

## **Appendix II**

### **Glossary of Terms and Acronyms**

## **List of Acronyms**

Ac-ft	Acre-feet
ACOE	Army Corps of Engineers
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
BMPs	Best Management Practices
Cal Poly	California Polytechnic State University
CCA	Critical Coastal Area
CCMP	Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CII	Commercial, Industrial, and Institutional
CIMIS	California Irrigation Management Information System
CRS	Community Rating System
CSA	County Service Area
CSD	Community Services District
CUWCC	California Urban Water Conservation Council
CWA	Clean Water Act
CWA 303(d)	Clean Water Action Section 303(d)
CWS	Community Water System
DBP	Disinfection byproduct
DHS	California Department of Health Services
DWR	California Department of Water Resources
DWSAP	Drinking Water Source Assessment and Protection
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
EJ	Environmental Justice
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FC&WCD	Flood Control and Water Conservation District
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
GAMA	Groundwater Ambient Monitoring Assessment
FY	Fiscal Year
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
HAAs	Haloacetic Acids
HCP	Habitat Conservation Plan
IESWTR	Interim Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule
IRWM	Integrated Regional Water Management
IWMA	Integrated Waste Management Authority
LCP	Local Coastal Plan
LID	Low Impact Development
MBNEP	Morro Bay National Estuary Program
MBNMS	Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Program
MCL	Maximum Contaminant Level

MCWRA	Monterey County Water Resources Agency
MEP	Maximum Extent Practicable
µg/L	Micrograms per liter (translates to parts per billion parts)
mg/L	Milligrams per liter (translates to parts per million parts)
MHI	Median Household Income
MMPs	Management Measures and Practices
MS4	Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System
MTBE	Methyl tertiary-butyl ether
MWP	Master Water Plan
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NO <sub>3</sub>	Nitrate
NFIP	National Flood Insurance Program
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NPL	National Priority List
NPS	Nonpoint Source Pollution
NRCS	Natural Resource Conservation Service
NTNCWS	Nontransient Non-Community Water System
O&M	Operations and Maintenance
PCA	Possible Contaminating Activities
PCBs	Polychlorinated Biphenyls
PDCA	Plan Do Check Act
PPB	Parts Per Billion
PWS	Public Water System
RCD	Resource Conservation District
RMS	Resource Management System
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SDWA	Safe Drinking Water Act
SDWIS	Safe Drinking Water information System
SLO	San Luis Obispo
SLOCOG	San Luis Obispo Council of Governments
SSO	Sanitary Sewer Overflows
SWA	Source Water Assessment
SWAMP	Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program
SWMP	Storm Water Management Program
SWP	State Water Project
SWP2	Storm Water Pollution Prevention
SWPPP	Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
TCR	Total Coliform Rule
TDS	Total Dissolved Solids
TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Load
TNCWS	Transient Non-Community Water System
TTHMs	Total Trihalomethanes
TWCM	Total Water Cycle Management
UCCE	University of California Cooperative Extension

UCSB	University of California at Santa Barbara
ULFT	Ultra Low Flush Toilet
UWMP	Urban Water Management Plan
URL	Urban Reserve Line
USEPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
USGS	United States Geological Survey
VRL	Village Reserve Line
WDRs	Waste Discharge Requirements
WPA	Water Planning Area
WRAC	Water Resource Advisory Committee
WMI	Watershed Management Initiative
WMP	Water Management Plan
WSS	Watershed Sanitary Survey
WTP	Water Treatment Plan
WWTP	Wastewater Treatment Plant

### **Definition of Terms**

**Adaptive Management** in terms of water resource management is a planning and implementation framework that allows ongoing monitoring data to be used to change course, modify policies and direction, and adaptively manage to optimize the value of the resource.

**Ahwahnee Principles** are a set of community principles developed by the Local Government Commission that provide guidelines for an alternative to urban sprawl and call for more resource efficient land use planning.

**Aquifer** means a geologic formation, group of formations, or portions of a formation capable of yielding significant quantities of groundwater to wells or springs.

