



VI. GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND ACRONYMS

AB	California Assembly Bill
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
ADT	Average Daily Traffic: The total volume of traffic on a given road averaged over a 24-hour period.
Air Basin	A large region that shares a common geographical area and atmospheric interaction. The boundaries of an air basin are generally mountains, hills, or bodies of water.
Air Pollution Emissions	Discharges into the atmosphere, usually described in weight per unit of time for a given pollutant.
Alluvium	Soil, sand, gravel, or similar material deposited by running water, sometimes miles from its source.
Alquist-Priolo Special Studies Zone	Zones established under the California Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zones Act, 1972. Special Studies define potentially and/or recently active earthquake faults which could be hazardous to structures in the event of surface faulting or fault creep.
ANSI	American National Standards Institute
AQMP	Air Quality Management Plan: A plan to achieve and maintain ambient air quality standards in jurisdictions designated by the state legislature.
Aquifer	A geologic formation which stores, transmits and yields significant quantities of water to wells and springs.
ASTM	American Society for Testing and Materials
AWWA	American Water Works Association
Bikeway	Designated facilities classified, and specifically designated, constructed and intended for the use of bicycle travel.

BLM	Bureau of Land Management: a division of the U.S. Department of the Interior that manages 261 million surface acres and 700 million acres of sub-surface real estate throughout the nation. Its main mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands.
Blowsand	An environmental condition in which quantities of sand are blown in the wind. This condition may occur in areas of loose sand or sandy loam soils and strong prevailing winds.
Buffers	Land uses which protect public safety and provide sufficient distance and barriers between incompatible land uses by lessening the effects of noise, dust, vibration, visual blight, or other impacts caused by a particular land use.
CAA	(federal) Clean Air Act
CCAA	California Clean Air Act
CDBG	Community Development Block Grant: Federal allocation of funds to a jurisdiction for discretionary disbursement, generally utilized for local community development projects.
CDWR	California Department of Water Resources
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act: State legislation adopted in 1970 which ensures the protection of the environment. This legislation also required California governmental agencies at all levels to develop standards and procedures necessary to protect the environmental quality of their jurisdiction.
cf/month	Cubic feet per month.
cfs	Cubic feet per second
CIWMB	California Integrated Waste Management Board
CMP	Congestion Management Plan.
CNEL	Community Noise Equivalent Level: The average equivalent A-weighted sound level during a 24 hour period, obtained after addition of five decibels to sound levels in the evening from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., and after addition of 10 decibels to sound levels before 7 a.m. and after 10 p.m.
CNG	Compressed natural gas.
Cogeneration	The process of generating electricity using waste heat from an industrial, commercial, or manufacturing process.

Conservation	The management of natural resources to prevent waste, destruction, or neglect.
Contiguous Development	Development which is adjacent to already existing development, even if separated by roads, streets, utility easements, and railroad rights-of-way.
CPUC/PUC	California Public Utilities Commission
CRS	Community Rating System
CVAG	Coachella Valley Association of Governments
CVWD	Coachella Valley Water District
dBA	A-weighted Sound Level. The sound pressure level in decibels as measured on a sound level meter using the A-weighted filter network. The A-weighted filter deemphasizes the very low and very high frequency components of the sound in a manner similar to the response of the human ear, and gives good correlation with subjective reactions to noise.
Design Standards	Specific standards and regulations which guide the design of a project.
Earthquake	A shaking or trembling of the earth's crust that is volcanic or tectonic in nature.
EIR	Environmental Impact Report: An informational document used in the decision-making process which identifies the effects of a proposed project or activity on the natural and man-made environments. It must be prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act, and must address nine mandatory issues: project description, environmental setting, adverse environmental effects, short and long term use, irreversible environmental changes, growth inducement, alternatives to the project, and natural and human environmental resources.
Endangered Species	A species or subspecies of bird, mammal, fish, amphibian, reptile or invertebrate for which the prospects of survival and reproduction are in immediate jeopardy from one or more causes, including loss of habitat, change in habitat, over-exploitation, predation, competition or disease.
Fault	A fracture in the earth's crust forming a boundary between rock masses that have shifted.
Fault Hazard Zone	A designated area of possible fault movement.

FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
Fire Response Time	The amount of time it takes for the fire department to respond to a first alarm fire.
FIRM	Flood Insurance Rate Map
Floodplain	The land areas that are subject to flooding from the 100 year flood, not including the actual floodway.
Floodway	The channel of a river or other watercourse and adjacent land areas necessary to discharge the waters from the 100 year flood without increasing the water surface elevation of that flood more than one foot at any point.
Freeway	A highway upon which the abutter's right of access is controlled and which provides separated grades at intersecting streets.
General Plan Road	Any road indicated in the Circulation Element of the General Plan.
Geothermal Resources	The natural heat of the earth, the energy in whatever form below the surface of the earth present in, resulting from, created by, or from which may be extracted natural heat, and all minerals in solution or other products in whatever form obtained from naturally heated fluids, brines, associated gases and steam, excluding oil, hydrocarbon gas or other hydrocarbon substances.
Goal	An expression of a general, ultimate ideal to be sought. It reflects basic community values and establishes the emphasis for formulating objectives, policies and implementation measures. They are general, often timeless, and do not lend themselves to measurement.
Ground Rupture	A break in the ground's surface resulting from the movement of a fault.
Groundshaking Zone	A designated area that can be expected to experience a groundshaking intensity during a maximum probable "design" earthquake.
Groundwater	Subsurface or underground water resource.

Hazardous Waste	A waste or combination of wastes, which because of its quantity, concentration or physical, chemical or infectious characteristics poses a substantial present or potential hazard to human health or environment.
High Fire Hazard Areas	An area where, due to slope, fuel, weather or other fire-related condition, the potential loss of life and property from a fire necessitates special fire protection measures and planning before development occurs.
Historic	Important, significant, famous or decisive in history.
kV	Kilovolt = 1000 volts
kW/kWh	Kilowatt/Kilowatt hour = 1000 watts
Infill	The building out or completion of development of an area before starting development of adjacent undeveloped lands.
Infrastructure	The physical systems and services which support development and people, such as streets and highways, transit services, airports, water and sewer systems, etc.
LAFCO	Local Agency Formation Commission: A County agency with the responsibility and authority to approve or deny (with or without modification) all proposals for the establishment (incorporation) of cities and special districts, reorganization or dislocation of them, and/or proposals to annex. The LAFCO must also establish a Sphere of Influence for cities and special districts.
Land Use Designation	The classification which identifies allowable land uses for a project site, based upon the availability of public services and facilities, the adequacy of the circulation system and surrounding area development.
Landfill	A system of trash and garbage disposal in which waste is buried between layers of earth to build up low-lying land.
Ldn	Day-night sound level.
Leq	Equivalent level, pertaining to noise.
Leach Field	That portion of the septic tank system which disperses dissolved waste products into the surrounding soil.

Liquefaction	A temporary fluid condition in water-saturated loose sandy soil caused by shock, such as an earthquake. It can cause serious soil settlement, slumping, or failure of structure foundations.
LOS	Level of Service.
MCE	Maximum Credible Earthquake.
mg/L	milligrams per liter
MMI	Modified Mercalli Intensity Scale: A scale of I to XII that measures an earthquake's impact from I. "Not felt at all" to XII. "Virtually total destruction".
Mitigation	The lessening or elimination of the impacts of an action or project through changes in the proposed action or project, or the undertaking of additional measures.
MWD	Metropolitan Water District
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act: Federal legislation passed in 1969 which insures that federal actions are not going to lessen environmental quality. This legislation also required public agencies to consider the environmental costs of their actions and provide full disclosure of environmental effects for public review and comment.
NFIP	National Flood Insurance Program
Noise Contour	A line on and passing through points exposed to the same sound level. Contours form bands of varying widths centering around a noise source.
Noise Impacted Area	The noise impact area, in square statute miles, is the total land area within the noise impact boundary less area deemed to have a compatible land use.
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NPIAS	National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems
One Hundred Year Floodplain	The land areas that are subject to flooding from a flood caused by a storm with the statistical likelihood of occurring once in a hundred year time span.
Open Space	Land or water which is essentially unimproved.
Overdraft	The condition of a groundwater basin where the amount of water withdrawn by pumping exceeds the amount of water replenishing the basin.

