

# Glossary

The Glossary is based on definitions provided by the Office of Planning and Research (OPR), the American Planning Association (APA), the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

## Abbreviations

<b>ABAG:</b>	Association of Bay Area Governments	<b>DFG:</b>	California Department of Fish and Game
<b>ADT:</b>	Average daily trips made by vehicles or persons in a 24-hour period	<b>DHS:</b>	Department of Health Services
<b>ADWF:</b>	Average Dry Weather flow	<b>EIR:</b>	Environmental Impact Report (State)
<b>AF:</b>	Acre-foot	<b>EIS:</b>	Environmental Impact Statement (Federal)
<b>AGS:</b>	Annual Grassland	<b>EPA:</b>	Environmental Protection Agency
<b>BAAQMD:</b>	Bay Area Air Quality Management District	<b>FAR:</b>	Floor Area Ratio
<b>BACT:</b>	Best Available Control Technology	<b>FEMA:</b>	Federal Emergency Management Agency
<b>BPU:</b>	Board of Public Utilities	<b>FHWA:</b>	Federal Highway Administration
<b>CARB:</b>	California Air Resources Board	<b>FIR:</b>	Fiscal Impact Report
<b>CAS:</b>	California Academy of Sciences	<b>FIRM:</b>	Flood Insurance Rate Map
<b>CC&amp;Rs:</b>	Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions	<b>FmHA:</b>	Farmers Home Administration
<b>CDF:</b>	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection	<b>FTE:</b>	Full-Time Equivalent
<b>CDS:</b>	California Division of Safety of Dams	<b>GMI:</b>	Gross Monthly Income
<b>CEC:</b>	California Energy Resources Conservation and Development commission	<b>HCD:</b>	Housing and Community Development Department of the State of California.
<b>CEQA:</b>	California Environmental Quality Act	<b>HOV:</b>	High Occupancy Vehicle
<b>CFD:</b>	A Mello-Roos Community Facilities District	<b>HUD:</b>	U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development
<b>CFPD:</b>	Cotati Fire Protection District	<b>JPA:</b>	Joint Powers Authority
<b>CFS:</b>	Cubic Feet Per Second	<b>kWh:</b>	Kilowatt Hours
<b>CIP:</b>	Capital Improvements Program	<b>LAFCo:</b>	Local Agency Formation Commission
<b>CMP:</b>	Congestion Management Plan	<b>LOS:</b>	Level of Service
<b>CNEL:</b>	Community Noise Equivalent Level	<b>LRT:</b>	Light-duty Rail Transit
<b>CNPS:</b>	California Native Plant Society	<b>MGD:</b>	Million Gallons per day
<b>CORP:</b>	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	<b>NEPA:</b>	National Environmental Policy Act
<b>COG:</b>	Council of Governments	<b>NOAA:</b>	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
<b>CPD:</b>	Cotati Police Department	<b>NOI:</b>	Notice of Intent
<b>CPUC:</b>	California Public Utilities Commission	<b>NOP:</b>	Notice of Preparation
<b>DBH:</b>	Diameter at Breast Height	<b>NPDES:</b>	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

<b>O&amp;M:</b>	Operating and Maintenance
<b>OPR:</b>	Office of Planning and Research, State of California
<b>PPT:</b>	Parts per Thousand
<b>PUD:</b>	Planned Unit Development
<b>ROG:</b>	Reactive Organic Compounds
<b>RWQCB:</b>	Regional Water Quality Control Board
<b>SCWA:</b>	Sonoma County Water Agency
<b>SIP:</b>	State Implementation Plan
<b>SRPD:</b>	Santa Rosa Police Department
<b>SWRCB:</b>	State Water Resources Control Board
<b>TDM:</b>	Transportation Demand Management
<b>TDR:</b>	Transfer of Development Rights
<b>TDS:</b>	Total Dissolved Solids
<b>THMs:</b>	Trihalomethanes
<b>TSM:</b>	Transportation Systems Management
<b>UBC:</b>	Uniform Building Code
<b>UG/L:</b>	Micrograms per Liter
<b>UHC:</b>	Uniform Housing Code
<b>UMTA:</b>	Urban Mass Transportation Administration
<b>USFWS:</b>	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
<b>V/C:</b>	Volume-to-Capacity Ratio
<b>VMT:</b>	Vehicle Miles Traveled
<b>VOC:</b>	Volatile Organic Compound
<b>WWTP:</b>	Wastewater Treatment Plant

A

### **AB2588 Emission Inventory**

A list of pollutants emitted into a community's atmosphere in amount per day or year by type of source, as required by Assembly Bill 2588.

### **Accelerograph**

An instrument for measuring ground acceleration (e.g. a seismic event).

### **Acceptable Risk**

A hazard which is deemed to be a tolerable exposure to danger given the expected benefits to be obtained. Different levels of acceptable risk may be assigned according to the potential danger and the criticalness of the threatened structure. The levels may range from "near zero" for nuclear plants and natural gas transmission lines to "moderate" for open space, ranches and low-intensity warehouse uses.

### **Access/Egress**

The ability to enter a site from a roadway and exit a site onto a roadway by motorized vehicle.

### **Acculturation**

The adoption by one society of a trait or traits from another society.

### **Acre-foot (AF)**

The volume of water (325,851 gallons) that would cover one acre to a depth of one foot.

### **Acres, Gross**

The entire acreage of a site. Most communities calculate gross acreage to the centerline of proposed bounding streets and to the edge of the right-of-way of existing or dedicated streets.

### **Acres, Net**

The portion of a site that can actually be built upon. The following generally are not included in the net acreage of a site: public or private road rights-of-way, public open space, and flood ways.

### **Activated sludge**

By-product of the sewage treatment process. sewage Sediment that contains a heavy growth of microorganisms, resulting from vigorous aeration.

### **Active Solar System**

A system that uses a mechanical device, such as pumps or fans run by electricity in addition to solar energy, to transport air or water between a solar collector and the interior of a building for heating or cooling. (See "Passive Solar System.")

### **Adaptive Reuse**

The conversion of obsolescent or historic buildings from their original or most recent use to a new use. For example, the conversion of former hospital or school buildings to residential use, or the conversion of an historic single-family home to office use.

### **Adobe**

Sun-dried mudbrick.

### **Adverse Impact**

A negative consequence for the physical, social, or economic environment resulting from an action or project.

### **Affordable Housing**

Housing capable of being purchased or rented by a household with very low, low, or moderate income, based on a household's ability to make monthly payments necessary to obtain housing. Housing is considered affordable when a household pays less than 30 percent of its gross monthly income (GMI) for housing including utilities.

### **Agency**

The governmental entity, department, office, or administrative unit responsible for carrying out regulations.

### **Aggregate material**

Composed of mineral materials, such as sand and stone; often used in making concrete.

### **Agricultural Preserve**

Land designated for agriculture or conservation. (See "Williamson Act.")

### **Agriculture**

Use of land for the production of food and fiber, including the growing of crops and/or the grazing of animals on natural prime or improved pasture land.

### **Agriculture-related Business**

Feed mills, dairy supplies, poultry processing, creameries, auction yards, veterinarians and other businesses supporting local agriculture.

### **Air Basin**

A division of California established by the Air Resources Board, based on meteorological and geographical conditions.

### **Air District**

A local agency charged with controlling pollutants discharged into the atmosphere within its region.

# A

## **Air Pollutant**

Any substance in air that could, if in high enough concentration, harm humans, animals, vegetation or material.

## **Air Pollution**

Concentrations of substances found in the atmosphere which exceed naturally occurring quantities and are undesirable or harmful in some way.

## **Air Quality Standard**

The prescribed level of a pollutant in the outside air that cannot be exceeded during a specific time. Established for both federal and state governments.

## **Airport-related Use**

A use which supports airport operations including, but not limited to, aircraft repair and maintenance, flight instruction, and aircraft chartering.

## **Air Rights**

The right granted by a property owner to a buyer to use space above an existing right-of-way or other site, usually for development.

## **Air Toxins**

See Hazardous Air Pollutants.

## **Alkali**

Salts left behind on the soil surface as water evaporates.

## **Alley**

A narrow service way, either public or private, which provides a permanently reserved but secondary means of public access not intended for general traffic circulation. Alleys typically are located along rear property lines.

## **Alluvial**

Referring to soils deposited by stream action.

## **Alluvium**

Soil material (as clay or gravel) deposited by running water.

## **Alquist**

Priolo Special Studies Zones Act- A California State Law adopted in 1972 to protect people and property from damage from fault rupture hazards. Establishes zones along active faults and applies land use restrictions for structures for human occupancy.

## **Alternative**

A potential solution to the Project objective of beneficial reuse of reclaimed water. Both CEQA

and NEPA require that a “reasonable range” of Project alternatives be evaluated.

## **Ambient Air**

Outside air.

## **Ambient**

Surrounding on all sides; used to describe measurements of existing conditions with respect to traffic, noise, air and other environments.

## **Anadromous fish**

Any species that lives as an adult in the ocean and returns to freshwater to spawn (e.g. steelhead, salmon, striped bass, American shad).

## **Anadromous salmonids**

Fish resembling or characteristic of a salmon, migrating up rivers from the sea to breed in fresh water.

## **Andesite**

A dark-colored, fine-grained extrusive igneous rock (volcanic).

## **Annex, v.**

To incorporate a land area into an existing district or municipality, with a resulting change in the boundaries of the annexing jurisdiction.

## **Anti-degradation Policy**

Federal regulations (40 CFR 131.12) require that states have a policy that allows degradation only if existing uses (e.g., fish spawning, municipal supply) would be maintained and where such degradation is necessary to accommodate important economic or social development .

## **Apartment**

(1) One or more rooms of a building used as a place to live, in a building containing at least one other unit used for the same purpose. (2) A separate suite, not owner occupied, which includes kitchen facilities and is designed for and rented as the home, residence, or sleeping place of one or more persons living as a single housekeeping unit.

## **Appeal, v.**

When a person believes a decision was made in error, an appeal may be filed so that a higher decision making body can review the case.

## **Approach Zone**

The air space at each end of a landing strip that defines the glide path or approach path of an aircraft and which should be free from obstruction.

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### **Aquifer**

An underground, water-bearing layer of earth, porous rock, sand, or gravel, through which water can seep or be held in natural storage. Aquifers generally hold sufficient water to yield economically significant quantities to wells, springs, etc.

### **Aquifer Storage and Recovery**

Injection of water or reclaimed water into an aquifer for storage and later recovery.

### **Arable**

Fit for or cultivated by plowing. Suitable for crops.

### **Archaeological**

Relating to the material remains of past human life, culture, or activities.

### **Architectural Control; Architectural Review**

Regulations and procedures requiring the exterior design of structures to be suitable, harmonious, and in keeping with the general appearance, historic character, and/or style of surrounding areas. A process used to exercise control over the design of buildings and their settings. (See "Design Review.")

### **Area of Direct Impact**

Area that only includes the construction boundary zones of the proposed Project components.

### **Area of Indirect Impact**

Area that encompasses the watersheds potentially affected by Project components such as storage reservoirs, discharge, and agricultural irrigation areas.

### **Armoring**

In a river bed, a phenomenon resulting from fine sediments being washed out, leaving a surface layer of gravel, cobbles and boulders which prevent erosion of the river bed except during the largest floods.

### **Arterial**

Medium-speed (30-40 mph), medium-capacity (10,000-35,000 average daily trips) roadway which provides intra-community travel and access to the county-wide highway system. Access to community arterials should be provided at collector roads and local streets, but direct access from parcels to existing arterials is common.

### **Artesian**

An aquifer in which water is confined under hydrostatic pressure between layers of impermeable material. Wells tapping into an artesian stratum will flow naturally without the use of pumps. (See "Aquifer.")

### **Arthropod**

Any invertebrate of the phylum Arthropoda, which includes insects and spiders, among others.

### **Artifact**

Any product of human cultural activity; more specifically, any tools, weapons, artworks, etc., found in archaeological contexts.

### **Artifactua**

Having to do with artifacts.

### **Assemblage**

A group of objects, such as artifacts, of different types found in close association with each other.

### **Assessment District**

See "Benefit Assessment District."

### **Atmosphere**

The layer of gases (air) that surrounds the earth.

### **Attainment**

Describes an area where pollutant levels are as good as or better than standards.

### **Attenuate**

In hydrology, to spread a give flood event over a longer period of time. This results in a reduction of the peak streamflow rate.

### **Attraction flows**

Pulses of high flow from the rivermouth which are sufficient to break open the sandbar and attract steelhead from the ocean into freshwater.

### **Average dry weather flow**

Average Dry Weather Flow (ADWF), is the average daily flowrate of sewage entering a treatment plant which is the result of the domestic, commercial and industrial use of water during the dry or non-rainy season. ADWF is often considered the "base flow" of the wastewater. The ADWF is typically used to size sewage treatment facilities.

### **Avocational**

A subordinate occupation pursued especially for pleasure.

# B

## **Backdam**

A dam placed upstream of a main dam to prevent flooding of a portion of the watershed.

## **Background View Range**

Viewing distances to landscape features (or changes) greater than 3 miles.

## **Basalt**

A dark fine-grained igneous rock.

## **Base Flood**

In any given year, a 100-year flood that has 1% likelihood of occurring, and is recognized as a standard for acceptable risk.

## **Bed and Breakfast**

Usually a dwelling unit, but sometimes a small hotel, which provides lodging and breakfast for temporary overnight occupants, for compensation.

## **Bed load**

Soil, gravel, rock or other material rolled along the bottom of a stream by moving water, as contrasted with sediment carried in suspension above the stream bed (see Suspended load).

## **Benthic Algae**

Micro-organisms that live at the bottom of a body of water.

## **Biconically**

Refers to an object drilled from two opposing sides until the object is completely perforated.

## **Biface**

A stone tool that has been flaked on both sides.

## **Bikeways**

A term that encompasses bicycle lanes, bicycle paths, and bicycle routes.

## **Bioaccumulation**

The net accumulation of a chemical by an organism as a result of uptake from all routes of exposure (inhalation, dermal absorption, ingestion).

## **Biodegradation**

The process in which a substance is naturally decomposed into harmless elements.

## **Biological Assessment**

Report required by the USFWS under Section 7(c) of the Federal Endangered Species Act if listed species or critical habitat may be present in the area affected by any major construction activity as defined in Part 404.02.

## **Biomass**

Plant material, used for the production of such things as fuel alcohol and non-chemical fertilizers. Biomass sources may be plants grown especially for that purpose or waste products from livestock, harvesting, milling, or from agricultural production or processing.

## **Biosolids**

Organic waste material.

## **Biotic Community**

A group of living organisms characterized by a distinctive combination of both animal and plant species in a particular habitat.

## **Blank**

An intermediate manufacturing stage in the production of stone tools.

## **Blue schist**

A strongly foliated crystalline metamorphic rock containing the blue to blue-black glaucophane mineral. Blue schist is formed in high pressure and low temperature environments typical of converging continental plate margins.

## **Bond**

An interest-bearing promise to pay a stipulated sum of money, with the principal amount due on a specific date. Funds raised through the sale of bonds can be used for various public purposes.

## **Borrow area**

A pre-designated area which will be utilized to provide the basic fill material for construction of the dam.