**Best Management Practices (BMPs)** are schedules of activities, prohibitions or practices, maintenance procedures, and other management practices to prevent or reduce the pollution of “waters of the United States.” BMPs also include treatment requirements, operating procedures, and practices to control plant site runoff, spillage or leaks, sludge or waste disposal, or drainage from raw materials storage [see 40 CFR §122.2].

**Clean Water Act Section 303(d) list** refers to Section 303(d) of the 1972 Federal Clean Water Act which requires states to identify waterbodies that do not meet water quality objectives and are not supporting their beneficial uses. Each state must submit an updated list, called the 303(d) list, to the USEPA every two years. In addition to identifying the waterbodies that are not supporting beneficial uses, the list also identifies the pollutant or stressor causing impairment and establishes a priority for developing a control plan to address the impairment.

**Conjunctive use** refers to the combined use of surface and groundwater supplies.

**Detention Dam/Basin/Pond** Dams may be classified according to the broad function they serve, such as storage, diversion, or detention. Detention basins 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 which 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, allows 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 constructed to trap sediment are often called debris dams.

**Disadvantaged Community** as defined by the IRWM grant program guidelines is a community with an annual Median Household Income (MHI) that is less than 80% of the statewide annual MHI. Using Census 2000 data, 80% of the statewide MHI is \$37,994.

**District** refers to the San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District which was established in 1945 pursuant to Section 7205 of the Uncodified Water Act.

**Ecological process** is a series of steps leading to a result in the interplay between organisms and their environment.

**Environmental justice (EJ)** refers to the extent and likelihood of disproportionate costs and benefits to people of particular races, cultures, and or incomes as a consequence of a study plan.

**Environmental Demand** refers to amount of water needed to maintain a healthy habitat or ecosystem.

**Environmental water account** is a method of accounting for the water and financial assets that can be managed to provide protection for fishery resources beyond legally prescribed flow standards.

**Environmental water use** is water used for the purpose of sustaining or enhancing environmental resources such as fish habitat.

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

**Flood, 100-Year** is 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.

**Floodplain** is 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.

**Geographical information systems (GIS)** refers to a method of linking a database of information to a precise location on a map.

**Goal** refers to a desired end result generally after three or more years.

**Groundwater** means water below the land surface in a saturated zone.

**Groundwater banking** occurs when surface water is stored in groundwater basins in times of surplus, through recharge or injection, for withdrawal during shortages. Groundwater banking can also involve the use of available surface water in lieu of groundwater to enable recharge to occur and water levels and storage to recover.

**Groundwater basin** means a subsurface structure having the character of a basin with respect to the collection, retention, and outflow of water of an aquifer or system of aquifers, whether basin-shaped or not, that has reasonably well defined boundaries and more or less definite areas of recharge and discharge.

**Groundwater recharge** or replenishment involves pumping or percolating (natural or artificial) storm water runoff or imported water into an aquifer to replenish its supplies.

**Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)** is a planning document required as part of an application for an incidental take permit for one or more listed or unlisted species. HCPs include an assessment of the impacts likely to result from the proposed take, measures to monitor, mitigate, and minimize the impact on wildlife, procedures to deal with changed or unforeseen circumstances, and alternative actions.

**Impervious surface** is a surface that is incapable of being penetrated or passed through; an impermeable surface.

**Infiltration** means the downward entry of water into the surface of the soil.

**Land Use** is the occupation or utilization of land or water area for any human activity or any purpose defined in the General Plan.

**Low impact development (LID)** is the planning and engineering of a site to mimic the natural water cycle functions and watershed relationships. LID can be used to management storm water creatively and with less impact.

**Management Measures (MMs) and Management Measures and Practices (MMPs)** establish performance expectations and describe actions that can be taken to prevent or minimize nonpoint source pollution. Management Measures are economically achievable measures for the control of the addition of pollutants from existing and new categories and classes of nonpoint sources of pollution, which reflect the greatest degrees of pollutant reduction achievable through the application of the best available nonpoint

source pollution control practices, technologies, processes, siting criteria, operating methods, or alternatives.

