

**ATTACHMENT B****GLOSSARY****NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES)  
GENERAL PERMIT FOR STORMWATER DISCHARGES ASSOCIATED  
WITH CONSTRUCTION AND LAND DISTURBANCE ACTIVITIES  
(GENERAL PERMIT)****70 Percent Final Cover**

For final construction site stabilization, 70 percent final cover is the permanent vegetative cover that is evenly established over 70 percent of all disturbed and exposed areas of soil (non-paved or non-built). In areas that naturally have low vegetative coverage (e.g., deserts), 70 percent of natural conditions is acceptable.

**Active Areas of Construction**

Active areas of construction are all areas subject to land surface disturbance activities related to the project including, but not limited to, project staging areas, immediate access areas and storage areas. All previously active areas of construction are considered active areas (unless temporarily defined as inactive areas) until final stabilization is complete.

**Active Treatment System (ATS)**

An active treatment system employs chemical coagulation, chemical flocculation, or electrocoagulation to aid in the reduction of turbidity caused by fine suspended sediment and/or the control of pH. An active treatment system relies on enclosed computerized systems with pumps, filters, and real-time controls.

**Acute Toxicity**

Acute toxicity in water is caused by chemical stimuli that rapidly induce a negative effect on aquatic life; in aquatic toxicity tests, acute toxicity is demonstrated by an effect observed within 96 hours or less.

**Aerial Deposition**

Aerial deposition is the deposition of airborne particulates from construction activities or nearby activities that settle onto surfaces. Such particulates can include, but are not limited to, metals, nutrients, organics, sediment, and trash.

**Ancillary Facility**

An ancillary facility functions as a support area required for construction activities of the linear underground and overhead project (LUP) permitted area. The ancillary facility may be located adjacent to or within the LUP alignment (i.e., transmission/distribution right-of-way) or may be regionally located away from the LUP alignment. Ancillary areas include, but are not limited to, new access roads, helicopter landing zones, laydown yards, staging areas, substations, valve stations, etc.

**Best Available Technology Economically Achievable (BAT)**

As defined by U.S. EPA, BAT is a technology-based standard established by the Clean Water Act (CWA) section 304(b)(2) as the most appropriate means available on a national basis for controlling the direct discharge of toxic and nonconventional pollutants to navigable waters. The BAT effluent limitations guidelines, in general, represent the best existing performance of treatment technologies that are economically achievable within an industrial point source category or subcategory.

**Best Conventional Pollutant Control Technology (BCT)**

As defined by U.S. EPA, BCT is a technology-based standard established by the Clean Water Act (CWA) section 304(b)(4) for the discharge from existing industrial point sources of conventional pollutants including biochemical oxygen demand (BOD), total suspended sediment (TSS), fecal coliform, pH, oil and grease.<sup>1</sup>

**Best Professional Judgment**

Best professional judgement is a method used by permit writers to develop technology-based NPDES permit conditions on a case-by-case basis using all reasonably available and relevant data to establish technology-based limits or to determine other appropriate means to control its discharge (U.S.EPA NPDES Permit Writer's Manual 2010).

**Best Management Practices (BMPs)**

BMPs are management practices and structural controls used to prevent or reduce the discharge of pollutants from runoff, spillage or leaks, sludge or waste disposal, or drainage from raw material storage to waters of the United States. BMPs include scheduling of activities, prohibitions of practices, operation and maintenance procedures, treatment, vegetated infiltration basins, and other

**Chain of Custody Form**

Chain of custody form is used to track sample handling as samples progress from sample collection to the analytical laboratory. The Chain of Custody is then used to track the resulting analytical data from the laboratory to the client. Chain of Custody forms can be obtained from an analytical laboratory upon request.

**Coagulation**

Coagulation is the clumping of particles in a discharge to settle out impurities, often induced by chemicals such as lime, alum, and iron salts.