## **Brackish Water**

A mixture of sea water and fresh water.

## **Brood**

Fish born in the same year.

## **Buffer Zone**

An area of land separating two distinct land uses that acts to soften or mitigate the effects of one land use on the other.

## **Building**

Any structure used or intended for supporting or sheltering any use or occupancy.

## **Buildout; Build-out**

Development of land to its full potential or theoretical capacity as permitted under current or

proposed planning or zoning designations. (See "Carrying Capacity 3").

**Business Services**

A subcategory of commercial land use which permits establishments primarily engaged in rendering services to other business establishments on a fee or contract basis, such as advertising and mailing; building maintenance; personnel and employment services; management and consulting services; protective services; equipment rental and leasing; photo finishing; copying and printing; travel; office supply; and similar services.

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**California Air Resources Board (CARB)**

The State of California's agency responsible for air pollution control.

**California Clean Air Act**

The legislation that is the legal basis for the clean air program in California.

**California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)**

A State law requiring State and local agencies to regulate activities with consideration for environmental protection. If a proposed activity has the potential for a significant adverse environmental impact, an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must be prepared and certified as to its adequacy before taking action on the proposed project. General Plans require the preparation of a "program EIR."

**California Occupational Safety and Health Administration (Cal-OSHA)**

The branch of California government responsible for ensuring safety in the workplace.

**Caltrans**

California Department of Transportation.

**Capital Improvements Program (CIP)**

A program, administered by a city or county government and reviewed by its planning commission, which schedules permanent improvements, usually for a minimum of five years in the future, to fit the projected fiscal capability of the local jurisdiction. The program generally is reviewed annually, for conformance to and consistency with the general plan.

**Carbon Dioxide**

A colorless, odorless, non-poison gas that is a normal part of the atmosphere.

**Carbon Monoxide**

A colorless, odorless, highly poisonous gas produced by automobiles and other machines with internal combustion engines that imperfectly burn fossil fuels such as oil and gas.

**Carcinogenic**

Causing cancer.

**Carrying Capacity**

Used in determining the potential of an area to absorb development: (1) the level of land use, human activity, or development for a specific area that can be accommodated permanently without an

irreversible change in the quality of air, water, land, or plant and animal habitats. (2) The upper limits of development beyond which the quality of human life, health, welfare, safety, or community character within an area will be impaired. (3) The maximum level of development allowable under current zoning. (See "Buildout.")

**Cathodic**

Creation of negative electrons or electrodes to repel positively charged particles.

**Cenozoic**

Geologic era from approximately 65 million years ago to the present. The Cenozoic era is divided into two periods: the Tertiary and Quaternary.

**Census**

The official decennial enumeration of the population conducted by the federal government.

**Central Business District (CBD)**

The major commercial downtown center of a community. General guidelines for delineating a downtown area are defined by the U.S. Census of Retail Trade, with specific boundaries being set by the local municipality.

**Channelization**

(1) The straightening and/or deepening of a watercourse for purposes of storm-runoff control or ease of navigation. Channelization often includes lining of stream banks with a retaining material such as concrete. (2) At the intersection of roadways, the directional separation of traffic lanes through the use of curbs or raised islands which limit the paths that vehicles may take through the intersection.

**Character**

Special physical characteristics of a structure or area that set it apart from its surroundings and contribute to its individuality.

**Charmstones**

An elongate, ground and often polished stone artifact, normally 5 to 20 cm in length, fashioned in a spindle, ovoid, phallic, plumb bob, or other shape. Their function as hunting charms, bolas stones, shamanistic gear, and so forth, is uncertain.

**Chert**

A hard, dense microcrystalline or cryptocrystalline sedimentary rock, comprised chiefly of quartz.



**Chert**

A fine-grained rock composed primarily of silica.

**Cinnabar**

Mercuric sulfide, occurring naturally as a red ore. It was occasionally used as a coloring matter.

**Circulation Element**

One of the seven State-mandated elements of a local general plan, it contains adopted goals, policies and implementation programs for the planning and management of existing and proposed thoroughfares, transportation routes, and terminals, as well as local public utilities and facilities, all correlated with the land use element of the general plan.

**City**

City, with a capital "C," generally refers to the government or administration of a city. City, with a lower case "c" may mean any city, or may refer to the geographical area of a city (*e.g.*, the city's bikeway system.)

**Clarifier**

A sedimentation basin used to settle solids out of the wastewater during the treatment process.

**Clean Air Plan**

A plan developed by an Air District for the purpose of meeting an air quality standard.

**Clearing**

The removal of trees and brush from an area such as a construction site or reservoir inundation area. For construction projects, clearing typically refers to a removal of all standing brush or trees two inches or greater in diameter at a point six inches above the ground, or any vegetation greater than six feet in height.

**Clear Zone**

That section of an approach zone of an airport where the plane defining the glide path is 50 feet or less above the center-line of the runway. The clear zone ends where the height of the glide path above ground level is above 50 feet. Land use under the clear zone is restricted.

**Climax community**

A more or less stable biotic community.

**CO**

Carbon monoxide; a gaseous compound containing one molecule of carbon and one of oxygen.

**Coagulated wastewater**

Oxidized wastewater in which colloidal and finely divided suspended matter have been destabilized and agglomerated by the addition of suitable chemicals or other effective methods.

**Coastal Dune**

Vegetation community found grown on the sandy dunes just inland from the coast.

**Coastal Program**

Local Coastal Programs (LCP's) are the specific long-term management plans prepared for each of California's coastal cities and counties for its section of coast. Each LCP consists of a land use plan, zoning ordinances, and other implementing actions.

**Coastal Zone**

Defined by the federal Coastal Zone Management Act as the coastal waters and the adjacent shorelines, strongly influenced by each other and in proximity to the shorelines of the several coastal states, and includes islands, transitional and intertidal areas, salt marshes, wetlands, and beaches.

**Coliform bacteria**

Any of a number of bacilli (bacteria) that are normally present in the colon and that indicate fecal contamination when found in a water supply.

**Collector**

Relatively-low-speed (25-30 mph), relatively-low-volume (5,000-20,000 average daily trips) street which provides circulation within and between neighborhoods. Collectors usually serve short trips and are intended for collecting trips from local streets and distributing them to the arterial network.

**Colluvium**

A general term applied to loose and incoherent deposits, usually at the foot of a slope or cliff and brought there chiefly by gravity.

**Colon bacillus**

Found normally in all vertebrate intestinal tracts and occasionally virulent, causing pyelitis or infantile diarrhea.

**Commercial**

A land use classification which permits facilities for the buying and selling of commodities and services.

**Community Care Facility**

Elderly housing licensed by the State Health and Welfare Agency, Department of Social Services,

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typically for residents who are frail and need supervision. Services normally include three meals daily, housekeeping, security and emergency response, a full activities program, supervision in the dispensing of medicine, personal services such as assistance in grooming and bathing, but no nursing care. Sometimes referred to as residential care or personal care. (See "Congregate Care.")

### **Community Facilities District**

Under the Mello-Roos Community Facilities Act of 1982 (Government Code Section 53311 *et seq*), a legislative body may create within its jurisdiction a special district that can issue tax-exempt bonds for the planning, design, acquisition, construction, and/or operation of public facilities, as well as provide public services to district residents. Special tax assessments levied by the district are used to repay the bonds.

### **Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL)**

A 24-hour energy equivalent level derived from a variety of single-noise events, with weighting factors of 5 and 10 dBA applied to the evening (7:00 to 10:00 pm) and nighttime (10:00 pm to 7:00 am) periods, respectively, to allow for the greater sensitivity to noise during these hours.

### **Community Park**

Land with full public access intended to provide recreation opportunities beyond those supplied by neighborhood parks. Community parks are larger in scale than neighborhood parks but smaller than regional parks.

### **Community Separator Area**

A classification of Open Space defined in the Sonoma County General Plan which is rural land intended to provide visual relief between identifiable cities and communities. These lands are not necessarily scenic in their own right, but impose development restrictions to function as buffers to prevent continuous, corridor-style urbanization patterns.

### **Commute-shed**

The area from which people do or might commute from their homes to a specific workplace destination, given specific assumptions about maximum travel time or distance.

### **Components**

Individual Project elements that make up the system proposed to accomplish the Project objective.

### **Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA)**

This law authorizes the Federal government to clean up abandoned hazardous waste sites and to otherwise protect the public health and environment from the hazards presented by such sites.

### **Condensate**

Fluid formed by condensation of super-heated (geothermal) steam when pressure and temperature are decreased in the power generation process.

### **Conductivity**

A measure of the ability of a given substance to conduct an electric current.

### **Congestion Management Plan (CMP)**

A mechanism employing growth management techniques, including traffic level of service requirements, development mitigation programs, transportation systems management, and capital improvement programming, for the purpose of controlling and/or reducing the cumulative regional traffic impacts of development. AB 1791, effective August 1, 1990, requires all cities, and counties that include urbanized areas, to adopt and annually update a Congestion Management Plan.

### **Congregate Care**

Apartment housing, usually for seniors, in a group setting that includes independent living and sleeping accommodations in conjunction with shared dining and recreational facilities. (See "Community Care Facility.")

### **Conjunctive use**

The coordinated use of various water sources, such as surface water, groundwater and desalinated seawater, managed so that the benefit from the overall water resource system is maximized. Conjunctive operation provides a greater sustained yield from a system than would otherwise be possible, usually at a lower cost.

### **Conservation**

The management of natural resources to prevent waste, destruction, or neglect. The state mandates

that a Conservation Element be included in the general plan.

### **Conservation Element**

One of the seven State-mandated elements of a local general plan, it contains adopted goals, policies and implementation programs for the conservation, development, and use of natural resources including water and its hydraulic force, forests, soils, rivers and other waters, harbors, fisheries, wildlife, minerals, and other natural resources.

### **Consistent**

Free from variation or contradiction. Programs in the General Plan are to be consistent, not contradictory or preferential. State law requires consistency between a general plan and implementation measures such as the zoning ordinance.

### **Contaminants**

Constituents that cause a substance to become inferior or impure.

### **Contingency Plan**

Refer to Section 3.3. A plan designed to reduce the incidences of discharges to the Russian River above the design discharge rate.

### **Cooperating Agency**

Any Federal agency other than a lead agency which has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact involved in a proposal (or a reasonable alternative) for legislation or other major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. The selection and responsibilities of a cooperating agency are described in 1501.6. A State or local agency of similar qualifications or, when the effects are on a reservation, an Indian Tribe, may by agreement with the lead agency become a cooperating agency (NEPA).

### **Core**

A lump of stone from which flakes or blades have been removed. Sometimes a core is merely the by-product of toolmaking, but it may also be shaped and modified to serve as an implement in its own right. An object, such as a handaxe, made in this way is a core tool.

### **Corrosivity**

The tendency for a material to be eaten away by chemical action.

### **County**

County, with a capital "C," generally refers to the government or administration of a county. County, with a lower case "c" may mean any county, or may refer to the geographical area of a county (*e.g.*, the county's road system.)

### **Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions (CC&Rs)**

A term used to describe restrictive limitations which may be placed on property and its use, and which usually are made a condition of holding title or lease.

### **Creeks**

Water course smaller than a river.

### **Criteria Pollutant**

Pollutants for which characteristics and potential health and welfare effects have been documented and the EPA has set standards for these pollutants based on the information. Pollutants considered criteria are ozone, carbon monoxide, particulate matter, sulfur dioxide, lead, and nitrogen oxide.

### **Criterion**

A standard upon which a judgment or decision may be based. (See "Standards.")

### **Cryptosporidium**

Parasite causing a more severe intestinal illness than Giardia with fewer remedies.

Cubic Foot per Second (cfs) The rate of flow equivalent to one cubic foot, about 7-1/2 gallons, passing a point during one second (approximately 450 gallons/minute).

### **Cul-de-sac**

A short street or alley with only a single means of ingress and egress at one end and with a large turnaround at its other end.

### **Cumulative Impact**

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

C

D

**dB**

Decibel; a unit used to express the relative intensity of a sound as it is heard by the human ear.

**dBA**

The “A-weighted” scale for measuring sound in decibels; weighs or reduces the effects of low and high frequencies in order to simulate human hearing. Every increase of 10 dBA doubles the perceived loudness though the noise is actually ten times more intense.

**Decision-Making Body**

Any person or group of people within a public agency permitted by law to approve or disapprove the project at issue.(CEQA)

**Dedication**

The turning over by an owner or developer of private land for public use, and the acceptance of land for such use by the governmental agency having jurisdiction over the public function for which it will be used. Dedications for roads, parks, school sites, or other public uses often are made conditions for approval of a development by a city or county.

**Dedication, In lieu of**

Cash payments which may be required of an owner or developer as a substitute for a dedication of land, usually calculated in dollars per lot, and referred to as in lieu fees or in lieu contributions.

**Demand Fee**

The initial charge for the connection to the existing sewer system for additional sewer capacity, typically charged to new development at the time of connection. The demand fees are intended to fund the proportional share of capital costs attributable to new residential and commercial development to help fund the expansion of regional sewer facilities.

**Density, Residential**

The number of permanent residential dwelling units per acre of land. Densities specified in the General Plan may be expressed in units per gross acre or per net developable acre. (See “Acres, Gross,” and “Developable Acres, Net.”)

**Density Bonus**

The allocation of development rights that allow a parcel to accommodate additional square footage or additional residential units beyond the maximum for which the parcel is zoned, usually in exchange for the provision or preservation of an amenity at

the same site or at another location. Under California law, a housing development that provides 20% of its units for lower income households, or 10% of its units for very low-income households, or 50% of its units for seniors, is entitled to a density bonus. (See “Development Rights, Transfer of.”)

**Density, Control of**

A limitation on the occupancy of land. Density can be controlled through zoning in the following ways: use restrictions, minimum lot-size requirements, floor area ratios, land use-intensity ratios, setback and yard requirements, minimum house-size requirements, ratios comparing number and types of housing units to land area, limits on units per acre, and other means. Allowable density often serves as the major distinction between residential districts.

**Density Transfer**

A way of retaining open space by concentrating densities—usually in compact areas adjacent to existing urbanization and utilities—while leaving unchanged historic, sensitive, or hazardous areas. In some jurisdictions, for example, developers can buy development rights of properties targeted for public open space and transfer the additional density to the base number of units permitted in the zone in which they propose to develop.

**Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)**

A department within the California EPA that is responsible for overseeing the cleanup of hazardous waste sites and for monitoring and regulating hazardous waste transportation, treatment, storage and disposal.

**Desiccation**

The act of drying-up.

**Design Discharge Rate**

The maximum monthly discharge rate, as a percentage of Russian River flow, during normal operations.

**Designated Scenic Highway**

In this study, a highway that is officially designated by Caltrans or Sonoma County as passing through an area of particularly high scenic quality.

**Design Review; Design Control**

The comprehensive evaluation of a development and its impact on neighboring properties and the

community as a whole, from the standpoint of site and landscape design, architecture, materials, colors, lighting, and signs, in accordance with a set of adopted criteria and standards. “Design Control” requires that certain specific things be done and that other things not be done. Design Control language is most often found within a zoning ordinance. “Design Review” usually refers to a system set up outside of the zoning ordinance, whereby projects are reviewed against certain standards and criteria by a specially established design review board or committee. (See “Architectural Control.”)