**Maximum Extent Practicable (MEP)** is the technology based standard established by Congress in Clean Water Act Section 402(p)(3)(B)(ii) that municipal dischargers of storm water must meet. MEP standard is not specifically defined; rather it is an ever-evolving, flexible, and advancing concept, which considers technical and economic feasibility. MEP is generally a result of emphasizing pollution prevention and source control BMPs as the first line of defense in combination with structural and treatment methods, where appropriate serving as additional lines of defense.

**Minimum Control Measure** is a storm water program area that must be addressed (BMPs implemented to accomplish the program goal) by all regulated MS4s. The following six minimum control measures are required to be addressed by the regulated Small MS4s: Public Education and Outreach on Storm Water Impacts, Public Participation and Involvement, Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination, Construction Site Runoff Controls, Post-Construction Storm Water Management in New Development and Redevelopment, and Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations.

**Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s)** is “a conveyance or system of conveyances (including roads with drainage systems, municipal streets, catch basins, curbs, gutters, ditches, man-made channels, or storm drains): (i) Owned or operated by a state, city, town, borough, county, parish, district, association, or other public body (created by or pursuant to State law)...including special districts under State law such as a sewer district, flood control district or drainage district, or similar entity, or an Indian tribe or an authorized tribal organization, or a designated and approved management agency under Section 208 of the Clean Water Act that discharges into waters of the United States. (ii) Designed or used for collecting or conveying storm water; (iii) which is not a combined sewer; and (iv) which is not part of a Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW) as defined at 40 CFR §122.2.”

**Objective** refers to a specific and measurable target for accomplishment of a goal.

**Outfall** A point source at the point where a municipal separate storm sewer discharges to waters of the United States and does not include open conveyances connecting two municipal separate storm sewers, or pipes, tunnels or other conveyances which connect segments of the same stream or other waters of the United States and are used to convey waters of the United States. [see 40 CFR §122.26(b)(9)]

**Overdraft** is an undesirable condition where the amount of water withdrawn from a groundwater basin exceeds the amount that will replenish it over a long period of time.

**Pollutant** is any introduced gas, liquid, or solid that makes a resource unfit for its normal or usual purpose.

**Pollution** is the presence of matter or energy whose nature, location, or quantity produces undesired environmental effects.

**Pollution, Nonpoint Source (NPS)** means a diffuse discharge of pollutants throughout the natural environment. Nonpoint sources are less definable than point sources and usually cover broad areas of land, such as agricultural runoff.

**Pollution, Point Source** 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.

**Recycled water** is municipal and/or industrial wastewater treated to a sufficiently high level that it can be reused.

**Region** (for the purposes of the IRWM Grant Program) means a geographic area. The physical area, efficacy, and benefits derived from a regional plan are impacted by many variables (physical, political, environmental, societal, and economic) therefore no physical size or dimension will be prescribed for this term. Rather an IRWM Plan and associated applicant must define its region and explain why the geographic area encompassed is appropriate and yields effective, synergistic, efficient water management planning.”

**Regional Agency** means a public agency with statutory authority over land use of water management whose jurisdiction encompasses an area greater than the jurisdictional boundaries of any one local public agency.

**Regional Significance** means one or more of the following: 1) matters or values of national and state significance; 2) issues and/or effects that are of concern to substantial parts of the regional community; 3) values associated with natural and physical resources or any structure, place or feature which are rare or unique within the Region; 4) the existence of significant cross-boundary issues and cumulative effects, where resources or effects cross administrative boundaries; 5.) where coordination or integration of policies, actions or decision making is required; and 6) matters or effects which are of greater than local significance.

**Resource Management System (RMS)** is a land use program managed by the County of San Luis Obispo Planning and Building Department to help ensure that proposed development does not outpace available resources.

**Retention Basin/Retention Pond** (See "Detention Basin/Detention Pond.")

**Runoff** That portion of rain or snow that does not percolate into the ground and is discharged into streams.

**Sanitary Sewer** A system of subterranean conduits that carries refuse liquids or waste matter to a plant where the sewage is treated, as contrasted with storm drainage systems

(that carry surface water) and septic tanks or leech fields (that hold refuse liquids and waste matter on-site). (See "Septic System.")

