

**DRAFT APPENDIX 2****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**

70 Percent Final Cover for the purpose of final stabilization applies to all areas of exposed soil on all non-paved and non-built areas. 70 Percent Final Cover refers to 70 percent of the pre-project vegetative cover.

**Active Areas of Construction**

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 are still considered active areas until final stabilization is complete. The construction activity Phases used in this General Permit are the Demolition and Pre-development Site Preparation Phase, the Grading and Land Development Phase, the Streets and Utilities Phase, the Vertical Construction Phase and the Final Landscaping and Site Stabilization Phase.

**Active Treatment System (ATS)**

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

**Acute Toxicity**

A chemical stimulus severe enough to rapidly induce a negative effect; in aquatic toxicity tests, an effect observed within 96 hours or less is considered acute.

**Aerial Deposition**

Airborne particulates from construction activities.

**Ancillary Facility**

A facility that provides necessary support to the primary activities of the site or Linear Utility Project.

**Beneficial Uses**

As defined in the California Water Code, beneficial uses of the waters of the state that may be protected against quality degradation include, but are not limited to, domestic, municipal, agricultural and industrial supply; power generation; recreation; aesthetic enjoyment; navigation; and preservation and enhancement of fish, wildlife, and other aquatic resources or preserves.

**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**

The 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 include scheduling of activities, prohibitions of practices, operation and maintenance procedures, treatment, vegetated infiltration basins, and other 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.

**Chain of Custody**

Form 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**

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**

Generally, a contiguous area where multiple, distinct construction activities may be taking place at different times under one plan. A plan is generally defined as any piece of documentation or physical demarcation that indicates that

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

construction activities may occur on a common plot. Such documentation could consist of a tract map, parcel map, demolition plans, grading plans or contract documents. Any of these documents could delineate the boundaries of a common plan area. 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.

Generally, where discrete construction projects within a larger common plan of development or sale are located at least 1/4 mile apart and the area between the projects is not being disturbed, each individual project can be treated as a separate plan of development or sale provided any interconnecting road, pipeline or utility project that is part of the same common plan is not concurrently being disturbed.

### **Construction Site Monitoring Program**

A description of methods and procedures for monitoring discharges

### **Conveyance System**

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**

The discharge of a pollutant 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). In the case of pH, the discharger may either report the median value to two decimal places or use an online pH averaging calculator, available on the Water Board Construction General Permit website, or any equivalent online calculator.

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

Construction stage including rough grading and/or disking, clearing and grubbing operations, or any soil disturbance prior to mass grading.

### **Debris**

Litter, rubble, discarded refuse, and remains of destroyed inorganic anthropogenic waste.

### **Detected Not Quantifiable**

A sample result that is between the Method Detection Limit (MDL) and the Minimum Level (ML).

**Detention**

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

**Dewatering**

To remove excess water in an excavation or impoundment by pumping or other mechanical means. Dewatering discharges generally contain pollutants such as sediment.

**Direct Discharge**

A discharge that is routed directly to waters of the United States by means of a pipe, channel, or ditch (including a municipal storm sewer system), or through surface runoff.

**Discharge Location**

A common outlet from a construction site drainage area where stormwater, non-stormwater, or dewatering discharge leaves the site or project boundary.

**Discharger**

The discharger is the entity subject to this General Permit. The following persons or entities 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.

7. In exceptional circumstances, a person or entity that qualifies as the discharger may provide written authorization to another person or entity to serve as the discharger. In such a circumstance, the person or entity that provides the authorization retains all responsibility for compliance with the General Permit.

For any construction or land disturbance project where multiple persons or entities are eligible to serve as the discharger, those persons or entities shall select a single discharger. Except as provided in 5 above, a contractor who does not satisfy the requirements of any of the categories above is not qualified to be a discharger.

**Dose Rate**

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

**Drainage Area**

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

**Duly Authorized Representative (DAR)**

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**

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**

Any discharge of water by a discharger either to the receiving water or beyond the property boundary controlled by the discharger.

**Effluent Limitation**

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.

**Emergency**

A sudden, unexpected occurrence, involving a clear and imminent danger, demanding immediate action to prevent or mitigate loss of, or damage to, life, health, property, or essential public services. "Emergency" includes such occurrences as fire, flood, earthquake, or other soil or geologic movements, as well as such occurrences as riot, accident, or sabotage.<sup>2</sup>

**Erosion**

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

**Erosion Control BMPs**

Vegetation, such as grasses and wildflowers, and other materials, such as straw, fiber, stabilizing emulsion, protective blankets, 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**

Results of testing procedures performed in the field with portable field-testing kits or meters.

**Final Stabilization**

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 stream with no tributaries.

**Flocculants**

Substances which promote the clumping of particles.

**Forecasted Precipitation Event**

Any weather pattern that is forecasted to have a 50% or greater chance of producing 0.5 inches of precipitation in the project area. The discharger shall obtain precipitation forecast information from the [National Weather Service Forecast Office](#) (for example: by entering the zip code of the project's location at

<sup>2</sup> [Public Resource Code 21060.3](#). Web. (1976).

<[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes\\_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=PRC&sectionNum=21060.3](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=PRC&sectionNum=21060.3)> [as of October 19, 2020]

<https://forecast.weather.gov>). Precipitation events are separated by a 48-hour antecedent dry period.

### **Full Capture System**

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**

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**

BMPs 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**

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.