Paleontology	A science that deals with the life of past geologic periods and is based on the study of fossil remains of plants or animals.
Percolation Test	Test of a soil's ability to absorb and permit seepage of sewage effluent.
Physical Constraint	A physical feature or characteristic of land which prevents or limits the development of that land.
Policy	A statement which sets forth guidelines for future action.
Prehistoric Program	Relating to times predating written history. Series of tasks designed to implement policies set forth in the General Plan.
Rare Species	A species or subspecies of bird, mammal, fish, amphibian, reptile or invertebrate that, although not presently threatened with extinction, is in such small numbers throughout its range that it may be endangered if its environment worsens.
Reclamation	The combined process of land treatment that minimizes water degradation, air pollution, damage to aquatic or wildlife habitat, flooding, erosion, and other adverse effects from surface mining operations including adverse surface effects incidental to underground mines, so that mined lands are reclaimed to a usable condition which is readily adaptable for alternate land uses and creates no danger to public health and safety.
Retrofitting	Supplying an existing building or facility with new equipment, parts, or features, usually in an effort to improve the efficiency of energy use.
Right-of-way (R/W)	The entire width of property for the use of highways, flood and drainage works, overhead and underground utilities, or any related improvements.
Road Alignment	The location of a road in relation to other roads such that they form a connected circulation system.
RSA	Regional Statistical Area: A group of census tracts or districts used for economic analysis.
SB	California Senate Bill
SCAG	The Southern California Association of Governments: An association of cities providing regional demographic and legislative information for the Southern California area.

SWP	State Water Project
SCAQMD	South Coast Air Quality Management District: the air pollution control agency for all portions of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties.
Scenic Corridor	The land area outside of the highway right-of-way within the line of sight which can be realistically subjected to protective land use controls.
Seiche	An earthquake-induced wave in a lake, reservoir or harbor.
Seismicity	The quality or state of being of, subject to, or caused by, an earthquake.
Septic Tank	A tank in which the solid matter of continuously flowing sewage is disintegrated by bacteria.
Shall	Indicates an unequivocal directive.
Should	Signifies a slightly less rigid directive than "shall" to be honored in the absence of compelling considerations.
Slump	Soil failure resulting from a slope, which is too steep for the soil's resistance capacity, being barren and exposed to water.
SOI	Sphere of Influence. The probable ultimate physical boundaries and service area of a local governmental agency.
Solid Waste	All solid, semisolid, and liquid wastes, including garbage, trash, refuse, paper, rubbish, ashes, industrial wastes, demolition and construction wastes, abandoned vehicles and parts thereof, discarded home and industrial appliances, manure, vegetable or animal solid and semisolid wastes, and other discarded solid and semisolid wastes.
Specific Plan/Master Plan	A tool to implement the General Plan which details land use and circulation plans for a specific site or area.
Sphere of Influence	The probable ultimate physical boundaries and service area of a local governmental agency.
Subsidence	The gradual, local settling or sinking of the earth's surface with little or no horizontal motion. Subsidence is usually the result of gas, oil, or water extraction, hydrocompaction, or peat oxidation, and not the result of a landslide or slope failure.

Surface Mining	All, or any part of, the process involved in the mining of minerals on mined lands by removing overburden and mining directly from the mineral deposits, open-pit mining of minerals naturally exposed, mining by the auger method, dredging and quarrying, or surface work incidental to an underground mine.
SWP	State Water Project
TAC	Toxic Air Contaminants
TAZ	Traffic Analysis Zones
Tectonics	Of or pertaining to the forces involved in, or the resulting structures or features of the upper part of the earth's crust.
TDM	Transportation Demand Management
TDS	Total dissolved solids.
Threatened Species	Any species which is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.
TOT	Transient Occupancy Taxes: a tax levied for the privilege of occupying a room in a hotel, motel, inn, resort or other tourist facility, usually for a period not to exceed 30 days. Depending on the City, TOTs may also be levied on camp sites and RV spaces.
Transportation Corridor	The area adjacent to major transportation routes.
Trip Generators	Person and vehicular travel generated in accordance with the type and intensity of land use.
TUMF	Transportation Uniform Mitigation Fee: a multi-jurisdictional development impact fee based on burdens to the area's transportation system from growth and new development.
ULI	Urban Land Institute: a non-profit education and research institute which focuses on the use of land in order to enhance the total environment.
UPRR	Union Pacific Railroad
Water Basin	The drainage or catchment area of a stream or lake.
Watercourse	A permanent stream; intermittent stream; river, brook, creek, channel or ditch for water, whether natural or manmade.

Watershed	The total area above a given point on a watercourse that contributes water to its flow; the entire region drained by a waterway or which drains into a lake or reservoir.
WGCEP	Working Group on California Earthquake Probabilities
Zoning	A legal device used by local jurisdictions to control development density and insure that land uses are properly situated in relation to one another.