### **Detention Dam/Basin/Pond**

Dams may be classified according to the broad function they serve, such as storage, diversion, or detention. Detention dams are constructed to retard flood runoff and minimize the effect of sudden floods. Detention dams fall into two main types. In one type, the water is temporarily stored, and released through an outlet structure at a rate that will not exceed the carrying capacity of the channel downstream. Often, the basins are planted with grass and used for open space or recreation in periods of dry weather. The other type, most often called a Retention Pond, allow for water to be held as long as possible and may or may not allow for the controlled release of water. In some cases, the water is allowed to seep into the permeable banks or gravel strata in the foundation. This latter type is sometimes called a Water-Spreading Dam or Dike because its main purpose is to recharge the underground water supply. Detention dams are also constructed to trap sediment. These are often called Debris Dams.

### **Detrital**

Small particles of rock broken away from a mass.

### **Developable Land**

Land that is suitable as a location for structures and that can be developed free of hazards to, and without disruption of, or significant impact on, natural resource areas.

### **Developer**

An individual who or business that prepares raw land for the construction of buildings or causes to be built physical building space for use primarily by others, and in which the preparation of the land or the creation of the building space is in itself a

business and is not incidental to another business or activity.

### **Development**

The physical extension and/or construction of urban land uses. Development activities include: subdivision of land; construction or alteration of structures, roads, utilities, and other facilities; installation of septic systems; grading; deposit of refuse, debris, or fill materials; and clearing of natural vegetative cover (with the exception of agricultural activities). Routine repair and maintenance activities are exempted.

### **Development Fee**

(See “Impact Fee.”)

### **Development Rights**

The right to develop land by a land owner who maintains fee-simple ownership over the land or by a party other than the owner who has obtained the rights to develop. Such rights usually are expressed in terms of density allowed under existing zoning. For example, one development right may equal one unit of housing or may equal a specific number of square feet of gross floor area in one or more specified zone districts. (See “Interest, Fee” and “Interest, Less-than-fee,” and “Development Rights, Transfer of [TDR].”)

### **Development Rights, Transfer of (TDR)**

Also known as “Transfer of Development Credits,” a program which can relocate potential development from areas where proposed land use or environmental impacts are considered undesirable (the “donor” site) to another (“receiver”) site chosen on the basis of its ability to accommodate additional units of development beyond that for which it was zoned, with minimal environmental, social, and aesthetic impacts. (See “Development Rights.”)

### **Dinoflagellates**

Red Tides.

### **Discharge**

The volume of water in a stream or river passing through a cross-section of the channel in a given period of time, usually expressed in cubic meters per second.

### **Discretionary Decision**

As used in CEQA, an action taken by a governmental agency which calls for the exercise of

D

# D

judgment in deciding whether to approve and/or how to carry out a project.

## **Disinfection**

Treatment using a method such as chlorination to remove reduction of viable sewage-borne virus and other disease-causing microorganisms.

## **Disinfection by-products (DBPs)**

Chemicals that are produced as a result of the water disinfection process. Chloroform is a common DBP of drinking water supplies that is produced when chlorine, used in the disinfection process, combines with organic matter in the water.

## **Dissolved oxygen**

Free, uncombined oxygen molecules dissolved in water.

## **Distribution System**

A pipe network which distributed water to water users.

## **District**

(1) An area of a city or county that has a unique character identifiable as different from surrounding areas because of distinctive architecture, streets, geographic features, culture, landmarks, activities, or land uses. (2) A portion of the territory of a city or county within which uniform zoning regulations and requirements apply; a zone.

## **Diversion**

The direction of water in a stream away from its natural course (*i.e.*, as in a diversion that removes water from a stream for human use).

## **Diversity**

Differences among otherwise similar elements that give them unique forms and qualities (*e.g.*, housing diversity can be achieved by differences in unit size, tenure, or cost).

## **Downgradient**

A falling slope, either above surface or subsurface.

## **Drawdown**

A decrease in the elevation of the water table of an aquifer in response to pumping.

## **Drought-tolerant species**

Plants that are tolerant of low soil moisture conditions for extended periods of time.

## **Dwelling Unit**

A room or group of rooms (including sleeping, eating, cooking, and sanitation facilities, but not more than one kitchen), which constitutes an independent housekeeping unit, occupied or intended for occupancy by one household on a long-term basis.

### **Easement**

Usually the right to use property owned by another for specific purposes or to gain access to another property. For example, utility companies often have easements on the private property of individuals to be able to install and maintain utility facilities.

### **Easement, Conservation**

A tool for acquiring open space with less than full-fee purchase, whereby a public agency buys only certain specific rights from the land owner. These may be positive rights (providing the public with the opportunity to hunt, fish, hike, or ride over the land) or they may be restrictive rights (limiting the uses to which the land owner may devote the land in the future.)

### **Easement, Scenic**

A tool that allows a public agency to use an owner's land for scenic enhancement, such as roadside landscaping or vista preservation.

### **Ecology**

The interrelationship of living things to one another and their environment; the study of such interrelationships.

### **Economic Base**

Economic Base theory essentially holds that the structure of the economy is made up of two broad classes of productive effort—basic activities which produce and distribute goods and services for export to firms and individuals outside a defined localized economic area, and nonbasic activities whose goods and services are consumed at home within the boundaries of the local economic area. Viewed another way, basic activity exports goods and services and brings new dollars into the area; non-basic activity recirculates dollars within the area. This distinction holds that the reason for the growth of a particular region is its capacity to provide the means of payment for raw materials, food, and services which the region cannot produce itself and also support the nonbasic activities which are principally local in productive scope and market area. (See "Industry, Basic" and "Industry, Non-basic.")

### **Ecosystem**

An interacting system formed by a biotic community and its physical environment.

### **Effluent**

Wastewater or other liquid - raw, partially or completely treated - flowing from a basin, treatment process, or treatment plant.

### **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 (CEQA).

### **Embankment dam**

A dam made of earth fill, with a rock face, blocking a natural drainage or valley.

### **Eminent Domain**

The right of a public entity to acquire private property for public use by condemnation, and the payment of just compensation.

### **Emission Factor**

The amount of specific pollutant emitted from each type of polluting source in relation to a unit quantity of material handled, processed, or burned.

### **Emission Standard**

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

### **Endangered Species**

A species of animal or plant is considered to be endangered when its prospects for survival and reproduction are in immediate jeopardy from one or more causes.

### **Energy Dissipation Structure**

Structure constructed along the dam spillway to slow the flow of water passing through the spillway. The structure consists of rock lining the natural creek channel, approximately 25 feet wide and up to 300 feet long.

### **Enhance, v.**

To improve existing conditions by increasing the quantity or quality of beneficial uses or features.

### **Enteric virus**

A virus that normally inhabits the intestinal tract of animals.

E

## **Environment**

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

## **Environmental estrogens**

Any of a number of chemicals of anthropogenic origin that mimic or disrupt the endocrine hormone systems of animals, including humans.

## **Environmental Impact Report (EIR)**

A report required of general plans by the California Environmental Quality Act and which assesses all the environmental characteristics of an area and determines what effects or impacts will result if the area is altered or disturbed by a proposed action. (See “California Environmental Quality Act.”)

## **Environmental Protection Agency**

The federal agency in charge of controlling air pollution.

## **EIR Certification**

EIR adoption by a governing agency accepting the document as being complete, accurate, and encompassing.

## **Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)**

Under the National Environmental Policy Act, a statement on the effect of development proposals and other major actions which significantly affect the environment.

## **Environmentally Sensitive Areas**

Those areas of the environment, including land, air, water, minerals, flora, fauna, ambient noise, and objects of historical or aesthetic significance, which would be significantly impacted either directly or indirectly by man-made devices.

## **Environmentally Sensitive Lands**

Those lands whose watershed characteristics; slop; geologic features; vicinity to wetlands, stream zone, or water edge; and land stability make them sensitive and would be significantly affected either directly or indirectly by man-made devices.

## **Epicentral**

Pertaining to the epicenter, or the point on the earth’s surface directly above the focus of an earthquake.

## **Erosion**

(1) The loosening and transportation of rock and soil debris by wind, rain, or running water. (2) The gradual wearing away of the upper layers of earth.

## **Estrogenic Compounds**

Compounds that have or mimic the female hormone estrogen. These compounds are suspected to have the potential to disrupt the endocrine system of terrestrial and aquatic life.

## **Estuary**

A partially enclosed body of water which contains a mixture of freshwater from land drainage and tidal sea water, such as a river mouth or coastal bay.

## **Ethnographic**

Having to do with the study of living human groups or the study of recent, historically documented groups.

## **Ethnography**

Study of individual cultures.

## **Eutrophic**

Water rich in dissolved nutrients but deficient in oxygen.

## **Evaluation Criteria**

See Criterion.

## **Evaporation**

To expel moisture from.

## **Evapotranspiration**

The loss of water from the soil by both evaporation and by transpiration from the plants growing thereon.

## **Exaction**

A contribution or payment required as an authorized precondition for receiving a development permit; usually refers to mandatory dedication (or fee in lieu of dedication) requirements found in many subdivision regulations.

## **Expansive Soils**

Soils which swell when they absorb water and shrink as they dry.

## **Extractable storage**

Aquifer storage that can be physically removed.



## **Facade**

The principal face or front of a building.

## **Farmers Home Administration (FmHA)**

A federal agency providing loans and grants for improvement projects and low-income housing in rural areas.

## **Farmland**

Refers to eight classifications of land mapped by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service. The five agricultural classifications defined below--except Grazing Land--do not include publicly owned lands for which there is an adopted policy preventing agricultural use.

### *Prime Farmland*

Land which has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for the production of crops. It has the soil quality, growing season, and moisture supply needed to produce sustained high yields of crops when treated and managed, including water management, according to current farming methods. Prime Farmland must have been used for the production of irrigated crops within the last three years.

### *Farmland of Statewide Importance*

Land other than Prime Farmland which has a good combination of physical and chemical characteristics for the production of crops. It must have been used for the production of irrigated crops within the last three years.

### *Unique Farmland*

Land which does not meet the criteria for Prime Farmland or Farmland of Statewide Importance, that is currently used for the production of specific high economic value crops. It has the special combination of soil quality, location, growing season, and moisture supply needed to produce sustained high quality or high yields of a specific crop when treated and managed according to current farming methods. Examples of such crops may include oranges, olives, avocados, rice, grapes, and cut flowers.

### *Farmland of Local Importance*

Land other than Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, or Unique Farmland that is either currently producing crops, or that

has the capability of production. This land may be important to the local economy due to its productivity.

## *Grazing Land*

Land on which the existing vegetation, whether grown naturally or through management, is suitable for grazing or browsing of livestock. This classification does not include land previously designated as Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Local Importance, and heavily brushed, timbered, excessively steep, or rocky lands which restrict the access and movement of livestock.

## **Fast Track**

Barely meeting due process of law requirements; moving so fast that all information is sporadic, incomprehensible, and incomplete.

## **Fault**

A fracture in the earth's crust forming a boundary between rock masses that have been displaced relative to one another.

## **Faunal**

Animal remains from archaeological sites that illustrate past hunting and dietary practices.

## **Feasible**

Capable of being done, executed, or managed successfully from the standpoint of the physical and/or financial abilities of the implementer(s).

## **Feasible, Technically**

Capable of being implemented because the industrial, mechanical, or application technology exists.

## **Federal Clean Air Act**

The federal legislation that is the legal basis for the national clean air program.

## **Fill Material**

Any material placed in an area to increase surface elevation.

## **Filtered Effluent**

An oxidized, coagulated, clarified wastewater that has been passed through a filter media to produce an average turbidity of 2 ntu or less.

## **Finding(s)**

The result(s) of an investigation and the basis upon which decisions are made. Findings are used by

F

F

government agents and bodies to justify action taken by the entity.

**Fingerling steelhead**

Juvenile steelhead which are about 75 mm in length and usually less than 1 year old.

**Fire Hazard Zone**

An area where, due to slope, fuel, weather, or other fire-related conditions, the potential loss of life and property from a fire necessitates special fire protection measures and planning before development occurs.

**Fire-resistive**

Able to withstand specified temperatures for a certain period of time, such as a one-hour fire wall; not fireproof.

**Fiscal Impact Analysis**

A projection of the direct public costs and revenues resulting from population or employment change to the local jurisdiction(s) in which the change is taking place. Enables local governments to evaluate relative fiscal merits of general plans, specific plans, or projects.

**Fiscal year**

The period from July 1st of one calendar year to June 30th of the following calendar year.

**Flake**

A fragment removed from a larger stone (the core or nucleus) by percussion or pressure, which leaves characteristic marks on both the core and flake. Flakes often served as blanks from which more complex artifacts, or flake tools, could be made.

**Flood, 100-Year**

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

**Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM)**

For each community, the official map on which the Federal Insurance Administration has delineated areas of special flood hazard and the risk premium zones applicable to that community.

**Flooding**

Act of overflowing or inundating a normally dry area with water.

**Flood Plain**

The relatively level land area on either side of the banks of a stream regularly subject to flooding. That part of the flood plain subject to a one percent chance of flooding in any given year is designated as an "area of special flood hazard" by the Federal Insurance Administration.

**Flood Plain Fringe**

All land between the floodway and the upper elevation of the 100-year flood.

**Floodway**

The channel of a river or other watercourse and the adjacent land areas that must be reserved in order to discharge the "base flood" without cumulatively increasing the water surface elevation more than one foot. No development is allowed in floodways.

**Forb**

Broad-leafed, annual or herbaceous perennial plant species.

**Foreground View Range**

Viewing distances to landscape features (or changes) within 0 to ½ mile.

**Freeway**

A high-speed, high-capacity, limited-access transportation facility serving regional and county-wide travel. Such roads are free of tolls, as contrasted with "turnpikes" or other "toll roads" now being introduced into Southern California. Freeways generally are used for long trips between major land use generators. At Level of Service "E," they carry approximately 1,875 vehicles per lane per hour, in both directions. Major streets cross at a different grade level.

**Friable**

A rock or mineral that is easily crumbled.

**Friction Factor**

Constraint applied in a traffic model to introduce an approximation of conditions that exist on streets in the city or county. These conditions reduce the speed of traffic and the desirability of specific links in the network upon which the traffic model distributes trips. Examples are frequency of low-speed curves, frequency of driveways, narrowness of lanes, and lack of turning lanes at intersections.

**Fry**

Very small, recently-hatched steelhead. The term is commonly applied to fish up to about a month old and 1-1/2 inches long.

F

# G

## **Gable**

The triangular part of the end of a building formed by the sides of the roof sloping from the ridgepole down to the eaves.

## **General Plan**

A compendium of city or county policies regarding long-term development, in the form of maps and accompanying text. The General Plan is a legal document required of each local agency by the State of California Government Code Section 65301 and adopted by the City Council or Board of Supervisors. In California, the General Plan has 7 mandatory elements (Circulation, Conservation, Housing, Land Use, Noise, Open Space, Safety and Seismic Safety) and may include any number of optional elements (such as Air Quality, Economic Development, Hazardous Waste, and Parks and Recreation). The General Plan may also be called a "City Plan," "Comprehensive Plan," or "Master Plan."