**Seawater barrier** is a physical facility, method of operation, or groundwater injection technique designed to prevent the intrusion of saltwater into a body of freshwater.

**Seawater intrusion** occurs when a groundwater aquifer becomes contaminated by seawater (typically as part of a coastal basin). The seawater flows into the aquifer along a gradient created by excessive pumping where the groundwater surface falls below sea level.

**Smart growth** refers to development that serves the economy, the community, and the environment. Smart growth principles provide guidelines on how and where to accommodate new development. Smart growth principles include 1) mixed land uses; 2) compact building design; 3) walkable neighborhoods; 4) a range of housing opportunities and choices; 5) community and stakeholder collaboration; 6) communities with a sense of place; 7) predictable, fair, and cost-effective development decisions; 8) preservation of open spaces, farmland, natural beauty, and critical environmental areas; 9) a variety of transportation choices; and 10) development directed toward existing communities.

**Source Control BMP** means any schedule of activities, prohibitions of practices, maintenance procedures, managerial practices or operations practices that aim to prevent storm water pollution by reducing the potential for contamination at the source of pollution.

**Source Water Protection** means preventing pollution of lakes, rivers, streams, and groundwater that serve as drinking water sources. Wellhead protection is an example of source water protection for groundwater. Management of land around a reservoir used for drinking water is an example of source water protection for a surface water supply. Source water protection typically involves the following steps: 1) Delineating source water protection areas; 2) Identifying sources of contamination that may affect the delineated areas; 3) Implementing measures to manage these sources; and 4) Planning for the future.

**Stakeholder** is a person or group with an interest in the outcome of a policy or decision. Stakeholders typically represent different interests in collaborative policy processes and include those with financial "stakes" as well as those with policy or value interests.

**Storm Runoff** is surplus surface water generated by rainfall that does not seep into the earth and flows overland to flowing or stagnant bodies of water.

**Structural BMP** means any structural facility designed and constructed to mitigate the adverse impacts of storm water and urban runoff pollution (e.g. canopy, structural enclosure). The category may include both Treatment Control BMPs and Source Control BMPs.

**Supply reliability** is defined by the magnitude and frequency of delivery deficiencies in dry years and is a function of hydrology, system storage, and system demands.

**Sustainability** refers to management and planning actions, targeting a specified resource, that avoid complete depletion over a specified time horizon. (From the Draft California Water Plan, June 2005).

**Sustainable development** is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. (From the Brundtland Commission Report).

**Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)** is a means for recommending controls needed to meet water quality standards for a particular waterbody. Establishing a TMDL is an important step in watershed protection because it sets quantified goals for water quality that may then determine what actions are needed to restore or protect the health of a waterbody. More specifically, a TMDL identifies the maximum quantity of a particular pollutant that can be discharged into a waterbody without violating a water quality standard and allocates allowable loading amounts among the identified pollutant sources.

**Treatment Control BMP** means any engineered system designed to remove pollutants by simple gravity settling of particulate pollutants, filtration, biological uptake, media adsorption or any other physical, biological, or chemical process.

**Watershed** is 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 that drains into a lake, or reservoir. Watersheds are those land areas that catch rain or snow and drain to specific marshes, streams, rivers, lakes, or to ground water.

**Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC)** is a committee comprised of citizens, experts, and stakeholder representatives that was formed in the 1940's to advise the Board of Supervisors for the District on water resource issues.

**Water Planning Area (WPA)** is a logical planning area within the District based in large part on surface water hydrology and groundwater basins.

**Water transfers** are marketing arrangements that can include the permanent sale or lease of a water right by the water right holder or the sale or lease of a contractual right to a quantity of water.

**Water use efficiency** is the ratio of the volume of water consumed by a specific beneficial use as compared to the volume of water delivered.

**Water wheeling** is the transfer of water through unused capacity in a conveyance facility by an entity other than its owner.