**Common Plan of Development or Sale**

A common plan of development or sale is a contiguous area where multiple separate and distinct construction activities may be taking place at different times

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. EPA. [Learn about Effluent Guidelines](https://www.epa.gov/eg/learn-about-effluent-guidelines). Web. <<https://www.epa.gov/eg/learn-about-effluent-guidelines#BCT>> [as of October 19, 2020]

on different schedules under one common plan. The "common plan" of development or sale is broadly defined as any announcement or piece of documentation (including a sign, public notice or hearing, sales pitch, advertisement, drawing, permit application, zoning request, computer design, etc.) or physical demarcation (including boundary signs, lot stakes, surveyor markings, etc.) indicating construction activities may occur on a specific plot. However, broad planning documents, such as land use master plans, conceptual master plans, or broad-based CEQA or NEPA documents that identify potential projects for an agency or facility are not considered common plans of development. For construction projects within a larger common plan of development or sale are located at least one-quarter mile apart and the area between the projects is not being disturbed, each individual project may be regulated as a separate construction project if land for interconnecting road, pipeline or utilities that is part of the same common plan is not concurrently being disturbed.

#### **Construction Site Monitoring Program**

Construction site monitoring program is a description of methods and procedures for monitoring discharges at a construction site.

#### **Conveyance System**

Conveyance system is a sewer, ditch, pipe, hose, swale, or any engineered feature that is designed to convey water; or any combination of such components.

#### **Daily Average Discharge**

Daily average discharge of pollutants in stormwater runoff measured during any 24-hour period that reasonably represents a calendar day for purposes of sampling. For pollutants with limitations expressed in units of mass, the daily discharge is calculated as the total mass of the pollutant discharged during a 24-hour period. For pollutants with limitations expressed in other units of measurement (for example: concentration) the daily discharge is calculated as the average measurement of the pollutant throughout a 24-hour period (40 Code of Federal Regulations § 122.2).

#### **Demolition and Pre-development Site Preparation**

Demolition and pre-development site preparation is a construction stage including demolition of existing structures that expose soil, rough grading and/or disking, clearing and grubbing operations, or any soil disturbance prior to mass grading.

#### **Debris**

Debris is litter, rubble, discarded refuse, or remains of destroyed inorganic anthropogenic waste.

**Detected Not Quantifiable**

Detected not quantifiable is a sample result that is between the Method Detection Limit (MDL) and the Minimum Level (ML).

**Detention**

Detention is the temporary storage of stormwater to improve quality or reduce the volumetric flow rate of discharge or both.

**Dewatering**

Dewatering is the process of removing excess water in an excavation or impoundment by pumping or other mechanical means.

**Discharge Location**

Discharge location is a common outlet from a construction site drainage area where stormwater, authorized non-stormwater, or dewatering discharge leaves the site or project boundary, or enters any on-site waters of the United States (e.g., a creek running through a site).

**Discharger**

The discharger is a person as defined in Water Code, section 13050(c), which includes companies and governmental bodies, subject to this General Permit. The discharger is responsible for compliance with this Permit, including work done by QSDs, QSPs, and QSP delegates. The following persons may serve as the discharger:

1. A person, company, agency, or other entity that possesses a real property interest (including, but not limited to, fee simple ownership, easement, leasehold, or other rights of way) in the land upon which the construction or land disturbance activities will occur for the regulated site.
2. For linear underground and overhead projects, the utility company, municipality, or other public or private company or agency that owns or operates the liner underground or overhead project.
3. For land controlled by an estate or similar entity, the person who has day-to-day control over the land (including, but not limited to, a bankruptcy trustee, receiver, or conservator).
4. For pollution investigation and remediation projects, any potentially responsible party that has received permission to conduct the project from the holder of a real property interest in the land.
5. For U.S. Army Corps of Engineers projects, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers may provide written authorization to its bonded contractor to serve as the discharger, provided the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is also responsible for compliance with the General Permit, as authorized by the Clean Water Act or the Federal Facilities Compliance Act.