## **Geoarchaeological**

The investigation of the relationship between archaeological and geological processes.

## **Geologic Review**

The analysis of geologic hazards, including all potential seismic hazards, surface ruptures, liquefaction, landsliding, mudsliding, and the potential for erosion and sedimentation.

## **Geological**

Pertaining to geology - materials processes, products and history of the earth.

## **Geomorphic**

Of, or pertaining to, the figure of the earth or the form of its surface.

## **Geothermal Energy**

Electricity produced by converting heat from naturally occurring steam and hot water from the earth's interior.

## **Giardia**

Parasite causing severe intestinal illness.

## **Goal**

A general, overall, and ultimate purpose, aim, or end toward which the City or County will direct effort.

## **Grading**

To alter the topography or slope of an area through the use of construction equipment, such as bulldozers.

## **Granitic rocks**

Of, or pertaining to, or composed of, granite or granite-like rock.

## **Granny Flat**

(See "Second Unit.")

## **Greenbelt**

An area of parks or undeveloped open space surrounding or passing through a community.

## **Greenstone**

A compact dark-green altered or metamorphosed basic igneous rock.

## **Groundshaking**

Movement of the earth's surface resulting from an earthquake.

## **Groundwater**

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

## **Groundwater basin**

An interrelated set of water-bearing strata of permeable rock, sand, or gravel.

## **Groundwater hydrology**

The study of occurrence, distribution, character, and movement of water below the surface of the earth (synonymous with the term "Hydrogeology")

## **Groundwater Mounding**

A rise in groundwater levels around a central point.

## **Groundwater Recharge**

The natural process of infiltration and percolation of rainwater from land areas or streams through permeable soils into water-holding rocks which provide underground storage ("aquifers").

## **Growth Inducing**

An action that would result in, or lead to, an increase in population of a given area.

## **Growth Management**

The use by a community of a wide range of techniques in combination to determine the amount, type, and rate of development desired by the community and to channel that growth into designated areas. Growth management policies can be implemented through growth rates, zoning, capital improvement programs, public facilities ordinances, urban limit lines, standards for levels of service, and other programs. (See "Congestion Management Plan.")

### **Grubbing**

The removal of stumps, roots and brush from an area that has been cleared, as for a construction site or reservoir inundation area.

### **Guidelines**

General statements of policy direction around which specific details may be later established.

G

# H

## **Habitat**

The physical location or type of environment in which an organism or biological population lives or occurs.

## **Handicapped**

A person determined to have a physical impairment or mental disorder expected to be of long or indefinite duration. Many such impairments or disorders are of such a nature that a person's ability to live independently can be improved by appropriate housing conditions.

## **Handstone**

A smooth stone tool held in the hand and used to crush grain or seeds on a mortar.

## **Hazardous Air Pollutants (HAPs)**

Pollutants that may present a threat of adverse health or environmental effects. Criteria air pollutants cannot be listed as HAPs unless they meet certain conditions.

## **Hazardous Material**

Any substance that, because of its quantity, concentration, or physical or chemical characteristics, poses a significant present or potential hazard to human health and safety or to the environment if released into the workplace or the environment. The term includes, but is not limited to, hazardous substances and hazardous wastes.

## **Hazardous Materials Management Plan (HMMP)**

An inventory of hazardous materials, as defined by state law, that are used to aid emergency response planning. HMMPs are usually administered by local fire departments.

## **Health Risk Assessment**

Evaluation of the potential health risks to the public associated with exposure to reclaimed water from the Laguna Wastewater Treatment Plant.

## **Heterotrophic bacteria**

Any bacteria that requires organic compounds for its principal food source.

## **High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV)**

Any vehicle other than a driver-only automobile (e.g., a vanpool, a bus, or two or more persons to a car).

## **High Volume Travelway**

In this study, state highways and 2-lane country highways serving direct connections with settlements named on USGS quad maps and Amtrak.

## **Highway**

High-speed, high-capacity, limited-access transportation facility serving regional and county-wide travel. Highways may cross at a different grade level.

## **Historic; Historical**

An historic building or site is one that is noteworthy for its significance in local, state, or national history or culture, its architecture or design, or its works of art, memorabilia, or artifacts.

## **Historic Architectural**

The study of architectural resources that are older than 45 years.

## **Historic Preservation**

The preservation of historically significant structures and neighborhoods until such time as, and in order to facilitate, restoration and rehabilitation of the building(s) to a former condition.

## **Historic Vernacular Landscape**

A geographic area that historically has been used by people, or shaped or modified by human activity, occupancy, or intervention, and that possess a significant concentration, linkage, or continuity of areas of land use, vegetation, buildings and structures, roads and waterways, and natural features.

## **Holocene**

The time from the end of the Pleistocene Ice Age (ca. 8300 B.C.) to the present day.

## **hop kilns**

A furnace or oven designed to dry or bake hops.

## **Hopper**

A conical, primarily basketry, container with not bottom, often either glued to the mortar or pressed against it during

## **Hostelry**

Inn, hotel.

## **Housefloor**

Compacted earth, hearths, and/or other associated features representing the floor of a structure.

H

## **Household**

All those persons—related or unrelated—who occupy a single housing unit. (See “Family.”)

## **Household Income Category**

As used to classify households for the purpose of determining housing needs, the following categories are defined based upon DOF median income data:

### *Very Low Income Household*

Income not exceeding 50 percent of the median family income of the area.

### *Other Low Income Household*

Income between 50 and 80 percent of the median family income of the area.

### *Moderate Income Household*

Income between 80 and 120 percent of the median family income of the area.

### *Above Moderate Income Household*

Income above median family income of the area.

## **Households, Number of**

The count of all year-round housing units occupied by one or more persons. The concept of household is important because the formation of new households generates the demand for housing. Each new household formed creates the need for one additional housing unit or requires that one existing housing unit be shared by two households. Thus, household formation can continue to take place even without an increase in population, thereby increasing the demand for housing.

Housing and Community Development Department of the State of California (HCD)

The State agency that has principal responsibility for assessing, planning for, and assisting communities to meet the needs of low- and moderate-income households.

## **Housing Element**

One of the seven State-mandated elements of a local general plan, it assesses the existing and projected housing needs of all economic segments of the community, identifies potential sites adequate to provide the amount and kind of housing needed, and contains adopted goals, policies, and implementation programs for the preservation, improvement, and development of housing. Under State law, Housing Elements must be updated every five years.

## **Housing and Urban Development, U.S. Department of (HUD)**

A cabinet-level department of the federal government which administers housing and community development programs.

## **Housing Unit**

The place of permanent or customary abode of a person or family. A housing unit may be a single-family dwelling, a multi-family dwelling, a condominium, a modular home, a mobile home, a cooperative, or any other residential unit considered real property under State law. A housing unit has, at least, cooking facilities, a bathroom, and a place to sleep. It also is a dwelling that cannot be moved without substantial damage or unreasonable cost. (See “Dwelling Unit,” “Family,” and “Household.”)

## **Human Environment**

“Human Environment” shall be interpreted comprehensively to include the natural and physical environment and the relationship of people with that environment (NEPA).

## **Hydraulic conductivity**

A measure of the ease with which groundwater moves through an aquifer.

## **Hydraulic Loading Rate**

Refers to the amount of water that is applied to soils. Normally measured as rates of flow that is applied to soils. Normally measured as rates of flow such as millions of gallons per day. Rate refers to a time measurement of amount of water being applied to a given area.

## **Hydrocarbons**

A family of compounds containing carbon and hydrogen in various combinations. They are emitted into the atmosphere from manufacturing, storage and handling, or combustion of petroleum products and through natural processes. Certain hydrocarbons interact with nitrogen oxides in the presence of intense sunlight to form photochemical air pollution.

## **Hydrogeologic**

Of, or pertaining to, the study of the waters of the earth.

## **Hydrothermal**

Of or pertaining to hot water, to the action of hot water, or to the mineralogical products of this action.

**Hypolimnetic**

Referring to the cool, deeper portions of a stratified lake or reservoir which are below the metalimnion.

H



### **Identity**

A consistent quality that makes a city, place, area, or building unique and gives it a distinguishing character.

### **Igneous Rocks**

Crystalline or glassy rocks that have solidified from a molten magma; the magma may pour out onto the surface of the earth (such as lava) or may cool at depths below the surface (such as granite).

### **Image**

The mental picture or impression of a city or place taken from memory and held in common by members of the community.

### **Impact**

The effect of any direct man-made actions or indirect repercussions of man-made actions on existing physical, social, or economic conditions.

### **Impact Fee**

A fee, also called a development fee, levied on the developer of a project by a city, county, or other public agency as compensation for otherwise-unmitigated impacts the project will produce. California Government Code Section 66000, *et seq.*, specifies that development fees shall not exceed the estimated reasonable cost of providing the service for which the fee is charged. To lawfully impose a development fee, the public agency must verify its method of calculation and document proper restrictions on use of the fund.

### **Impervious Surface**

Surface through which water cannot penetrate, such as roof, road, sidewalk, and paved parking lot. The amount of impervious surface increases with development and establishes the need for drainage facilities to carry the increased runoff.

### **Implementation**

Actions, procedures, programs, or techniques that carry out policies.

### **Improvement**

The addition of one or more structures or utilities on a parcel of land.

### **Incorporation**

Creation of a new city.

### **Incubation**

The process of referring to the development of fish eggs before they hatch into alevins.

### **Induced Seismicity**

The potential for an action to cause an increase in the number of earthquakes or the magnitude of an earthquake.

### **Industrial**

The manufacture, production, and processing of consumer goods. Industrial is often divided into "heavy industrial" uses, such as construction yards, quarrying, and factories; and "light industrial" uses, such as research and development and less intensive warehousing and manufacturing.

### **Industry, Basic**

The segment of economic activity that brings dollars to a region from other areas. Traditional examples are manufacturing, mining and agriculture. The products of all of these activities are exported (sold) to other regions. The money thus brought into the local economy is used to purchase locally-provided goods and services as well as items that are not available locally and that must be imported from other regions. Other, less traditional examples of basic industry are tourism, higher education, and retirement activities that also bring new money into a region.

### **Industry, Non-basic**

The segment of economic activity that is supported by the circulation of dollars within a region. Examples are the wholesale, retail, and service functions that supply goods and services to local sources of demand such as businesses, public agencies, and households.

### **Influent Pump**

Pump that moves untreated sewage (influent) to treatment plant facilities.

### **Infrastructure**

Public services and facilities, such as sewage-disposal systems, water-supply systems, other utility systems, and roads.

### **Initial Study**

A preliminary analysis prepared by the Lead Agency to determine whether an EIR or a Negative Declaration must be prepared or to identify the significant environmental effects to be analyzed in an EIR. (CEQA)

### **Inland Surface Waters Plan**

California's water quality control plan for inland surface waters. Proposes to control discharge of wastewater to inland surface waters and to support reuse of reclaimed water with reasonable water quality objectives. Adopted April 1991. Sacramento County Superior Court issued tentative decision invalidating this plan. Plan will continue to be valid until final judgment is reached.

and dealt with by the plan's goals, objectives, policies, plan proposals, and implementation programs.

### **Institutional Use**

(1) Publicly or privately owned and operated activities such as hospitals, museums, and schools; (2) churches and other religious organizations; and (3) other nonprofit activities of a welfare, educational, or philanthropic nature that can not be considered a residential, commercial, or industrial activity.

### **Inter-agency**

Indicates cooperation between or among two or more discrete agencies in regard to a specific program.

### **Interest, Fee**

Entitles a land owner to exercise complete control over use of land, subject only to government land use regulations.

### **Interest, Less-than-fee**

The purchase of interest in land rather than outright ownership; includes the purchase of development rights via conservation, open space, or scenic easements. (See "Development Rights," "Easement, Scenic," "Lease," and "Leasehold Interest.")

### **Intermittent Stream**

A stream that normally flows for at least thirty (30) days after the last major rain of the season and is dry a large part of the year.

### **Internal Combustion Engine**

An engine in which both the heat energy and the ensuing mechanical energy are produced inside the engine.

### **Inundate**

To cover with or as if with a flood; overflow.

### **Inversion**

A layer of warmer air over a layer of cooler air.

### **Issues**

Important unsettled community matters or problems that are identified in a community's general plan

### **Jobs/Housing Balance; Jobs/Housing Ratio**

The availability of affordable housing for employees. The jobs/housing ratio divides the number of jobs in an area by the number of employed residents. A ratio of 1.0 indicates a balance. A ratio greater than 1.0 indicates a net in-commute; less than 1.0 indicates a net out-commute.

### **Joint Powers Authority (JPA)**

A legal arrangement that enables two or more units of government to share authority in order to plan and carry out a specific program or set of programs that serves both units.

### **Jurisdictional wetlands**

Areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas" (33 CFR 328.3). These wetlands must meet specific criteria for hydrophytic vegetation, hydric soils, and wetland hydrology as defined in the Corps' 1987 Wetland Delineation Manual, to be classified as a jurisdictional wetland.

### **Juvenile steelhead**

Small steelhead, less than one year old. Also called young-of-the year.

J

**Kelts**

Adult steelhead which have spawned and are migrating back to the ocean.

**Kilowatt(Kw)**

One thousand watts

**Kilowatt-hours (Kwh)**

A measure of work performed. It is the equivalent of using 1,000 watts of electrical power over a one-hour period. Burning ten 100-watt light bulbs for one hour uses one kilowatt hour of electricity.

## **LAFCO**

Stands for "Local Agency Formation Commission." This agency is responsible for processing and regulating annexations, and incorporations. It is empowered to approve, disapprove or conditionally approve such proposals. Also responsible for setting spheres of influence.

## **Lagoon**

A body of shallow water, separated from the sea by a narrow strip of land and possessing a restricted connection with the sea.

## **Laguna de Santa Rosa**

Floodplain along the Russian River that characteristically floods every other year, forming a small, temporary lake.

## **Lanceolate**

Narrow and tapering like the head of a lance.

## **Land Banking**

The purchase of land by a local government for use or resale at a later date. "Banked lands" have been used for development of low- and moderate-income housing, expansion of parks, and development of industrial and commercial centers. Federal rail-banking law allows railroads to bank unused rail corridors for future rail use while allowing interim use as trails.

## **Landlocked**

Referring to a steelhead population or individual who cannot emigrate to the ocean due to an impassable barrier.

## **Landmark**

(1) Refers to a building, site, object, structure, or significant tree, having historical, architectural, social, or cultural significance and marked for preservation by the local, state, or federal government. (2) A visually prominent or outstanding structure or natural feature that functions as a point of orientation or identification.

## **Landscaping**

Planting—including trees, shrubs, and ground covers—suitably designed, selected, installed, and maintained as to enhance a site or roadway permanently.

## **Landslide**

A general term for the downslope transport, under gravitational influence, of soil or rocks.

## **Land Use**

The occupation or utilization of land or water area for any human activity or any purpose defined in the General Plan.

