

H. Glossary and Acronyms

H.1 Glossary

100 Year Flood – A stream flow caused by a discharge that is exceeded, on the average, only once in 100 years. A 100 year flood has a 1 percent chance of occurrence in any given year.

A-weighting – A frequency measure of noise, which simulates human perception.

Acre-foot – A unit of measure for water demand and supply. The volume of 1 acre-foot would cover 1 acre to a depth of 1 foot and is equal to 325,851 gallons.

Air Quality Standard – The specified average concentration of an air pollutant in ambient air during a specified time period, at or above which level the public health may be at risk; equivalent to AAQS.

Ambient Air – Any unconfined portion of the atmosphere; the outside air.

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

Baseline – A set of existing conditions against which change is to be described and measured.

Carbon Monoxide (CO) – A colorless, odorless, toxic gas produced by incomplete combustion of carbon in fossil fuels.

Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL) – The averaging of noise levels on a measurement scale of decibels that increases the actual noise measurement, to account for an increased sensitivity to noise during late evening, nighttime, and morning hours.

Cultural Resource – Any object or specific location of past human activity, occupation, or use, identifiable through historical documentation, inventory, or oral evidence.

Cumulative impact – Two or more individual impacts that, when considered together, are considerable or that compound or increase other environmental impacts.

dBA – The A-weighted decibel scale representing the relative insensitivity of the human ear to low-pitched sounds; decibels (dB) are logarithmic units that compare the wide range of sound intensities to which the human ear is sensitive.

Emission – Unwanted substances released by human activity into air or water.

Emission limit – A regulatory standard that restricts the discharge of an air pollutant into atmosphere.

Environment – The physical conditions that exist in the area and that would be affected by a proposed project, including land, air, water, minerals, flora, fauna, ambient noise, and objects of historical or aesthetic significance. The area involved is where significant direct or indirect impacts would occur as a result of the project. The environment includes both natural and artificial conditions.

Environmental Impact Report (EIR) – An environmental assessment that considers the significant environmental effects of a proposed project in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) – An environmental assessment of a major Federal action that may significantly affect the quality of the human environment in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Fugitive dust – Airborne soil particles.

Groundwater – Water formed underground in soil pore spaces and in the fractures of rock formations. It is stored in and moves slowly through geologic formations of soil, sand, and rocks called aquifers.

Impact – The effect of the project that would occur absent mitigation measures. Direct impacts are those that are caused by and immediately related to the proposed project. Indirect impacts would occur later in time or farther removed in distance, but are still reasonably foreseeable effects of the proposed project.

Invertebrate – Animals that lack a spinal column.

Lead Agency – The agency responsible for preparation of the document. For the proposed Little Rock Reservoir Sediment Removal Project, the Palmdale Water District is the Lead Agency under CEQA and the U.S. Forest Service is the Lead Agency under NEPA.

Leq – Energy-equivalent sound level; average level of sound determined over a specific period of time.

Level of Service (LOS) – A measure of roadway congestion, ranging from A (free-flowing) to F (highly congested).

Liquefaction – The process of making or becoming liquid (soils).

Mitigation – Measures that avoid or substantially reduce the proposed project's significant environmental impacts by avoiding or minimizing the degree of impact, or rectifying or compensating for the impact after it occurs.

Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) – A molecule of one nitrogen and two oxygen atoms. Results usually from further oxidation of nitric oxide (NO) in the atmosphere. Ozone accelerates the conversion.

Nitrogen oxides (NO_x) – A gaseous mixture of nitric oxide (NO), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), and nitrous oxide (N₂O) that is formed when nitrogen (N₂) combines with oxygen (O₂).

Ozone (O₃) – A molecule of three oxygen atoms. Ozone is a colorless gas formed by a complex series of chemical and photochemical reaction of reactive organic gases, principally hydrocarbons, with the oxides of nitrogen, which is harmful to the public health, the biota, and some materials.

Particulate Matter (particulates) – Very fine sized solid matter or droplets, typically averaging one micron or smaller in diameter. Also called "aerosol."

ppm – Parts per million, a measure of the amount of one substance found in a second, which is the carrier.

Project – The whole of an action that has the potential for resulting in a physical change in the environment, directly or ultimately.

Riparian – Of or relating to wetlands adjacent to rivers and streams.

Ruderal – Growing where the natural vegetation cover has been disturbed.

Sensitive receptor – Land uses adjacent to or within proximity to the proposed project that could be impacted by construction, operation, and maintenance activities.

Significant impact – A substantial, or potentially substantial, adverse change in any of the physical conditions in the area affected by the proposed project, including land, air, water, minerals, flora, fauna, ambient noise, and objects of historical or aesthetic significance.

Siltation – The increased concentration of suspended sediments, and the increased accumulation of fine sediments on the bottoms of water bodies where they are undesirable.

Species – A taxonomic entity that can include recognized subspecies, varieties, population segments, or other genetically or geographically distinct units.

Standard Project Commitments (SPCs) – Mechanisms that have been incorporated into the proposed project design to avoid or reduce impacts from project construction and operation.

State Implementation Plan (SIP) – A document required periodically from each county by EPA that indicates the progress and the planning of the Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District for improving the quality of its air.

Stormwater runoff – Runoff from rain and snowmelt that flows over land or impervious surfaces and does not percolate into the ground. It accumulates debris, chemicals, sediment, or other pollutants that could adversely affect water quality.

Sulfur dioxide (SO₂) – A corrosive and poisonous gas produced from the complete combustion of sulfur in fuels.