6. For projects on public lands, a public agency with a real property interest in the land may provide written authorization via an encroachment permit to another public agency to serve as the discharger, provided that both public agencies remain responsible for compliance with this General Permit.

A contractor is qualified to be a discharger if the contractor satisfies one of the requirements above.

**Dose Rate**

In applied chemistry, dose rate is dose (for example: of a chemical) per time unit (for example: mg/day), sometimes also called dosage or injection rate.

**Drainage Area**

Drainage area is the area of land that drains water, sediment, pollutants, and dissolved materials to a common outlet or discharge location.

**Duly Authorized Representative (DAR)**

A duly authorized representative is a named individual or position that has responsibility for the overall operation of the regulated construction project or activities including, but not limited to, a superintendent, project manager, or other positions of equivalent or higher responsibility. Additionally, an individual or position that has overall responsibility for environmental matters for the owner or company may be designated as a Duly Authorized Representative. The Legally Responsible Person designates the Duly Authorized Representative through SMARTS, authorizing the Duly Authorized Representative to sign, certify, and electronically submit Permit Registration Documents, Notices of Termination, and any other supporting documents, reports, or information required by this General Permit, the State or Regional Water Boards, or U.S. EPA. A Duly Authorized Representative cannot be a contractor, consultant, or other third party.

**Effective Date**

Effective date is set by the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) during adoption as the date when at least one or more of the General Permit requirements take effect and the previous permit expires.

**Effluent**

Effluent is any discharge either to the receiving water or beyond the property boundary controlled by the discharger.

**Effluent Limitation**

Effluent Limitation is any numeric or narrative restriction imposed on quantities, discharge rates, and concentrations of pollutants which are discharged from point sources into waters of the United States, the waters of the contiguous zone, or the ocean.

**Erosion**

Erosion is the process, by which soil particles are detached and transported by the actions of wind, water, or gravity.

**Erosion Control BMPs**

Erosion control BMPs is vegetation, such as grasses and wildflowers, and other materials, such as straw, fiber, stabilizing emulsion, protective blankets, rolled erosion control product, etc., placed to stabilize areas of disturbed soils, reduce loss of soil due to the action of water or wind, and prevent water pollution.

**Field Measurements**

Field measurements are results of testing procedures performed in the field with portable field-testing kits or meters.

**Final Stabilization**

Final stabilization is established when all soil disturbing activities at each individual parcel within the construction site have been completed, and the establishment of a permanent vegetative cover, or equivalent permanent stabilization measures (such as riprap, gabions or geotextiles) to prevent erosion in a manner consistent with the requirements in this General Permit.

**First Order Stream**

A first order stream is a stream with no tributaries.

**Flocculants**

Flocculants are substances which promote the clumping of particles.

**Forecasted Precipitation Event**

Forecasted precipitation event is any weather pattern that is forecasted to have a 50% or greater chance of producing 0.5 inches of precipitation in a 24-hour period in the project area. The discharger shall obtain precipitation forecast information from the [National Weather Service Forecast Office](https://forecast.weather.gov) (for example: by entering the zip code of the project's location at <https://forecast.weather.gov>). Precipitation events are separated by a 48-hour antecedent dry period.

**Full Capture System**

A full capture system is a treatment control, or series of treatment controls, including but not limited to, a multi-benefit project or a low impact development control that traps all particles that are 5mm or greater, and has a design treatment capacity that is either:

1. Of not less than the peak flow rate,  $Q$ , resulting from a one-year, one-hour, storm in the subdrainage area, or
2. Appropriately sized to, and designed to, carry at least the same flows as the corresponding storm drain.

**Full Capture System Equivalency**

Full capture system equivalency is the trash load that would be reduced if full capture systems were installed, operated, and maintained for all storm drains that capture runoff from the relevant areas of land (for example: facilities or sites regulated by NPDES permits for discharges of stormwater associated with

industrial activity, including construction activity). The full capture system equivalency is a trash load reduction target that the permittee quantifies by using an approach, and technically acceptable and defensible assumptions and methods for applying the approach, subject to the approval of the permitting authority.

