern corner of Riverside County, the southwestern corner of San Bernardino County, and a small portion of Los Angeles County.

Wetlands. Lands traditionally between upland and aquatic environments. Wetlands are generally highly productive environments with abundant fish, wildlife, esthetic, and natural resource values. For this reason, coupled with the alarming rate of their destruction, they are considered valuable resources, and several regulations and laws have been implemented to protect them.

Whole of an Action. The whole of an action is an action that may result in either a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment (See *CEQA Guidelines* § 15378).

Williamson Act Lands. Lands preserved for agricultural production. Lands held pursuant to Williamson Act contracts are assessed according to their agricultural use value rather than as potentially developable lands.

Zoning. Regulation by zone districts of the height, use, and area of structures, the use of land, and the density of population and intensity of allowable uses.