## **Land Use Element**

A required element of the General Plan that uses text and maps to designate the future use or reuse of land within a given jurisdiction's planning area. The land use element serves as a guide to the structuring of zoning and subdivision controls, urban renewal and capital improvements programs, and to official decisions regarding the distribution and intensity of development and the location of public facilities and open space. (See "Mandatory Elements.")

## **Land Use Regulation**

A term encompassing the regulation of land in general and often used to mean those regulations incorporated in the General Plan, as distinct from zoning regulations (which are more specific).

## **Lateral Spread**

A dominantly horizontal displacement of flat-lying alluvial material towards an open or "free" face, such as a steep bank or stream channel.

## **LD-50**

Lethal dose; the amount of exposure to a toxin that results in the death of one-half (50%) of the exposed population.

## **L<sub>dn</sub>**

Day-Night Average Sound Level. The A-weighted average sound level for a given area (measured in decibels) during a 24-hour period with a 10 dB weighting applied to night-time sound levels. The L<sub>dn</sub> is approximately numerically equal to the CNEL for most environmental settings.

## **Leachfields**

Subsurface soil absorption system used to dispose of septic tank effluent in the soil mantle.

## **Lead Agency**

The public agency which has the principal responsibility for carrying out or approving a

project which may have a significant effect upon the environment (CEQA).

### **Lease**

A contractual agreement by which an owner of real property (the lessor) gives the right of possession to another (a lessee) for a specified period of time (term) and for a specified consideration (rent).

### **Leasehold Interest**

(1) The interest which the lessee has in the value of the lease itself in condemnation award determination. (2) The difference between the total remaining rent under the lease and the rent the lessee would currently pay for similar space for the same time period.

### **Leq**

The energy equivalent level, defined as the average sound level on the basis of sound energy (or sound pressure squared). The  $L_{eq}$  is a "dosage" type measure and is the basis for the descriptors used in current standards, such as the 24-hour CNEL used by the State of California.

### **Legal Non-Conforming Use**

A lawful use existing on the effective date of a zoning ordinance restriction and continuing since that date in non conformance to the restriction.

### **Level of Service (LOS)**

(1) A scale that measures the amount of traffic a roadway may be capable of handling on a roadway or at the intersection of roadways. Levels range from A to F, with A representing the highest level of service, as follows:

#### *Level of Service A*

Indicates a relatively free flow of traffic, with little or no limitation on vehicle movement or speed.

#### *Level of Service B*

Describes a steady flow of traffic, with only slight delays in vehicle movement and speed. All queues clear in a single signal cycle.

#### *Level of Service C*

Denotes a reasonably steady, high-volume flow of traffic, with some limitations on movement and speed, and occasional backups on critical approaches.

#### *Level of Service D*

The level where traffic nears an unstable flow. Intersections still function, but short queues develop and cars may have to wait through one cycle during short peaks.

#### *Level of Service E*

Traffic characterized by slow movement and frequent (although momentary) stoppages. This type of congestion is considered severe, but is not uncommon at peak traffic hours, with frequent stopping, long-standing queues, and blocked intersections.

#### *Level of Service F*

Describes unsatisfactory stop-and-go traffic characterized by "traffic jams" and stoppages of long duration. Vehicles at signalized intersections usually have to wait through one or more signal changes, and "upstream" intersections may be blocked by the long queues.

(2) Some communities in California are developing standards for levels of service relating to municipal functions such as police, fire, and library service. These standards are incorporated in the General Plan or in separate "Level of Service Plans."

### **Level of Significance**

The significance of an environmental impact: No impact, Less than Significant, or Significant (as measured by the evaluation criteria).

### **Linguistics**

A subdiscipline of anthropology that emphasizes the relationships between cultural behavior and language.

### **Liquefaction**

The transformation of loose water-saturated granular materials (such as sand or silt) from a solid into a liquid state; a result of increased pore pressure and reduced effective stress. A type of ground failure that can occur during an earthquake.

### **Lithic**

Having to do with stone.

### **Lithologic**

Of, or pertaining to, the physical character of a rock, generally as determined without the aid of a microscope.

**Local agency**

Any public agency other than a state agency, board, or commission. For purposes of this division, a redevelopment agency and a Local Agency Formation Commission are local agencies, and neither is a state agency, board, or commission (CEQA).

**Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo)**

A five- or seven-member commission within each county that reviews and evaluates all proposals for formation of special districts, incorporation of cities, annexation to special districts or cities, consolidation of districts, and merger of districts with cities. Each county's LAFCo is empowered to approve, disapprove, or conditionally approve such proposals. The LAFCo members generally include two county supervisors, two city council members, and one member representing the general public. Some LAFCOs include two representatives of special districts.

**Long-term yield**

The amount of water that can be withdrawn from an aquifer without causing long-term decline in the water table or piezometric surface. Long-term yield is roughly equal to the net recharge rate of the aquifer.

**Lot**

(See "Site.")

L

# M

## **Macrophytes**

Any plant species that can be readily observed without the aid of optical magnification. This includes all vascular plants, mosses, and large algae.

## **Magnesite**

Native magnesium carbonate,  $MgCO_3$ , a mineral occurring usually in white, compact masses.

## **Maintenance Plan**

A plan developed by an Air District for the purpose of maintaining air quality standards in areas with levels already below standards.

## **Managed Wetland**

Water impoundments that are designed and operated to maximize their value as habitat for migratory waterfowl

## **Mandatory Element**

A component of the General Plan mandated by State law, California State law requires that a General Plan include elements dealing with seven subjects—circulation, conservation, housing, land use, noise, open space, and safety—and specifies to various degrees the information to be incorporated in each element. (See "Land Use Element.")

## **Marsh**

A plant community characterized by the presence of saturated soils and herbaceous wetland vegetation. Plant composition varies depending on the level of saturation and the salinity of the water.

## **Maximum Probable Flood**

A flood that may be expected from the most severe combination of critical meteorologic and hydrologic conditions that are reasonably possible in the region.

## **May**

That which is permissible.

## **Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs)**

Enforceable numerical limits set by California (California EPA) and the Federal government (EPA) that restrict the concentration of specific contaminants in drinking water delivered to any user of a public water system. Primary drinking water standards are based on health effects of contaminants, taking cost and feasibility of treatment techniques into account. Secondary

drinking water standards are based on cosmetic (such as skin or tooth discoloration) and aesthetic effects (such as taste, odor or color).

## **Megawatt(MW)**

One million watts, or one thousand kilowatts.

## **Melange**

A mappable body of rock that includes fragments and blocks of all sizes embedded in a fragmented and generally sheared matrix.

## **Mello-Roos Bonds**

Locally issued bonds that are repaid by a special tax imposed on property owners within a "community facilities" district established by a governmental entity. The bond proceeds can be used for public improvements and for a limited number of services. Named after the program's legislative authors.

## **Mercalli Scale**

An arbitrary scale of earthquake intensity, ranging from I (detectable only instrumentally) to XII (causing almost total destruction).

## **Mercalli Intensity Scale**

A subjective measure of the observed effects (human reactions, structural damage, geologic effects) of an earthquake. Expressed in Roman numerals from I to XII.

## **Merger (District)**

Elimination of a special district by transferring its service responsibilities to a city government. The merging district's territory must be totally included inside the city.

## **Mesozoic**

Geologic era from approximately 225 to 65 million years before present. The Mesozoic era is divided into three periods.

## **Metamorphic Rocks**

Rocks which are changed by the action of heat and/or pressure below the earth's surface. Changes brought about by metamorphism can be in the rock's mineral composition, texture and structure.

## **Meteorology**

The study of the atmosphere and its phenomena, including weather and climate.

## **Methemoglobinemia**

A chemically-induced illness of infants, commonly referred to as blue baby syndrome,



wherein nitrate uptake from food and/or water results in reduced oxygen transport from lungs to tissues, resulting in a bluish tint to the skin.

### **Microclimate**

The climate of a small, distinct area, such as a city street or a building's courtyard; can be favorably altered through functional landscaping, architecture, or other design features.

### **Microgram**

1/1,000,000 of a gram.

### **Midden**

A heap or stratum of refuse (broken pots and tools, ashes, food remains, et) normally found on the site of an ancient settlement.

### **Middleground View Range**

Viewing distances to landscape features (or changes) within 1/4 to 3 miles.

### **Migration Corridor**

Route utilized by fish and wildlife to travel between different ranges of their total habitat.

### **Millingslab**

An amorphous or roughly shaped stone slab upon which seeds and other plant products are ground with the aide of a handstone.

### **Millingstone**

See millingslab.

### **Mineral Resource**

Land on which known deposits of commercially viable mineral or aggregate deposits exist. This designation is applied to sites determined by the State Division of Mines and Geology as being a resource of regional significance, and is intended to help maintain the quarrying operations and protect them from encroachment of incompatible land uses.

### **Minimize, v.**

To reduce or lessen, but not necessarily to eliminate.

### **Mining**

The act or process of extracting resources, such as coal, oil, or minerals, from the earth.

### **Ministerial (Administrative) Decision**

An action taken by a governmental agency which follows established procedures and rules and does not call for the exercise of judgment in deciding whether to approve a project.

### **Mitigate, v.**

To ameliorate, alleviate, or avoid to the extent reasonably feasible.

### **Mitigation Measure**

A change in the Project designed to avoid, minimize, rectify, reduce, or compensate for a significant impact.

### **Mixed-use**

Properties on which various uses, such as office, commercial, institutional, and residential, are combined in a single building or on a single site in an integrated development project with significant functional interrelationships and a coherent physical design. A "single site" may include contiguous properties.

### **Mortar**

A stone or wooden receptacle with a cup-shaped depression, generally used for processing plant foods (such as acorns); usually used with a pestle.

### **Most Probable Number (MPN)**

A unit of measurement of the quantity of organisms (usually bacteria, such as coliforms) in a water supply.

### **Multiple Family Building**

A detached building designed and used exclusively as a dwelling by three or more families occupying separate suites.

### **Multiplier Effect**

The recalculation of money through the economy multiplies its impact on jobs and income. For example, money paid as salaries to industrial and office workers is spent on housing, food, clothes and other locally-available goods and services. This spending creates jobs in housing construction, retail stores (*e.g.*, grocery and drug stores) and professional offices. The wage paid to workers in those industries is again re-spent, creating still more jobs. Overall, one job in basic industry is estimated to create approximately one more job in non-basic industry.

### **Must**

That which is mandatory.

M

N

### **National Ambient Air Quality Standards**

The prescribed level of pollutants in the outside air that cannot be exceeded legally during a specified time in a specified geographical area.

### **National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)**

An act passed in 1974 establishing federal legislation for national environmental policy, a council on environmental quality, and the requirements for environmental impact statements.

### **National Flood Insurance Program**

A federal program which authorizes the sale of federally subsidized flood insurance in communities where such flood insurance is not available privately.

### **National Historic Preservation Act**

A 1966 federal law that established a National Register of Historic Places and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and which authorized grants-in-aid for preserving historic properties.

### **National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)**

A system of permits and licensing administered by the EPA to monitor and control wastewater discharges.

### **National Priority List (NPL)**

A list of the highest priority sites in the EPA's hazardous waste site cleanup effort.

### **National Register of Historic Places**

The official list, established by the National Historic Preservation Act, of sites, districts, buildings, structures, and objects significant in the nation's history or whose artistic or architectural value is unique.

### **Native Species**

A species that has historically occurred in a particular area.

### **Natural State**

The condition existing prior to development.

### **Necessary**

Essential or required.

### **Need**

A condition requiring supply or relief. The City or County may act upon findings of need within or on behalf of the community.

### **Negative Declaration**

A written statement briefly describing the reasons that a proposed project will not have a significant effect on the environment and does not require the preparation of an environmental impact report (CEQA).

### **Neighborhood Park**

City- or county-owned land intended to serve the recreation needs of people living or working within one-half mile radius of the park.

### **Nitrogen Oxide(s)**

A reddish brown gas that is a byproduct of combustion and ozone formation processes. Often referred to as NOX, this gas gives smog its "dirty air" appearance.

### **No Action**

Required alternative to be evaluated under NEPA, where the proposed project would not take place and the resulting environmental effects from taking no action would serve as a baseline from which to compare the proposed project or alternatives.

### **No-flow periods**

Periods when streamflow is non-existent.

### **No Project**

Required alternative to be evaluated under CEQA. Refer to No Action.

### **Noise**

Any sound which is undesirable because it interferes with speech and hearing, or is intense enough to damage hearing, or is otherwise annoying. Noise, simply, is "unwanted sound."

### **Noise Attenuation**

Reduction of the level of a noise source using a substance, material, or surface, such as earth berms and/or solid concrete walls.

### **Noise Contour**

A line connecting points of equal noise level as measured on the same scale. Noise levels greater than the 60  $L_{dn}$  contour (measured in dBA) require noise attenuation in residential development.

### **Noise Element**

One of the seven State-mandated elements of a local general plan, it assesses noise levels of highways and freeways, local arterials, railroads,

airports, local industrial plants, and other ground stationary sources, and adopts goals, policies, and implementation programs to reduce the community's exposure to noise.

### **Non-attainment**

The condition of not achieving a desired or required level of performance. Frequently used in reference to air quality.

### **Non-conforming Use**

A use which was valid when brought into existence, but by subsequent regulation becomes no longer conforming. "Non-conforming use" is a generic term and includes (1) non-conforming structures (by virtue of size, type of construction, location on land, or proximity to other structures), (2) non-conforming use of a conforming building, (3) non-conforming use of a non-conforming building, and (4) non-conforming use of land. Thus, any use lawfully existing on any piece of property that is inconsistent with a new or amended General Plan, and that in turn is a violation of a zoning ordinance amendment subsequently adopted in conformance with the General Plan, will be a non-conforming use. Typically, non-conforming uses are permitted to continue for a designated period of time, subject to certain restrictions.

### **Non-native Species**

A species that has been introduced to a particular area.

### **Nonpotable**

Not suitable for drinking by humans.

### **Notice (of Hearing)**

A legal document announcing the opportunity for the public to present their views to an official representative or board of a public agency concerning an official action pending before the agency.

### **Notice of Completion**

A brief notice filed with OPR by a lead Agency as soon as it has completed a draft EIR and is prepared to send out copies for review (CEQA).

### **Notice of Determination**

A brief notice to be filed by a public agency after it approves or determines to carry out a project which is subject to the requirements of CEQA.

### **Notice of Exemption**

A brief notice which may be filed by a public agency after it has decided to carry out or approve a project and has determined that the project is exempt from CEQA as being ministerial, categorically exempt, an emergency, or subject to another exemption from CEQA. Such a notice may also be filed by an applicant where such a determination has been made by a public agency which must approve the project (CEQA).

### **Notice of Intent**

A notice that an environmental impact statement will be prepared and considered (NEPA).

### **Notice of Preparation**

A brief notice sent by a Lead Agency to notify the Responsible Agencies, Trustee Agencies, and involved federal agencies that the Lead Agency plans to prepare an EIR for the project. The purpose of the notice is to solicit guidance from these agencies as to the scope and content of the environmental information to be included in the EIR. Public agencies are free to develop their own formats for this notice.

### **NOx**

Nitrogen oxide.

### **Null Zone**

Area of greatest algal productivity.

### **Nutrients**

Nitrogen and phosphorus in reclaimed water. These elements are required for plant/crop growth and are often applied in fertilizer form.