### **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 Sites**

Sites 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 soil erodibility factor used in the Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation (RUSLE). It 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**

When the discharger is required to sign, certify, and electronically submit any documents required by the General Permit, the State or Regional Water Board, or U.S., the signatory for the discharger is the LRP and must be one of the following:

- a. 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;
- b. For a partnership or sole proprietorship: a general partner or the proprietor, respectively;
- c. 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);
- d. For the military: any military officer or Department of Defense civilian, acting in an equivalent capacity to a military officer, who has been designated;
- e. For a public university: an authorized university official;
- f. For an individual: the individual; or
- g. 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)**

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)**

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**

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**

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, recharged 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**

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 they pass through the suite of evolution stages, they will rest in a new state of equilibrium.

**Non-Stormwater Discharges (NSWDs)**

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**

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-Visible Pollutants**

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**

Sample result is less than Method Detection Limit; Analyte being tested cannot be detected by the equipment or method.

**Numeric Action Level (NAL)**

A level (for example: pH range, NTU, or concentration) used as a trigger to evaluate a site's best management practice effectiveness and if additional corrective actions are necessary to control pollutants. The NAL compliance location is at the site sample location and/or discharge location.

**Numeric Action Level (NAL) Exceedance**

Non-TMDL NALs: 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 any sample and/or discharge location, exceeds 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).

TMDL-related NALs: A TMDL-related NAL exceedance occurs when two or more analytical results for samples taken at each discharge location within the same reporting year exceeds 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)**

A technology-based or water quality-based limit (for example: pH range, NTU, or concentration) established for discharges covered under this General Permit. The NEL compliance location(s) is at the site sample and/or discharge location(s).

**Numeric Effluent Limitation (NEL) Exceedance**

An NEL exceedance occurs when two or more analytical results for samples taken at each drainage area within the same reporting year exceeds an applicable NEL. An NEL exceedance is a violation of this General Permit and subject to minimum mandatory penalties.

**Passive Treatment**

The application of natural or synthetic chemicals and products to reduce turbidity in discharges through coagulation and flocculation, that 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 or in the application of the products, and pumping

may be integral to properly dosing the water with treatment chemicals in some cases.<sup>3</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, spray-tackifiers) or water-applied for sediment removal (e.g. liquid treatment chemicals, powders, slow-releasing solid blocks/socks).

### **Permanent Control Measures**

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**

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**

Structural and non-structural controls which detain, retain, or filter the release of pollutants to receiving waters after final stabilization is attained.

### **Precipitation Event**

Any weather pattern that results in precipitation (rain, snow, sleet, or hail).

### **Qualified SWPPP Developer (QSD)**

An individual who is authorized to develop and revise SWPPPs.

### **Qualified SWPPP Practitioner (QSP)**

An individual assigned responsibility for non-stormwater and stormwater visual observations, sampling and analysis, and responsibility to ensure full compliance with the permit and implementation of all elements of the SWPPP, including the preparation of the annual compliance evaluation and the elimination of all unauthorized discharges.

### **Qualifying Precipitation Event**

Any weather pattern that results in 0.5 inches of precipitation within a 24-hour period. The event begins on the calendar day when 0.5 inches has accumulated and continues on subsequent days where 0.25 inches of precipitation or more occur. The event ends when there are two sequential calendar days with less than 0.25 inches of precipitation on each day. Reporting Limit (See Minimum Level definition above)

<sup>3</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]

**R Factor**

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 Board**

Includes the Executive Officer and delegated Regional Water Board staff.

**Remaining Sub-Sampled Material**

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**

July 1<sup>st</sup> through June 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Responsible Discharger**

A discharger with coverage under this General Permit who discharges stormwater associated with construction activities and authorized non-stormwater discharges, either directly or through a municipal separate sewer system (MS4), 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 have identified one or more TMDL-specific pollutants in the site's construction stormwater discharge(s).

**Routine Maintenance**

Activities intended to maintain the original line and grade, hydraulic capacity, or original purpose of a facility.

**Runoff Control BMPs**

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

**Run-on**

Discharges that originate offsite and flow onto the property of a separate project site.

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

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)**

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**

An identified representative site location where samples of stormwater, non-stormwater, or dewatering discharge associated with construction activity are obtained to determine compliance with requirements in this General Permit.

**Sediment**

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**

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**

Practices 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.).

**Settleable Solids**

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 (mL/L) or a mass (mg/L) concentration.

**Sheet Flow**

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**

The area where the construction activity is physically located or conducted, including staging, storage, and access areas

**Site Operating Hours**

The time periods when the site is staffed to conduct any function related to the construction activity.

**Soil Amendment**

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**

Any construction activity, material, or area that causes or contributes to pollutants in stormwater.

**Snowmelt Event**

Runoff and/or discharge from the melting of snow regardless of active precipitation.

**Streets and Utilities Phase**

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**

Rain, snowmelt or any other liquid or solid precipitation that results in runoff, and drainage from a site.

**Structural Controls**

Any structural facility or fabrication designed and constructed to mitigate the adverse impacts of stormwater and urban runoff pollution.

**Surface Runoff**

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**

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 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**

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**

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**

A smaller river or stream that flows into a larger river or stream.

**Turbidity**

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**

The build out of structures from foundations to roofing, including rough landscaping.

**Waste Load Allocation (WLA)**

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)**

A factor that can be used under the U.S. EPA's system of Water Quality Criteria (WQC) 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**

As defined by the federal Environmental Protection Agency in 40 Code of Federal Regulations§ 122.2.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>4</sup> The application of the definition of "waters of the United States" may be difficult to determine. The landowner may wish to seek assistance from a qualified professional when unsure whether the discharge must be covered by this General Permit.

**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**

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.