**Good Housekeeping BMPs**

Good housekeeping BMPs are designed to reduce or eliminate the addition of pollutants to construction site runoff through analysis of pollutant sources, implementation of proper handling/disposal practices, employee education, and other actions.

**Grading and Land Development Phase**

Grading and land development phase includes reconfiguring the topography and slope including: alluvium removals; canyon cleanouts; rock undercuts; keyway excavations; landform grading; and stockpiling of select material for capping operations.

**Groundwater**

Groundwater is water that exists underground in saturated zones beneath the land surface.

**Hydraulically Downgradient**

Hydraulically downgradient is the direction of stream flow towards a lower elevation.

**Hydromodification**

Hydromodification is the alteration of the hydrologic characteristics of coastal and non-coastal waters, which in turn could cause degradation of water resources. Hydromodification can cause excessive erosion and/or sedimentation rates, causing excessive turbidity, channel aggradation and/or degradation.

**Inactive Project**

Inactive project is where all construction activities (including passive treatment technology, active treatment systems, and/or active equipment), are fully stabilized and will be suspended for 30 days or more.

**Infeasible**

Infeasible means that the Discharger has demonstrated that the specific requirement is not technologically possible, or not economically practicable and achievable in light of best industry practices.

**K Factor**

The K factor is the soil erodibility factor used in the Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation (RUSLE). The K factor represents the combination of detachability of the soil, runoff potential of the soil, and the transportability of the sediment eroded from the soil.

**Legally Responsible Person (LRP)**

The legally responsible person is a representative of a permittee and signatory that is legally designated to sign, certify, and electronically submit any documents required by the General Permit, the State or Regional Water Board, or U.S. EPA. An LRP must be one of the following:

1. For a corporation or limited liability company: a responsible corporate officer. For the purpose of this section, a responsible corporate officer means: (a) a president, secretary, treasurer, or vice-president of the corporation in charge of a principal business function, or any other person who performs similar policy or decision-making functions for the corporation or limited liability company; or (b) the manager of the facility if authority to sign documents has been assigned or delegated to the manager in accordance with corporate procedures;
2. For a partnership or sole proprietorship: a general partner or the proprietor, respectively;
3. For a municipality, state, federal, or other public agency: a principal executive officer, ranking elected official, city manager, council president, or any other authorized public employee with managerial responsibility over the construction or land disturbance project (including, but not limited to, project manager, project superintendent, or resident engineer);
4. For an individual: the individual; or
5. For any type of entity not listed above (for example: trusts, estates, receivers): an authorized person with managerial authority over the construction or land disturbance project.

**Maximum Allowable Threshold Concentration (MATC)**

Maximum allowable threshold concentration is the allowable concentration of residual, or dissolved, coagulant/flocculant in effluent. The MATC shall be coagulant/flocculant-specific, and based on toxicity testing conducted by an independent, third-party laboratory. Typically, the MATC is equal to the geometric mean of the NOEC (No Observed Effect Concentration) and LOEC (Lowest Observed Effect Concentration) Acute and Chronic toxicity results for most sensitive species determined for the specific coagulant. The most sensitive species test shall be used to determine the MATC.

**Method Detection Limit (MDL)**

Method detection limit is the minimum concentration of a substance that can be measured and reported with 99% confidence that the analyte concentration is greater than zero.

**Minimum Level or Reporting Limit**

Minimum level or reporting limit is the lowest level at which the entire analytical system must give a recognizable signal and acceptable calibration point for the



analyte. It is equivalent to the concentration of the lowest calibration standard in a method, assuming that all method-specified sample weights, volumes, and cleanup procedures have been employed.

**Multi-benefit Project**

Multi-benefit project is a treatment control project designed to achieve the benefits set forth in California Water Code section 10562, subdivision (d). Examples include projects designed to: infiltrate, recharge or store stormwater for beneficial reuse; develop or enhance habitat and open space through stormwater and non-stormwater management; and/or reduce stormwater and non-stormwater runoff volume.