O

## **Objective**

A specific statement of desired future condition toward which the City or County will expend effort in the context of striving to achieve a broader goal. An objective should be achievable and, where possible, should be measurable and time-specific. The State Government Code (§65302) requires that general plans spell out the “objectives,” principles, standards, and proposals of the general plan. “The addition of 100 units of affordable housing by 1995” is an example of an objective.

## **Obsidian**

A natural glass found in restricted volcanic areas. It is usually gray to black and semi-transparent. It was very popular for flaking into tools. Spectrographic analysis of trace elements now allows most of the sources to be distinguished, so that patterns of trade can be traced.

## **Office Use**

The use of land by general business offices, medical and professional offices, administrative or headquarters offices for large wholesaling or manufacturing operations, and research and development.

## **Official County Scenic Highway**

A segment of state highway identified in the Master Plan of State Highways Eligible for Official Scenic Highway Designation and designated by the Director of the Department of Transportation (Caltrans).

## **Offset**

The horizontal component of displacement on a fault, measures perpendicular to the disrupted horizon.

## **Open Space Element**

One of the seven State-mandated elements of a local general plan, it contains an inventory of privately and publicly owned open-space lands, and adopted goals, policies, and implementation programs for the preservation, protection, and management of open space lands.

## **Open Space Land**

Any parcel or area of land or water which is essentially unimproved and devoted to an open space use for the purposes of (1) the preservation

of natural resources, (2) the managed production of resources, (3) outdoor recreation, or (4) public health and safety.

## **Operation and Maintenance**

Ongoing Project activities that follow the construction phase.

## **Orchard**

A group of fruit or nut trees, either small and diverse and grown for home use, or large and uniform (*i.e.*, of one variety) and cultivated for revenue. Such a collection must be planted, managed and renewed by the householder or farmer and should not be confused with a naturally occurring grove. Citrus and nut plantations are customarily called groves.

## **Ordinance**

A law or regulation set forth and adopted by a governmental authority, usually a city or county.

## **Organic Material**

See Organic Waste.

## **Organic Waste**

Waste material which comes mainly from animal or vegetable sources. Organic waste generally can be consumed by bacteria and other small organisms.

## **Outdoor Recreation Use**

A privately or publicly owned or operated use providing facilities for outdoor recreation activities.

## **Outer Approach Zone**

Airspace in which an air-traffic controller initiates radar monitoring for incoming flights approaching an airport.

## **Outfall Structure**

A pipe which discharges treated wastewater into a water body, such as a river, lake, bay, or ocean.

## **Overlay**

A land use designation on the Land Use Map, or a zoning designation on a zoning map, which modifies the basic underlying designation in some specific manner.

## **Overstory**

The tall, woody trees which provide the upper canopy of foliage in a forest and generally shade lower levels.

### **Oxidized wastewater**

Wastewater in which the organic matter has been stabilized, is nonputrescible, and contains dissolved oxygen.

### **Ozone**

A tri-atomic form of oxygen (O<sub>3</sub>) created naturally in the upper atmosphere by a photochemical reaction with solar ultraviolet radiation. In the lower atmosphere, ozone is a recognized air pollutant that is not emitted directly into the environment, but is formed by complex chemical reactions between oxides of nitrogen and reactive organic compounds in the presence of sunlight, and becomes a major agent in the formation of smog.

O

P

### **Paleontology**

The study of forms of life existing in other geologic periods, as represented by fossil animals and plants.

### **Parcel**

A lot, or contiguous group of lots, in single ownership or under single control, usually considered a unit for purposes of development.

### **Parks**

Open space lands whose primary purpose is recreation. (See "Open Space Land," "Community Park," and "Neighborhood Park.")

### **Particulate Matter**

A particle of solid or liquid matter, soot, dust, aerosols, fumes and mists.

### **Passive Solar System**

A system that distributes collected heat via direct transfer from a thermal mass rather than mechanical power. Passive systems rely on building design and materials to collect and store heat and to create natural ventilation for cooling. (See "Active Solar System.")

### **Pathogen**

Disease-causing microorganism.

### **Pathogenic Organisms**

Disease causing organisms.

### **Pathogenic Viruses**

Disease causing viruses.

### **Peak Hour/Peak Period**

For any given roadway, a daily period during which traffic volume is highest, usually occurring in the morning and evening commute periods. Where "F" Levels of Service are encountered, the "peak hour" may stretch into a "peak period" of several hours' duration.

### **Peak Wet Weather Flow**

Peak Wet Weather Flow (PWWF), is the peak or maximum flowrate which occurs during the rainy season, as the result of infiltration of rainwater into leaky sewer joints or inflow of rainwater into the sewer from flooded manholes or illegal stormwater connections. It includes the Average Dry Weather Flow (ADWF) plus the effect of rainwater. PWWF, in relation to the ADWF, is roughly a function of the age and size of the sewer system; but there are no fixed peaking

factors for a given size or age of system. Peaking factors are typically expressed as single digit multipliers of the ADWF; and the larger the system, the smaller the multiplier. The peaking factor multiplier must be determined by measurement of the particular system in question. For Santa Rosa, the peaking factor is believed to be in the lower single digit range; i.e., the PWWF is probably 3 or 4 times the ADWF. The PWWF is typically used to size sewage pipelines and pumping facilities and storage facilities.

### **Performance Standards**

Zoning regulations that permit uses based on a particular set of standards of operation rather than on particular type of use. Performance standards provide specific criteria limiting noise, air pollution, emissions, odors, vibration, dust, dirt, glare, heat, fire hazards, wastes, traffic impacts, and visual impact of a use.

### **Personal Services**

Services of a personal convenience nature, as opposed to products which are sold to individual consumers, as contrasted with companies. Personal services include barber and beauty shops, shoe and luggage repair, fortune tellers, photographers, laundry and cleaning services and pick-up stations, copying, repair and fitting of clothes, and similar services.

### **Pestle**

An oblong implement used for pounding or grinding in a mortar.

### **pH**

A measure of the acidity or alkalinity of a solution, numerically equal to 7 for neutral solutions, increasing with increasing alkalinity and decreasing with increasing acidity. [potential] (of) Hydrogen].

### **Photochemical**

A chemical reaction occurring in the atmosphere caused by the interaction with sunlight.

### **Physical Diversity**

A quality of a site, city, or region in which are found a variety of architectural styles, natural landscapes, and/or land uses.

**Planktonic Algae**

Small, floating plant life in aquatic ecosystems.

**Plant Community**

An assemblage of plants living together and interacting with each other in a common environment.

**Plant Succession**

The process of vegetational development whereby an area becomes successively occupied by different plant communities of higher ecological order.

**PM<sub>10</sub>**

Particulate matter less than 10 microns in diameter which can be inhaled and are therefore considered hazardous to human health.

**Point of Significance**

Measurable point at which a potential environmental impact becomes significant.

**Policy**

A specific statement of principle or of guiding actions which implies clear commitment but is not mandatory. A general direction that a governmental agency sets to follow, in order to meet its goals and objectives before undertaking an action program. (See "Program.")

**Polishing**

Additional treatment of reclaimed water to improve its quality, which occurs after it leaves the treatment plant. Polishing may include natural processes such as wetlands.

**Pollutant**

Any introduced gas, liquid, or solid that makes a resource unfit for its normal or usual purpose.

**Pollution**

The presence of matter or energy whose nature, location, or quantity produces undesired environmental effects.

**Pollution, Non-Point**

Sources for pollution which are less definable and usually cover broad areas of land, such as agricultural land with fertilizers which are carried from the land by runoff, or automobiles.

**Pollution, Point**

In reference to water quality, a discrete source from which pollution is generated before it enters receiving waters, such as a sewer outfall, a smokestack, or an industrial waste pipe.

**Potable**

Suitable for consumption by humans.

**Poverty Level**

As used by the U.S. Census, families and unrelated individuals are classified as being above or below the poverty level based on a poverty index which provides a range of income cutoffs or "poverty thresholds" varying by size of family, number of children, and age of householder. The income cutoffs are updated each year to reflect the change in the Consumer Price Index.

**Practicable**

Capable of being put into practice, done, or accomplished.

**Precipitation**

The process by which atmospheric moisture is discharged (falls) onto a land or water surface. It includes snow, hail, and rain.

**Precursor**

A number of compounds that physically change in composition after being emitted into the air and eventually turn into air pollutants.

**Preform**

The preliminary form of a stone tool, from which the completed tool is shaped.

**Prehistoric Archaeology**

In North America, Prehistoric Archaeology is the study of archaeology in the time before Euroamerican contact.

**Preserve, *n.***

An area in which beneficial uses in their present condition are protected; for example, a nature preserve or an agricultural preserve.

**Preserve, *v.***

To keep safe from destruction or decay; to maintain or keep intact.

**Presidio**

A garrisoned place; a military post or fortified settlement in areas currently or originally under Spanish control.

**Primary effluent**

The effluent from a wastewater treatment process which provides removal of sewage solids so that it contains not more than 0.5 milliliter per liter of settleable solids.

P

### **Primary Treatment**

A wastewater treatment process that takes place in a rectangular or circular tank and allows those substances in wastewater that readily settle or float to be separated from the water being treated.

### **Prime Farmland**

See Farmland.

### **Principle**

An assumption, fundamental rule, or doctrine that will guide general plan policies, proposals, standards, and implementation measures. The State Government Code (§65302) requires that general plans spell out the objectives, “principles,” standards, and proposals of the general plan. “Adjacent land uses should be compatible with one another” is an example of a principle.

### **Prior Converted Croplands**

Croplands created on converted wetlands that were drained, dredged, filled, or otherwise manipulated, including the removal of woody vegetation, before December 23, 1985.

### **Professional Offices**

A use providing professional or consulting services in the fields of law, medicine, architecture, design, engineering, accounting, and similar professions, but not including financial institutions or real estate or insurance offices.

### **Program**

An action, activity, or strategy carried out in response to adopted policy to achieve a specific goal or objective. Policies and programs establish the “who,” “how” and “when” for carrying out the “what” and “where” of goals and objectives.

### **Project**

“Project” means the following:

- a) Activities directly undertaken by any public agency.
- b) Activities undertaken by a person which are supported in whole or in part through contracts, grants, subsidies, loans, or other forms of assistance from one or more public agencies.
- c) Activities involving the issuance to a person of a lease, permit, license, certificate, or other entitlement for use by one or more public agencies.

### **Projectile Point**

A chipped stone artifact used to tip an arrow, dart, lance, or spear.

### **Pro Rata**

Refers to the proportionate distribution of something to some thing or some group, such as the cost of infrastructure improvements associated with new development apportioned to the users of the infrastructure on the basis of projected use.

### **Protect, v.**

To maintain and preserve beneficial uses in their present condition as nearly as possible. (See “Enhance.”)

### **Public agency**

Any state agency, board, or commission, any county, city and county, city, regional agency, public district, redevelopment agency, or other political subdivision. (CEQA)

### **Public and Quasi-public Facilities**

Institutional, academic, governmental and community service uses, either publicly owned or operated by non-profit organizations.

### **Public Rights-of-Way**

Strip of land or corridor that is occupied or intended to be occupied by certain transportation and public use facilities, such as roadways, trails, railroads, and utility lines.

### **Public Use Area**

In this study, downtown areas, cemeteries, community centers, etc. which attract the public on a daily or regular basis.

### **Public Water System**

A water system that provides piped water to the public for human consumption, which serves at least 15 connections or 25 individuals daily at least 60 days per year.

### **Pumping capacity**

The capability of a well to produce water.

### **Pump Station**

Above ground centrifugal or vertical turbine pumps utilized to pump treated effluent to a project component such as urban irrigation or agricultural irrigation.

### **Pyroclastic**

Clastic rock material formed by volcanic eruption or aerial expulsion from a volcanic vent.



**Quarry**

Excavation area or open pit where stone or other aggregates are obtained.

**Quicksilver**

Mercury.

Q

# R

## **Radiocarbon**

Carbon<sup>14</sup> is a radioactive isotope of C<sup>12</sup> produced from Nitrogen<sup>14</sup> in the atmosphere by cosmic radiation. Thereafter, it acts exactly like C<sup>12</sup>, being taken into the organic compounds of all living matter. Determination of the radioactivity of carbon from a sample will reveal the proportion of C<sup>14</sup> to C<sup>12</sup>, and this will in turn, through the known rate of decay of C<sup>14</sup>, give the age of, or more accurately the time elapsed since the death of, the sample.

## **Radionuclide**

An atom which emits radiation resulting from changes in the nuclei of atoms of the element. Alpha particle emissions consist of two protons and two neutrons. Beta particle emissions are the ejection of an electron from the nucleus when a neutron decays into a proton and an electron.

## **Rapid Infiltration Basins**

Basins for disposal of water by percolation into the soils below the basin.

## **Raptor**

Name usually applied to any of the carnivorous (meat-eating) birds, such as hawks, eagles, falcons, vultures, and owls.

## **Rare or Endangered Species**

A species of animal or plant listed in: Sections 670.2 or 670.5, Title 14, California Administrative Code; or Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 17.11 or Section 17.2, pursuant to the Federal Endangered Species Act designating species as rare, threatened, or endangered.

## **Raw Sewage**

Untreated water carrying wastes from homes, as well as industrial and commercial uses.

## **Rearing habitat**

Portions of stream which is used by juvenile steelhead while they reside in freshwater. Good quality habitat is characterized as having highly oxygenated water, summer water temperatures in the range of 55 to 65 deg F, a streambed covered with cobbles and boulders, turbulent flow conditions, water velocities of at least 0.5 feet per second, water depths greater than 0.5 feet, and vegetation or woody debris which hangs over or enters the water.

## **Recharge**

The process by which an aquifer receives additional water from outside sources.

## **Reclaimed Water**

Water which, as a result of treatment of wastewater is suitable for a direct beneficial use or a controlled use that would not otherwise occur.

## **Reclamation**

The recovery of subpotable or wastewater sources so as to substitute this supply for irrigation applications currently using potable supply.

## **Recreation, Active**

A type of recreation or activity which requires the use of organized play areas including, but not limited to, softball, baseball, football and soccer fields, tennis and basketball courts and various forms of children's play equipment.

## **Recreation, Passive**

Type of recreation or activity which does not require the use of organized play areas.

## **Recreation Use Area**

In this study, designated recreation sites including recreation sites, parks, trails, or other areas managed for public reasons.

## **Recycle, v.**

The process of extraction and reuse of materials from waste products.

## **Redesignation**

The changing of an area from nonattainment to attainment or attainment to nonattainment.

## **Redevelop, v.**

To demolish existing buildings; or to increase the overall floor area existing on a property; or both; irrespective of whether a change occurs in land use.

## **Regional**

Pertaining to activities or economies at a scale greater than that of a single jurisdiction, and affecting a broad geographic area.

## **Regional Housing Needs Plan**

A quantification by a COG or by HCD of existing and projected housing need, by household income group, for all localities within a region.

## **Regional Park**

A park typically 150-500 acres in size focusing on activities and natural features not included in

most other types of parks and often based on a specific scenic or recreational opportunity.