Sulfur oxide (SO_x) – The group of compounds formed during combustion or thereafter in the atmosphere of sulfur compounds in the fuel, each having various levels of oxidation, ranging from two oxygen atoms for each sulfur atom to four oxygen atoms.

Terrestrial – Related to or living on land. Terrestrial biology deals with upland areas as opposed to shorelines or coastal habitats.

Viewshed – The landscape that can be directly seen under favorable atmospheric conditions, from a particular point/area or along a transportation corridor.

- Foreground View: 0 to 1 mile.
- Middleground View: 1 to 3 miles.
- Background View: 3 to 5 miles.

Visual contrast – Opposition or unlikeness of different forms, lines, colors, or textures in a landscape. Generally, increased visual contrast within foreground distances would be more noticeable to viewers than increased visual contrast within background distances.

Visual quality – The relative value of a landscape from a visual perception point of view.

Visual sensitivity – The concern by viewers with changes to visual quality. Visual sensitivity is generally higher in natural or unmodified landscapes.

Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) – Gas emissions from certain solids or liquids (e.g., paint, pesticides, building materials). VOCs include a variety of chemicals, some of which may have short- and long-term adverse health effects.

Watershed – The area contained within a drainage divide above a specified point on a stream.

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

H.2 Acronyms

AB	Assembly Bill
ACHP	Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
ACS	American Community Survey
ANF	Angeles National Forest
APE	Area of Potential Effect
ARB	Air Resources Board
ARPA	Archeological Resources Protection Act
AVAQMD	Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District
BEIG	Best environmental design practices
BGEPA	Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act
BMPs	Best Management Practices
CAA	Clean Air Act
CAAA	Clean Air Act Amendments
CAAQS	California Ambient Air Quality Standards
Cal/OSHA	California Office of Safety and Health Administration (
CalEPA	California Environmental Protection Agency
Cal-IPC	California Invasive Plant Council
CARB	California Air Resources Board
CBLUZ	Critical Biological Land-Use Zone
CCH	Consortium of California Herbaria
CCR	California Code of Regulations
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CEP	Certified Environmental Planner
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
CESA	California Endangered Species Act
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CGS	California Geological Survey
CI	Coccidioides immitis
CNDDB	California Natural Diversity Data Base
CNEL	Community Noise Equivalent Level
CO	Carbon Monoxide
CPRC	California Public Resources Code
CRHR	California Register of Historical Resources
CRPR	California Rare Plant Rank
CUP	Conditional Use Permit
CVC	California Vehicle Code
CWA	Clean Water Act

DFW	Department of Fish and Wildlife
DLC	Desired Landscape Character
DMV	Department of Motor Vehicles
DOI	Department of the Interior
DOT	Department of Transportation
DPM	Diesel particulate matter
DPR	Department of Pesticide Regulation
DTSC	Department of Toxic Substances Control
DWR	Department of Water Resources'
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EIS/EIR	Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EPS	Emissions Performance Standard
ESA	Endangered Species Act
GCC	Global climate change
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GWP	Global warming potential
HA	Hydrologic Areas
HCP	Habitat Conservation Plan
HSR	High Speed Rail
HSWA	Hazardous and Solid Waste Act
HU	Hydrologic Units
HWCL	Hazardous Waste Control Law
ICU	Intersection capacity utilization
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IWMB	Integrated Waste Management Board
LAC	Los Angeles County
LACDRP	Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning
LADRP	Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning
LOP	Limited operating period
LOS	Levels of service
LSA	Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
MDAB	Mojave Desert Air Basin
MDL	Method detection limits
MI	Management Indicator
MIS	Management Indicator Species
MM	Minor Modification
MPA	Master of Public Administration
MPP	Master of Public Policy
MURP	Master of Urban and Regional Planning
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NAGPRA	Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act
NAHC	Native American Heritage Commission
NCCP	Natural Community Conservation Planning
NCP	National Contingency Plan
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act

NFS	National Forest System
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NO	Nitric oxide
NOA	Notice of Availability
NOI	Notice of Intent
NOP	Notice of Preparation
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NPL	National Priorities List
NPPA	Native Plant Protection Act
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
NSR	New Source Review
OEHHA	Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment
OHV	Off-highway vehicle
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
PCB	Pesticides, polychlorinated biphenyl
PCE	Passenger car equivalency
PE	Professional Engineer
PM10	Respirable particulate matter
PM2.5	Fine particulate matter
PSD	Prevention of Significant Deterioration
PWD	Palmdale Water District
QR	Quarry and Reclamation
RCRA	Recovery Act of 1976
RL	Reporting limit
ROD	Record of Decision
ROWs	Rights-of-way
RP	Reclamation Plan
RPS	Renewable Portfolio Standard
RWQCBs	Regional Water Quality Control Boards
SARA	Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act
SCAB	South Coast Air Basin
SCCIC	South Central Coastal Information Center
SDWA	Safe Drinking Water Act
SEA	Significant Ecological Area
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
SIOs	Scenic Integrity Objectives
SIP	State Implementation Plan
SJVAB	San Joaquin Valley Air Basin
SMARA	Surface Mining and Reclamation Act
SMS	Scenery Management System
SPC	Standard Project Commitment
SUAs	Special-Use Authorizations
SWPPP	Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
TCP	Traditional cultural property
TE	Time Extension
TIS	Traffic Impact Studies

TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Load
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USEPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
USFS	USDA Forest Service
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
VOCs	Volatile organic compounds
WBD	Watershed Boundary Dataset
WDR	Waste discharge requirements
WMPHCP	West Mojave Plan Habitat Conservation Plan
WQO	Water Quality Order
WUI	Wildland/Urban Interface