**Natural Channel Evolution**

Natural channel evolution is the physical trend in channel adjustments following a disturbance that causes the river to have more energy and degrade or aggrade more sediment. Channels have been observed to pass through 5 to 9 evolution types. Once a channel passes through the suite of evolution stages, the channel will rest in a new state of equilibrium.

**Non-Stormwater Discharges (NSWDs)**

Non-stormwater discharges are discharges that do not originate from precipitation events. They can include, but are not limited to, discharges of process water, air conditioner condensate, non-contact cooling water, vehicle wash water, sanitary wastes, concrete washout water, paint wash water, irrigation water, dust control over-wetting or pipe testing water.

**Non-Stormwater Pollution Controls**

Non-stormwater pollution controls are the general site and materials management measures that directly or indirectly aid in minimizing the non-stormwater originated discharge of sediment and other construction related pollutants from the construction site.

**Non-Structural Controls**

Non-structural controls are best management practices that do not involve a structured or engineered solution. Non-structural controls include measures including education, site planning, and stormwater management regulations.

**Non-Visible Pollutants**

Non-visible pollutants associated with a specific site or activity that can have a negative impact on water quality but cannot be seen through observation (for example: chlorine).

**Non-detect**

Non-detect is a sample result represented by "ND" in which the concentration of the subject pollutant analyte is less than the method detection limit, and therefore not detectable by the laboratory method and/or equipment used.

**Numeric Action Level (NAL)**

A numeric action level (for example: a pH range, an Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTU), or concentration) is a level that triggers a required evaluation of the effectiveness of best management practices implemented on the subject construction site, and the required implementation of additional corrective actions necessary to reduce the subject pollutant below the NAL. The NAL compliance location applies to each sample location and/or corresponding discharge location.

**Numeric Action Level (NAL) Exceedance**

Non-TMDL NAL exceedance: An NAL exceedance occurs when the analytical result, for the numerical average of three samples taken during each day of a qualifying precipitation event at each sample and/or discharge location, exceeds an applicable NAL. An NAL exceedance is not a violation of this General Permit. A discharger failing to report and failing to modify implementation of its best management practices to prevent further NAL exceedance(s), is a violation of this General Permit.

TMDL-related NALs exceedance: A TMDL-related NAL exceedance occurs on the second, and each subsequent, analytical result for samples taken from any and all discharge location(s) within the same drainage area, during the same reporting year and taken in accordance with Attachment H, that is above the concentration set forth in an applicable NAL. An NAL exceedance is not a violation of this General Permit, however, it is a violation when the discharger fails to report and respond to the NAL exceedance(s).

**Numeric Effluent Limitation (NEL)**

Numeric effluent limitation is a technology-based or water quality-based limit (for example: pH range, turbidity, or concentration) established for discharges covered under this General Permit. The NEL compliance location(s) applies to each sample and/or discharge location and at the point of discharge from an active treatment system if applicable.

**Numeric Effluent Limitation (NEL) Exceedance**

Active Treatment System NELs exceedance: An active treatment system NEL exceedance occurs when the analytical result for the samples taken during operation of an active treatment system exceeds an applicable NEL. An NEL exceedance is a violation of this General Permit and subject to mandatory minimum penalties.

TMDL-related NELs exceedance: A TMDL-related NEL exceedance occurs on the second, and each subsequent, analytical result for samples taken from any and all discharge location(s) within the same drainage area, during the same reporting year and taken in accordance with Attachment D or E Section III.D.3, that is above the concentration set forth in an applicable NEL. Each NEL exceedance after the first instance is a violation of this General Permit and subject to minimum mandatory penalties.

**Passive Treatment**

Passive treatment is the application of natural or synthetic chemicals and products to reduce turbidity in discharges through coagulation and flocculation. Passive treatment does not rely on computerized, enclosed systems with pumps, filters, and real-time controls. Passive Treatment may include pumps where they are necessary to move water around the construction site.<sup>2</sup> Passive treatment products are available in a variety of forms and may be land-applied for soil stabilization (e.g. bonded fiber matrixes, hydromulches) or water-applied for sediment removal (e.g. liquid treatment chemicals, powders, slow-releasing solid blocks/socks).