### **Regional Water Quality Control Board**

Regional agency, empowered by the California State Water Resources Control Board to enforce federal stormwater regulations addressing storm water discharges from municipal storm sewer systems and industrial activities.

### **Regulation**

A rule or order prescribed for managing government.

### **Reliability**

For the Project, system reliability is defined as the production of reclaimed water exceeding normal system capacity only one month in twenty.

### **Reservoir Footprint**

Total surface area required for the reservoir and its associated structures (i.e. spillway, diversion structure, etc.).

### **Residential, Multiple Family**

Usually three or more dwelling units on a single site, which may be in the same or separate buildings.

### **Residential, Single-Family**

A single dwelling unit on a building site.

### **Resources, Non-renewable**

Refers to natural resources, such as fossil fuels and natural gas, which, once used, cannot be replaced and used again.

### **Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)**

The Federal law regulating the handling (generation, treatment, storage, transport, and disposal) of hazardous waste. This statute seeks to regulate hazardous waste from "cradle to grave."

California's RCRA program is administered by the DTSC within the California EPA.

### **Responsible Agency**

A public agency, other than the Lead Agency which has responsibility for carrying out or approving a project. (CEQA)

### **Restore, v.**

To renew, rebuild, or reconstruct to a former state.

### **Restrict, v.**

To check, bound, or decrease the range, scope, or incidence of a particular condition.

### **Retention Basin/Retention Pond**

(See "Detention Basin/Detention Pond.")

### **Retrofit, v.**

To add materials and/or devices to an existing building or system to improve its operation or efficiency. Buildings have been retrofitted to use solar energy and to strengthen their ability to withstand earthquakes, for example.

### **Reuse**

Utilization of reclaimed water for beneficial purposes such as urban and/or agricultural irrigation.

### **Rezoning**

An amendment to the map and/or text of a zoning ordinance to effect a change in the nature, density, or intensity of uses allowed in a zoning district and/or on a designated parcel or land area.

### **Rhyolite**

A light-colored, fine-grained extrusive igneous rock (volcanic).

### **Richter Scale**

A measure of the size or energy release of an earthquake at its source. The scale is logarithmic; the wave amplitude of each number on the scale is 10 times greater than that of the previous whole number.

### **Rideshare**

A travel mode other than driving alone, such as buses, rail transit, carpools, and vanpools.

### **Ridgeline**

A line connecting the highest points along a ridge and separating drainage basins or small-scale drainage systems from one another.

### **Right-of-way**

A strip of land occupied or intended to be occupied by certain transportation and public use facilities, such as roadways, railroads, and utility lines.

### **Riparian Corridor**

Linear stretch of riparian lands adjacent to perennial and intermittent streams.

### **Riparian Lands**

Riparian lands are comprised of the vegetative and wildlife areas adjacent to perennial and intermittent streams. Riparian areas are

R

# R

delineated by the existence of plant species normally found near freshwater.

## **Risk Assessment**

The qualitative and quantitative evaluation performed in an effort to define the risk posed to human health by the presence or potential presence and/or use of pollutants.

## **Risk**

The danger or degree of hazard or potential loss.

## **Roughness Coefficient**

A number representing the frictional resistance of a surface to the flow of water; used in hydraulic computations.

## **Roundhouse**

A large structure in each village, used by the people in conducting ceremonies and other village social activities.

## **Runoff**

That portion of rain or snow which does not percolate into the ground and is discharged into streams instead.

### **Safety Element**

One of the seven State-mandated elements of a local general plan, it contains adopted goals, policies, and implementation programs for the protection of the community from any unreasonable risks associated with seismic and geologic hazards, flooding, and wildland and urban fires. Many safety elements also incorporate a review of police needs, objectives, facilities, and services.

### **Salinity Levels**

The level of salts in a body of water.

### **Salmonid**

Referring to members of the fish family Salmonidae which includes salmon and trout species.

### **Sanitary Landfill**

The controlled placement of municipal solid waste within a limited engineered area designed to control environmental degradation, followed by compaction and covering with a suitable thickness of earth and other containment material.

### **Sanitary Sewer**

A system of subterranean conduits which carries refuse liquids or waste matter to a plant where the sewage is treated, as contrasted with storm drainage systems (which carry surface water) and septic tanks or leech fields (which hold refuse liquids and waste matter on-site). (See "Combined Sewer" and "Septic System.")

### **Scatters**

In archaeology, refers to discrete groupings of artifacts (lithic, faunal, etc.) scattered over the ground surface.

### **Scenic Corridors**

A highway, road, drive, or street that, in addition to its transportation function, provides opportunities for the enjoyment of natural and man-made scenic resources, and access or direct views to areas or scenes of exceptional beauty, or historic or cultural interest.

### **Scenic Highway Corridor**

The area outside a highway right-of-way that is generally visible to persons traveling on the highway.

### **Scenic Highway/Scenic Route**

A highway, road, drive, or street which, in addition to its transportation function, provides opportunities for the enjoyment of natural and man-made scenic resources and access or direct views to areas or scenes of exceptional beauty or historic or cultural interest. The aesthetic values of scenic routes often are protected and enhanced by regulations governing the development of property or the placement of outdoor advertising. Until the mid-1980s, general plans in California were required to include a Scenic Highways element.

### **Scenic Landscape Unit**

A classification of Open Space defined in the Sonoma County General Plan intended to preserve land considered as a scenic resource. The scenic quality of these lands influence the quality of life of residents, and are important to tourism and the agricultural economy.

### **Scenic Resource**

A specific landscape feature that is particularly striking or memorable. Landscape feature of high scenic quality include: Landform - steep (>60%) undulating/dissected slopes, distinctive rock outcrops, or pronounced ridgelines; Water - major bodies of water that provide reflective qualities and irregular shorelines, or major/permanent streams/rivers with diversity of meanders, flows, rapids, rock outcrops, or riverbanks; Vegetation - mature stands of native or cultural species (oaks and eucalyptus) in natural groves or distinct planted patterns; Man-made Development - Historic structures.

### **schist**

A metamorphic crystalline rock.

### **Scope**

The total depth and breadth of issues and potential solutions to be evaluated for the EIR/EIS.

### **Scoping Phase**

This phase involves identifying all potential solutions and issues for the EIR/EIS to consider.

### **Seawater intrusion**

The phenomenon occurring when sea water invades a body of fresh water.

S

## **Second Unit**

A Self-contained living unit, either attached to or detached from, and in addition to, the primary residential unit on a single lot. Sometimes called “Granny Flat”.

## **Secondary sedimentation**

The removal by gravity of settleable solids remaining in wastewater after biological treatment process.

## **Secondary Treatment**

A wastewater treatment process used to convert dissolved or suspended materials into a form more readily separated from the water being treated. Usually the process follows primary treatment. The process commonly is a type of biological treatment process followed by secondary clarifiers that allow the solids to settle out from the water being treated.

## **Sediment**

Mineral or organic matter deposited by water, air, or ice.

## **Sedimentary Rocks**

material that has been deposited by water, ice, wind, or chemically precipitated in water. Sedimentary rocks are usually stratified into layers or beds.

## **Seep**

To leak or ooze from the ground.

## **Seepage**

The act or process of water leaking (seeping) from the ground to form a pool.

## **Seiche**

A local rise and fall in the water level of a lake or other confined body of water. May occur as a result of ground shaking associated with seismic activity (earthquakes).

## **Seismic**

Caused by or subject to earthquakes or earth vibrations.

## **Semisedentary**

Not fully sedentary; in anthropology, refers to human groups that have no permanent communities or camps.

## **Septic System**

A sewage-treatment system that includes a settling tank through which liquid sewage flows

and in which solid sewage settles and is decomposed by bacteria in the absence of oxygen. Septic systems are often used for individual-home waste disposal where an urban sewer system is not available. (See “Sanitary Sewer.”)

## **Serpentinite**

A rock consisting almost wholly of serpentine-group minerals.

## **Service Charge**

The service charge is the monthly charge to the user for sewer system service. This is an ongoing charge paid by both residential and commercial users to cover the operation and maintenance costs of the sewer system.

## **Setback**

The horizontal distance between the property line and any structure.

## **Settlement**

1. The drop in elevation of a ground surface caused by settling or compacting. 2. The gradual downward movement of an engineered structure due to compaction. Differential settlement is uneven settlement, where one part of a structure settles more or at a different rate than another part.

## **Sewage**

The used water and solids from homes that flow to a treatment plant. The sewage is also referred to as wastewater.

## **Shall**

That which is obligatory or necessary.

## **Shopping Center**

A group of commercial establishments, planned, developed, owned, or managed as a unit, with common off-street parking provided on the site.

## **Should**

Signifies a directive to be honored if at all possible.

## **Shouldered**

Refers to the projection on an arrowhead or spearpoint near the base of the point but above the part that is attached to the shaft of the arrow or spear.

## **Sign**

Any representation (written or pictorial) used to convey information, or to identify, announce, or

otherwise direct attention to a business, profession, commodity, service, or entertainment, and placed on, suspended from, or in any way attached to, any structure, vehicle, or feature of the natural or manmade landscape.

### **Significant**

An impact which exceeds the evaluation criteria.

### **Significant Effect**

A beneficial or detrimental impact on the environment. May include, but is not limited to, significant changes in an area's air, water, and land resources.

### **Siltation**

(1) The accumulating deposition of eroded material. (2) The gradual filling in of streams and other bodies of water with silt.

### **Single-family Dwelling, Attached**

A dwelling unit occupied or intended for occupancy by only one household that is structurally connected with at least one other such dwelling unit. (See "Townhouse.")

### **Single-family Dwelling, Detached**

A dwelling unit occupied or intended for occupancy by only one household that is structurally independent from any other such dwelling unit or structure intended for residential or other use. (See "Family.")

### **Sinuuous**

Having many curves, bends, or turns.

### **Site**

A parcel of land used or intended for one use or a group of uses and having frontage on a public or an approved private street. A lot. (See "Lot.")

### **Site Reconnaissance**

Preliminary site visit to determine the extent of future needed studies and surveys.

### **Slope**

Land gradient described as the vertical rise divided by the horizontal run, and expressed in percent.

### **Sloughs**

A slow-moving creek in a marshland or tidal flat or an inlet from a river.

### **Smolts**

Juvenile steelhead which have physiologically adapted to live in seawater and are actively emigrating from freshwater to the ocean.

### **Sociocultural**

Of or involving both social and cultural factors.

### **Socio-political**

Of or involving both social and political factors.

### **Soil**

The unconsolidated material on the immediate surface of the earth created by natural forces that serves as natural medium for growing land plants.

### **Solar Access**

The provision of direct sunlight to an area specified for solar energy collection when the sun's azimuth is within 45 degrees of true south.

### **Solar System, Active**

A system using a mechanical device, such as a pump or a fan, and energy in addition to solar energy to transport a conductive medium (air or water) between a solar collector and the interior of a building for the purpose of heating or cooling.

### **Solar System, Passive**

A system that uses direct heat transfer from thermal mass instead of mechanical power to distribute collected heat. Passive systems rely on building design and materials to collect and store heat and to create natural ventilation for cooling.

### **Solid Waste**

Any unwanted or discarded material that is not a liquid or gas. Includes organic wastes, paper products, metals, glass, plastics, cloth, brick, rock, soil, leather, rubber, yard wastes, and wood, but does not include sewage and hazardous materials. Organic wastes and paper products comprise about 75 percent of typical urban solid waste.

### **Sorption**

The process of taking up and holding a substance by absorption or adsorption.

### **Spawning**

The reproductive act of male and female fish depositing and fertilizing eggs in a gravelly nest.

### **Spawning habitat**

Portions of the stream used by female steelhead for constructing her nest. Typically, these areas are located at the downstream end of pools, just upstream of where turbulent water flows through riffles. Good quality spawning habitat is characterized by appropriate sized gravel, water

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velocities of at least 2 feet per second, and water depths of at least 1 foot.

### **Special-status Species**

Species listed as rare, threatened, or endangered, under CEQA. A detailed definition is provided in Measure 2.2.5.

### **Specific Plan**

Under Article 8 of the Government Code (§65450 *et seq*), a legal tool for detailed design and implementation of a defined portion of the area covered by a General Plan. A specific plan may include all detailed regulations, conditions, programs, and/or proposed legislation which may be necessary or convenient for the systematic implementation of any General Plan element(s).

### **Speed, Average**

The sum of the speeds of the cars observed divided by the number of cars observed.

### **Sphere of Influence**

The probable ultimate physical boundaries and service area of a local agency (city or district) as determined by the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) of the County.

### **Spillway**

Concrete-lined chute extending from the top of the embankment dam down slope into a channel below the dam. It is intended to provide for emergency release of water only in the event of upstream flow from a severe storm entering the reservoir when it is full.

### **Spring (water)**

Natural flow of water from the ground.

### **Standards**

(1) A rule or measure establishing a level of quality or quantity that must be complied with or satisfied. The State Government Code (§65302) requires that general plans spell out the objectives, principles, “standards,” and proposals of the general plan. Examples of standards might include the number of acres of park land per 1,000 population that the community will attempt to acquire and improve, or the “traffic Level of Service” (LOS) that the plan hopes to attain. (2) Requirements in a zoning ordinance that govern building and development as distinguished from use restrictions—for example, site-design

regulations such as lot area, height limit, frontage, landscaping, and floor area ratio.

### **State Implementation Plan**

EPA approved state plan for the establishment, regulation, and enforcement of air pollution standards.

### **State Small Water System**

A water system that provides piped water to the public for human consumption which serves at least 5, but not more than 14, service connections and does not regularly serve more than 25 individuals daily for more than 60 days per year.

### **Storage capacity**

The total water-bearing capacity of an aquifer or surface reservoir.

### **Storm Runoff**

Surplus surface water generated by rainfall that does not seep into the earth but flows overland to flowing or stagnant bodies of water.

### **Stratum**

More or less homogeneous or gradational material, visually separable from other levels by a discrete change in the character of the material being deposited or a sharp break in deposition (or both).

### **Streets, Local**

(See “Streets, Minor.”)

### **Streets, Major**

The transportation network which includes a hierarchy of freeways, arterials, and collectors to service through traffic.

### **Streets, Minor**

Local streets not shown on the Circulation Plan, Map, or Diagram, whose primary intended purpose is to provide access to fronting properties.

### **Streets, Through**

Streets which extend continuously between other major streets in the community.

### **Structure**

Anything constructed or erected which requires location on the ground (excluding swimming pools, fences, and walls used as fences).

### **Subdivision**

The division of a tract of land into defined lots, either improved or unimproved, which can be



separately conveyed by sale or lease, and which can be altered or developed. "Subdivision" includes a condominium project as defined in Section 1350 of the California Civil Code.

### **Subdivision Map Act**

Division 2 (Sections 66410 *et seq*) of the California Government code, this act vests in local legislative bodies the regulation and control of the design and improvement of subdivisions, including the requirement for tentative and final maps. (See "Subdivision.")

### **Subhorizontal**

Almost horizontal.

### **Subparallel**

Almost parallel

### **Subregional**

Pertaining to a portion of a region. In this instance the term refers to towns presently utilizing the Laguna Treatment Plant. The City of Santa Rosa, Sebastopol, Cotati, Rohnert Park, and the South Park Sanitation District are included.

### **Subsidence**

The gradual settling or sinking of an area with little or no horizontal motion. (See "Settlement.")

### **Subsidize**

To assist by payment of a sum of money or by the granting of terms or favors that reduce the need for monetary expenditures. Housing subsidies may take the forms of mortgage interest deductions or tax credits from federal and/or state income taxes, sale or lease at less than market value of land to be used for the construction of housing, payments to supplement a minimum affordable rent, and the like.

### **Substantial**

Considerable in importance, value, degree, or amount.

### **Superfund Amendment and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA)**

This law amends and extends the authority of the Federal government to clean up abandoned hazardous waste sites under CERCLA.

### **Surface Water Treatment Rule (STWR)**

An amendment to the national primary drinking water regulations that stipulates that all surface

water must be disinfected and must be filtered unless certain stringent water quality source requirements, disinfection, and site-specific conditions are met. The primary goal of the STWR is to prevent microbiological contamination of the nation's drinking water supplies.

### **Suspended Solids**

(1) Solids that either float on the surface or are suspended in water, wastewater, or other liquids, and which are largely removable by laboratory filtering. (2) The quantity of material removed from wastewater in a laboratory test, as prescribed in Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater and referred to as nonfilterable residue.

### **Swale**

A slight depression, sometimes swampy, in the midst of generally level land.

### **Sweathouse**

Usually a semi-subterranean structure in which the males from the village, after the age of puberty, met and practiced male-oriented activities, only one of which was the sweatbath.

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### **Tax Increment**

Additional tax revenues that result from increases in property values within a redevelopment area. State law permits the tax increment to be earmarked for redevelopment purposes but requires at least 20 percent to be used to increase and improve the community's supply of very low- and low-income housing.

### **Tectonic**

Pertaining to the forces involved in, or the resulting structures, of mountain building.

### **Tertiary (or advanced treatment) Treatment**

Removes specific contaminants to meet California standard for unrestricted use of reclaimed water. For reclamation in California, tertiary treatment processes must meet Reclamation criteria specified in Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations. Usually the process follows secondary and primary treatments. Also referred to as "filtered wastewater".

### **Thermal Mass**

Large quantities of heavy or dense material with a high heat capacity, used in solar buildings to absorb heat, which is then stored and re-radiated as needed for heating and cooling.

### **Tidal Wetlands**

Wetland areas directly adjacent to bodies of water influenced by tidal action.

### **Tier (Tiering)**

The coverage of general matters and environmental effects in an environmental impact report prepared for a policy, plan, program or ordinance followed by narrower or site-specific environmental impact reports which incorporate by reference the discussion in any prior environmental impact report and which concentrate on the environmental effects which are from prior environmental impact reports.

### **Topography**

Configuration of a surface, including its relief and the position of natural and man-made features.

### **Top Soil**

The surface or upper layer of soil which generally contains most of the organic matter in the soil.

### **Tourism**

The business of providing services for persons traveling for pleasure, tourism contributes to the vitality of the community by providing revenue to local business. Tourism can be measured through changes in the transient occupancy tax, or restaurant sales.

### **Toxicity**

Toxic or poisonous quality; amount or potency of a toxic substance.

### **Trace Element**

Element such as a metal that is found in low concentration relative to other constituents.

### **Traffic Model**

A mathematical representation of traffic movement within an area or region based on observed relationships between the kind and intensity of development in specific areas. Many traffic models operate on the theory that trips are produced by persons living in residential areas and are attracted by various non-residential land uses. (See "Trip.")

### **Transit**

The conveyance of persons or goods from one place to another by means of a local, public transportation system.

### **Transit-dependent**

Refers to persons unable to operate automobiles or other motorized vehicles, or those who do not own motorized vehicles. Transit-dependent citizens must rely on transit, para-transit, or owners of private vehicles for transportation. Transit-dependent citizens include the young, the handicapped, the elderly, the poor, and those with prior violations in motor vehicle laws.

### **Transit, Public**

A system of regularly-scheduled buses and/or trains available to the public on a fee-per-ride basis. Also called "Mass Transit."

### **Transition Zone**

Controlled airspace extending upward from 700 or more feet above the ground wherein procedures for aircraft approach have been designated. The transition zone lies closer to an airport than the outer approach zone and outside

of the inner approach zone. (See “Approach Zone” and “Outer Approach Zone.”)

### **Transitional Housing**

Shelter provided to the homeless for an extended period, often as long as 18 months, and generally integrated with other social services and counseling programs to assist in the transition to self-sufficiency through the acquisition of a stable income and permanent housing. (See “Homeless” and “Emergency Shelter.”)

### **Transportation Demand Management (TDM)**

A strategy for reducing demand on the road system by reducing the number of vehicles using the roadways and/or increasing the number of persons per vehicle. TDM attempts to reduce the number of persons who drive alone on the roadway during the commute period and to increase the number in carpools, vanpools, buses and trains, walking, and biking. TDM can be an element of TSM (see below).

### **Transportation Systems Management (TSM)**

A comprehensive strategy developed to address the problems caused by additional development, increasing trips, and a shortfall in transportation capacity. Transportation Systems Management focuses on more efficiently utilizing existing highway and transit systems rather than expanding them. TSM measures are characterized by their low cost and quick implementation time frame, such as computerized traffic signals, metered freeway ramps, and one-way streets.

### **Trees, Heritage**

Trees planted by a group of citizens or by the City or County in commemoration of an event or in memory of a person figuring significantly in history.

### **Trees, Landmark**

Trees whose size, visual impact, or association with a historically significant structure or event have led the City or County to designate them as landmarks.

### **Trees, Street**

Trees strategically planted--usually in parkway strips, medians, or along streets--to enhance the visual quality of a street.

### **Tribelet**

The basic, autonomous, self-governing, and independent sociopolitical group in aboriginal California.

### **Tributary Streams**

Streams that feed into larger stream systems.

### **Trihalomethanes (THMs)**

A group of organic chemicals (e.g., chloroform, dichlorobromform) that contain one carbon atom and any combination of three halogen atoms, primarily bromine or chlorine.

### **Trip**

A one-way journey that proceeds from an origin to a destination via a single mode of transportation; the smallest unit of movement considered in transportation studies. Each trip has one “production end,” (or origin—often from home, but not always), and one “attraction end,” (destination). (See “Traffic Model.”)

### **Trip Generation**

The dynamics that account for people making trips in automobiles or by means of public transportation. Trip generation is the basis for estimating the level of use for a transportation system and the impact of additional development or transportation facilities on an existing, local transportation system. Trip generations of households are correlated with destinations that attract household members for specific purposes.

### **Truck Route**

A path of circulation required for all vehicles exceeding set weight or axle limits, a truck route follows major arterials through commercial or industrial areas and avoids sensitive areas.

### **Tuff**

A general term for all consolidated pyroclastic rocks.

### **Tule**

A species of large bulrush, having slender, round, or triangular solid stems, found in lakes and marshes.

### **Turbidity**

Cloudy or hazy appearance in a clear liquid caused by suspension of colloidal liquid droplets or fine solids

T

# U

## **Ultra-Low Flow Devices**

Ultra-low flush toilets: use no more than 1.6 gallons per flush; low-volume showerheads: use no more than 2.2 gallons per minute.

## **Unconsolidated**

Not consolidated.

## **Unifacial**

Referring to a stone tool that has been flaked on one side.

## **Uniform Building Code (UBC)**

A national, standard building code which sets forth minimum standards for construction.

## **Uniform Housing Code (UHC)**

State housing regulations governing the condition of habitable structures with regard to health and safety standards, and which provide for the conservation and rehabilitation of housing in accordance with the Uniform Building Code (UBC).

## **Unrestricted Use/nonrestricted Use**

Should be at all times disinfected, oxidized, coagulated, clarified, filtered wastewater safe for use in recreational water sports, i.e., water-skiing, swimming, fishing, boating, etc. Tertiary treated wastewater, when properly diluted, is allowed to be introduced directly in to drinking water sources. Also safe to use for growing fruits and vegetables for raw consumption, i.e., zucchini, carrots, tomatoes, apples, oranges, etc.

## **Urban Boundary**

A boundary, sometimes parcel specific, located to mark the outer limit beyond which urban development will not be allowed.

## **Urban Design**

The attempt to give form, in terms of both beauty and function, to selected urban areas or to whole cities. Urban design is concerned with the location, mass, and design of various urban components and combines elements of urban planning, architecture, and landscape architecture.

## **Urban Irrigation**

Utilization of irrigation for non-agricultural uses, such as golf courses, city parks, and schools.

## **Urban Limit Line**

An area identified through official public policy, within which urban development will be allowed during a specified time period. Beyond this line, using a variety of growth management tools such as acreage zoning and limits on capital improvements, development is prohibited or strongly discouraged.

## **Urban Open Space**

The absence of buildings or development, usually in well-defined volumes, within an urban environment.

## **Urban Services**

Utilities (such as water, gas, electricity, and sewer) and public services (such as police, fire, schools, parks, and recreation) provided to an urbanized or urbanizing area.

## **Urban Sprawl**

Haphazard growth or outward extension of a city resulting from uncontrolled or poorly managed development.

## **Use**

The purpose for which a lot or structure is or may be leased, occupied, maintained, arranged, designed, intended, constructed, erected, moved, altered, and/or enlarged in accordance with the City's or County's zoning ordinance and General Plan land use designations.

## **Use, Non-conforming**

(See "Non-conforming Use.")

## **Use Permit, Conditional**

The discretionary and conditional review of an activity or function or operation on a site or in a building or facility.

## **Utility Corridors**

Rights-of-way or easements for utility lines on either publicly or privately owned property. (See "Right-of-way" or "Easement.")

## **Vacant**

Lands or buildings which are not actively used for any purpose.

## **Vadose Zone**

Zone between the ground surface and the water table in which the pore spaces are not filled with water.

## **Variance**

A departure from any provision of the zoning requirements for a specific parcel, except use, without changing the zoning ordinance or the underlying zoning of the parcel. A variance usually is granted only upon demonstration of hardship based on the peculiarity of the property in relation to other properties in the same zone district.

## **Vehicle-Miles Traveled (VMT)**

A key measure of overall street and highway use. Reducing VMT is often a major objective in efforts to reduce vehicular congestion and achieve regional air quality goals.

## **Vernacular**

In architecture, refers to the common, or regional character of a structure or building.

## **Vernal Pool**

An herbaceous plant community created by seasonal ponding. Vernal pools support a unique assemblage of plants and wildlife adapted to temporary inundation.

## **Vertebrate Species**

Any organism that possesses a spinal column (backbone).

## **View Obstruction**

The amount of a scene view area that is blocked by landscape features or alterations including earthform, vegetation, or structures. View area is defined as the area of landscape (except sky) as shown in a photograph from the closes sensitive viewpoint, taken with a normal (50mm) lens. View obstruction is a function of distance. For this study, view obstruction is considered significant when 15% or more of the scene is blocked from view.

## **Viewpoint**

The point from which an area may be viewed.

## **Viewshed**

The area within view from a defined observation point.

## **Viewshed Mapping**

A computerized analysis of mapping the extent of geographic areas which can be seen from a particular viewpoint on the basis of topography, excepting vegetation or site structures.

## **Visual Contrast**

Noticeable visual changes in a scene resulting from alterations of form, line, color, texture, and/or the scale of scene elements. For this study, strong visual contrast is defined by one or more of the following visual changes: regraded land forms are flat with little to no contour, line of major ridgelines are altered and are not consistent with surrounding ridgelines or minor ridgelines are eliminated; inconsistent color with adjacent landscape character; elimination of landscape texture created by exposed soil or removal of vegetation; form of project grossly exceeds scale of natural land forms.

## **Volatilization**

The act of evaporating quickly at ordinary temperatures.

## **Volatile Organic Compounds**

An organic compound that evaporates readily at normal temperatures.

V

# W

## **Warehousing Use**

A use engaged in storage, wholesale, and distribution of manufactured products, supplies, and equipment, excluding bulk storage of materials that are inflammable or explosive or that present hazards or conditions commonly recognized as offensive.

## **Waste Reduction Strategy**

A plan developed by the North Coast Regional Board in compliance with Section 303(d) of the federal Clean Water Act to reduce total and ammonia nitrogen loads to the Laguna de Santa Rosa. An annual load reduction has been established for the Subregional System, urban runoff, and agriculture.

## **Wastewater**

The used water and solids from a community that flow to a treatment plant. Storm water, surface water and groundwater infiltration also may be included in the wastewater that enters a plant.

## **Water Conservation**

Reduction in water use that also reduces wastewater flows. Sustainable reductionism wastewater flows are achieved by water conservation measures that permanently increase efficiency of water use fixtures and processes. Example: installation of ultra-low flow toilets.

## **Watercourse**

Natural or once natural flowing (perennially or intermittently) water including rivers, streams, and creeks. Includes natural waterways that have been channelized, but does not include manmade channels, ditches, and underground drainage and sewage systems.

## **Waters of the U.S.**

All deep water habitats including lakes, rivers, streams, bays, and gulfs.

## **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 watercourse which drains into a lake, or reservoir.

## **Water table**

The upper surface of the free groundwater reservoir below which spaces between the soil grains are completely filled with water.

## **Waterway**

(See "Watercourse.")

## **Weir**

A structure set in a stream or waterway for catching fish.

## **Wetlands**

Those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas.

## **Wetland Delineation**

The process or procedure by which the extent of wetland areas are defined.

## **Wetland Determination**

The process or procedure by which an area is judged a wetland or non-wetland.

## **Williamson Act Contract**

Known formally as the *California Land Conservation Act of 1965*, it was designed as an incentive to retain prime agricultural land and open space in agricultural use, thereby slowing its conversion to urban and suburban development. The program entails a ten-year contract between the City or County and an owner of land whereby the land is taxed on the basis of its agricultural use rather than its market value. The land becomes subject to certain enforceable restrictions, and certain conditions need to be met prior to approval of an agreement.

Z

### **Zone, Combining**

A special purpose zone which is superimposed over the regular zoning map. Combining zones are used for a variety of purposes, such as airport compatibility, flood plain or wetlands protection, historic designation, or special parking regulations. Also called “overlay zone.”

### **Zone, Interim**

A zoning designation that temporarily reduces or freezes allowable development in an area until a permanent classification can be fixed; generally assigned during General Plan preparation to provide a basis for permanent zoning.

### **Zone, Traffic**

In a mathematical traffic model the area to be studied is divided into zones, with each zone treated as producing and attracting trips. The production of trips by a zone is based on the number of trips to or from work or shopping, or other trips produced per dwelling unit.

### **Zoning**

The division of a city or county by legislative regulations into areas, or zones, that specify allowable uses for real property and size restrictions for buildings within these areas; a program that implements policies of the General Plan.

### **Zoning Bonus**

(See “Zoning, Incentive.”)

### **Zoning District**

A designated section of the city or county for which prescribed land use requirements and building and development standards are uniform.

### **Zoning Map**

Government Code §65851 permits a legislative body to divide a county, a city, or portions thereof, into zones of the number, shape, and area it deems best suited to carry out the purposes of the zoning ordinance. These zones are delineated on a map or maps, called the Zoning Map.