**Permanent Control Measures**

Permanent control measures are the erosion prevention materials designed to provide long-term protection to underlying soils. This may include, but is not limited, to buildings, paving, a uniform (evenly distributed, without large bare areas) perennial vegetative cover, riprap, gabions, or biodegradable rolled erosion control products (RECP).

**pH**

pH is the unit universally used to express the intensity of the acid or alkaline condition of a water sample. The pH of natural waters tends to range between 6 and 9, with neutral being 7. Extremes of pH can have deleterious effects on aquatic systems.

**Post-Construction BMPs**

Post-construction BMPs are structural and non-structural controls which detain, retain, infiltrate, and/or filter out pollutants discharged to receiving waters after a construction project is completed. Low impact development features are considered a type of post-construction BMP.

**Precipitation Event**

Precipitation event is any weather pattern that results in precipitation (rain, snow, sleet, or hail).

**Programmatic Permitting**

Programmatic permitting is an approach for linear underground and overhead project dischargers to obtain General Permit coverage for multiple non-contiguous sites with similar scope and construction activities, that are located within one Regional Water Board boundary and have the same Legally Responsible Person.

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<sup>2</sup> [U.S. EPA. 2017 Construction General Permit](https://www.epa.gov/npdes/epas-2017-construction-general-permit-cgp-and-related-documents). Web. January 11, 2017.  
<<https://www.epa.gov/npdes/epas-2017-construction-general-permit-cgp-and-related-documents>> [as of October 19, 2020]

**Project**

Project is the area that includes sites where land is disturbed and also includes the areas of activities that do not disturb land.

**Property Boundary**

Property Boundary or the area enclosed by the property lines. Property boundary includes project area and sites.

**Qualified SWPPP Developer (QSD)**

Qualified SWPPP developer is a qualified stormwater professional authorized by the discharger to develop and revise SWPPPs.

**Qualified SWPPP Practitioner (QSP)**

Qualified SWPPP practitioner is a qualified stormwater professional authorized by the discharger to conduct non-stormwater and stormwater visual observations, sampling, and implementation of all elements of the SWPPP.

**Qualifying Precipitation Event**

Qualifying precipitation event is any weather pattern that is forecast to have a 50% or greater Probability of Precipitation (PoP) and a Quantitative Precipitation Forecast (QPF) of 0.5 inches or more within a 24-hour period. The event begins with the 24-hour period when 0.5 inches has been forecast and continues on subsequent 24-hour periods when 0.25 inches of precipitation or more is forecast. The event ends when there are two sequential 24-hour periods with less than 0.25 inches of precipitation forecast for each period. Reporting Limit (See Minimum Level definition above)

**R Factor**

R factor is the erosivity factor used in the Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation (RUSLE). The R factor represents the erosivity of the climate at a particular location. An average annual value of R is determined from historical weather records using erosivity values determined for individual storms. The erosivity of an individual storm is computed as the product of the storm's total energy, which is closely related to storm amount, and the storm's maximum 30-minute intensity.

**Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board)**

A regional water board is a semi-autonomous board comprised of board members appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. California has nine regional water boards with jurisdictions base on watersheds. A regional water board may delegate its authority to the executive officer to the board, or other designated staff.

**Remaining Sub-Sampled Material**

Remaining sub-sampled material is the material (for example: organic material, gravel, etc.) that remains after the organisms to be identified have been removed from the subsample for identification. (Generally, no macroinvertebrates are

present in the remaining subsampled material, but the sample needs to be checked and verified using a complete Quality Assurance (QA) plan).

### **Reporting Period**

A reporting period is a specified period of time in which pertinent report information is applicable. For example, a standard reporting period in this Order is July 1 through June 30 of each year.

### **Responsible Discharger**

Responsible dischargers are dischargers who:

1. Discharge stormwater and authorized non-stormwater directly, or through a municipal separate sewer system (MS4) or other conveyance, to impaired water bodies or watersheds identified in a U.S. EPA-approved TMDL with a waste load allocation assigned to construction stormwater sources; and,
2. Have identified, through the site-specific pollutant source assessment, that one or more pollutants specific to the TMDL are present on-site with the potential to enter construction stormwater discharges.

### **Routine Maintenance**

Routine maintenance are activities intended to maintain the original line and grade, hydraulic capacity, and/or original purpose of a facility. The Order further defines routine maintenance (Section II.B.1) for road and highway projects as the replacement of the structural section, but not when the activity exposes the underlying soil or erodible subgrade. The road surface and base are not part of the subgrade. As such, those portions of a project that remove the paved road surface and base down to the erodible subgrade and/or underlying soil would not be considered routine maintenance.

### **Runoff Control BMPs**

Runoff control BMPs that are designed to control the peak volume and flow rate or to prevent scour due to concentrated flows.

### **Run-on**

Run-on are discharges that originate offsite and flow onto the property of a separate project site.

### **Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation (RUSLE)**

Revised universal soil loss equation is the empirical model that calculates average annual soil loss as a function of rainfall and runoff erosivity, soil erodibility, topography, erosion controls, and sediment controls.

### **Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation 2 (RUSLE2)**

Revised universal soil loss equation 2 is the updated Windows®-based empirical model that calculates average annual soil loss as a function of rainfall and runoff erosivity, soil erodibility, topography, erosion controls, and sediment controls. This includes subsequent equivalent versions of this model.

**Sampling Location**

Sampling location for traditional construction projects: An identified discharge location where samples of stormwater, non-stormwater, or dewatering discharges are obtained to determine compliance with requirements in this General Permit.

Sampling location for linear underground and overhead projects: An identified discharge location, representative of the project's construction activities, where samples of stormwater, non-stormwater, or dewatering discharges are obtained to determine compliance with requirements in this General Permit.

**Secondary containment**

Secondary containment is a device or control measure in addition to the primary containment that is used to stop a discharge of pollutants or hazardous material from leaving a specified area.

**Sediment**

Sediment is solid particulate matter, both mineral and organic, that is in suspension, is being transported, or has been moved from its site of origin by air, water, gravity, or ice and has come to rest on the earth's surface either above or below sea level.

**Sedimentation**

Sedimentation is the process of deposition of suspended matter carried by water, wastewater, or other liquids, by gravity. It is usually accomplished by reducing the velocity of the liquid below the point at which it can transport the suspended material.

**Sediment Control BMPs**

Sediment control BMPs are practices and controls that trap soil particles after erosion by rain, flowing water, or wind. They include those practices that intercept and slow or detain the flow of stormwater to allow sediment to settle and be trapped (for example: silt fence, sediment basin, fiber rolls, etc.).

**Sensitive Watershed**

Sensitive watershed is a watershed draining into a receiving water body listed on the State Water Board's approved CWA 303(d) list for sedimentation/siltation, turbidity, or a water body designated with beneficial uses of cold, spawn, and migratory.

**Settleable Solids**

Settleable solids is a solid material that can be settled within a water column during a specified time frame. It is typically tested by placing a water sample into an Imhoff settling cone and then allowing the solids to settle by gravity for a given length of time. Results are reported either as a volume of milliliter per liter (mL/L) or as a concentration (milligrams per liter (mg/L)).

**Sheet Flow**

Sheet flow is overland flow of water that occurs in areas where there are no defined channels where the water spreads out over a large area at a uniform depth.

**Site**

A site is the area disturbed where the construction activity is physically located or conducted, including staging, storage, and access areas.

**Site Operating Hours**

Site operating hours are the time periods when the site is staffed to conduct any function related to the construction activity.

**Soil Amendment**

A soil amendment is any material that is added to the soil to change its chemical properties, engineering properties, or erosion resistance that could become mobilized by stormwater.

**Source**

Source is any construction activity, material, or area that causes or contributes to pollutants in stormwater.

**Snowmelt Event**

Snowmelt event is the runoff and/or discharge from the melting of snow regardless of active precipitation.

**Streets and Utilities Phase**

Streets and utilities phase is the construction stage including excavation and street paving, lot grading, curbs, gutters and sidewalks, public utilities, public water facilities including fire hydrants, public sanitary sewer systems, storm sewer system and/or other drainage improvements.

**Stormwater**

Stormwater is rain, snowmelt or any other liquid or solid precipitation that may result in runoff, and drainage from a site.

**Structural Controls**

Structural controls are any structural facility or fabrication designed and constructed to mitigate the adverse impacts of stormwater and urban runoff pollution.

**Surface Runoff**

Surface runoff is the portion of stormwater that does not infiltrate into the ground or evaporate, but instead flows overland onto adjacent land or watercourses or is routed to stormwater conveyance systems.

**Topsoil**

Topsoil is the uppermost part of the soil profile, which is the most favorable material for plant growth. It is typically rich in organic matter.

**Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)**

A TMDL is the sum of the maximum amount of a pollutant that a waterbody can receive per day and still meet state water quality standards. It is the sum of the individual Waste Load Allocations (WLAs) for point sources, the load allocations for nonpoint and natural background sources, and the margin of safety.

**Total Suspended Solids (TSS)**

The measure of total suspended solids is the measure of the suspended solids in a water sample includes inorganic substances, such as soil particles and organic substances, such as algae, aquatic plant/animal waste, particles related to industrial/sewage waste, etc. The TSS test measures the concentration of suspended solids in water by measuring the dry weight of a solid material contained in a known volume of a sub-sample of a collected water sample. Results are reported in mg/L.

**Toxicity**

Toxicity is the adverse response(s) of organisms to chemicals or physical agents ranging from mortality to physiological responses such as impaired reproduction or growth anomalies.

**Trash**

Trash is all improperly discarded solid material from any production, manufacturing, or processing operation including, but not limited to, products, product packaging, or containers constructed of plastic, steel, aluminum, glass, paper, or other synthetic or natural materials.

**Tributary**

Tributary is a smaller river or stream that flows into a larger river or stream.

**Turbidity**

Turbidity is the optical condition, cloudiness, of water caused by suspended or dissolved particles or colloids. Turbidity is quantified by the degree to which light traveling through a water column is scattered by the suspended organic and inorganic particles it contains. The turbidity test is reported in Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTU) with a calibrated turbidity meter.

**Vertical Construction Phase**

Vertical construction phase is the build out of structures from foundations to roofing, including rough landscaping.

**Waste Load Allocation (WLA)**

Waste load allocation is the portion of a receiving water's loading capacity that is allocated to one of its existing or future point sources of pollution.



**Water Effect Ratio (WER)**

Water effect ratio is a factor that can be used per U.S. EPA water quality criteria (WQC) regulations, to customize national aquatic life criteria to reflect site-specific water column conditions. The WER is used to derive site-specific criteria that maintain the level of protection of aquatic life intended by the “Guidelines for deriving numerical national WQC” (U.S. EPA 1985).

**Waters of the United States**

Waters of the United States is defined by the federal Environmental Protection Agency in 40 Code of Federal Regulations § 122.2.

**Water Quality Objectives (WQO)**

Water quality objectives are defined in the California Water Code as limits or levels of water quality constituents or characteristics, which are established for the reasonable protection of beneficial uses of water or the prevention of nuisance within a specific area.

**Water Quality Standards**

Water quality standards consists of beneficial uses, water quality objectives to protect those uses, an antidegradation policy, and policies for implementation. Water quality standards are established in Regional Water Quality Control Plans (Basin Plans) and statewide Water Quality Control Plans. U.S. EPA has also adopted water quality criteria (the same as objectives) for California in the National Toxics Rule and California Toxics Rule.