

## Appendix E Glossary of Technical Terms

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<b>Area of Potential Effect (APE)</b>	The geographic area or areas within which an undertaking may directly or indirectly cause alterations in the character or use of historic properties, if any such properties exist. The term is used in the Section 106 compliance process under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).
<b>Best Management Practice (BMP)</b>	Any program, technology, process, operating method, measure or device that controls, prevents, removes or reduces pollution.
<b>Basin Plan</b>	A specific plan for control of water quality within one of the nine hydrologic basins of the State under the regulation of a Water Quality Control Board.
<b>California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR)</b>	A comprehensive listing of documented cultural resources that meet the criteria for a “historical resource” (defined in the California Administrative Code), maintained by the State Office of Historic Preservation. Any historic property determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places qualifies automatically for the CRHR.
<b>Cooperating Agency</b>	An agency, other than the lead agency, that has jurisdiction by law or other expertise, that is formally involved in a proposed project.
<b>Corridor</b>	A strip of land between two termini within which traffic, topography, environment, and other characteristics are evaluated for transportation purposes.
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	Project effects that are related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts.
<b>Decibel</b>	A numerical expression of the relative loudness of a sound.
<b>Effect</b>	Alteration to the characteristics of a historic property qualifying it for inclusion in, or eligibility for, the National Register of Historic Places.
<b>Encroachment (floodplain)</b>	An action within the limits of the 100-year floodplain.
<b>Endangered</b>	A plant or animal species that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

<b>Erosion</b>	The wearing away of the land surface by running water, wind, ice, or other geological agents.
<b>Federal Register</b>	A Federal publication that provides official notice of Federal administrative hearings and issuance of proposed and final Federal administrative rules and regulations.
<b>Finding of Effect (FOE)</b>	A document used by historians and archaeologists, in consultation with the SHPO, to present any of the following findings with respect to historic properties in an Area of Potential Effects: (1) no historic properties affected; (2) no adverse effect; or (3) adverse effect. These terms are defined in 36 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 800 (36 CFR 800).
<b>Floodplain (100-year)</b>	The area subject to flooding by a flood or tide that has a 1 percent chance of being exceeded in any given year.
<b>FONSI</b>	Finding of No Significant Effect, issued by FHWA upon approval of the NEPA review process
<b>Freeway</b>	A divided arterial highway with full control of access and with grade separations at intersections.
<b>Habitat</b>	The place or type of site where a plant or animal naturally or normally lives and grows.
<b>Hectare</b>	A unit of surface measure in the metric system, equal to 10,000 square meters.
<b>Historic Property</b>	Any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object included in, or eligible for inclusion in, the National Register of Historic Places maintained by the Secretary of the Interior.
<b>Historic Property Survey Report (HPSR)</b>	A document used by historians and archaeologists for various purposes related to compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. For example, the HPSR, which can include an Archaeological Survey Report (ASR) and/or other reports of cultural resources, may be used to request the SHPO's concurrence with determinations of eligibility or ineligibility for the National Register of Historic Places, or to document when there are no historic properties within the project's Area of Potential Effects or no historic properties affected.
<b>Initial Study (IS)</b>	Environmental review document prepared to comply with CEQA
<b>Initial Site Assessment (ISA)</b>	A Caltrans term for an initial study to determine hazardous waste issues on a project.

<b>Leq</b>	A unit used for evaluation of sound impacts, Leq is the measurement of the fluctuating sound level received by a receptor averaged over a time interval (usually 1 hour).
<b>Level of Service (LOS)</b>	A measurement of capacity of a roadway.
<b>Median</b>	The area of a divided highway that separates the traveled way for traffic in opposite directions.
<b>Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)</b>	A document that records the terms and conditions agreed upon to resolve the adverse effects of an undertaking on historic properties.
<b>Mitigation</b>	Compensation for an impact by replacement or provision of substitute resources or environments. Mitigation can include avoiding an impact by not taking a certain action, minimizing impacts by limiting the degree of an action, or rectifying an impact by repairing or restoring the affected environment.
<b>Most Likely Descendant (MLD)</b>	In California, the MLD is an Indian tribe or individual formally identified by the Native American Heritage Commission as being most likely descended from the deceased Native American(s) represented by human remains. The MLD’s role and responsibilities of are defined in Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.
<b>National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)</b>	Section 101 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to maintain a National Register of Historic Places composed of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture. In the context of Federal undertakings, properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the NRHP must be managed pursuant to Section 106 of the NHPA.
<b>Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC)</b>	In California, the NAHC consists of nine members appointed by the Governor with the consent of the Senate. The NAHC is authorized and charged to preserve and protect Native American cemeteries, sacred sites, and traditional cultural properties. One function of the NAHC is to identify the Most Likely Descendant whenever Native American human remains are discovered, except on tribal or Federal land, in California.
<b>Negative Declaration (ND)</b>	Issued upon approval of the environmental review process under CEQA

<b>NPDES</b>	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System. A permit regulated by the Regional Water Quality Control Board that is required if more than 0.4 ha (1 acre) of original ground is graded. One condition of this permit is that the contractor must submit a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), which is similar to the Water Pollution Control Plan required by Caltrans' Standard Specification 7-1.01G.
<b>Practicable</b>	An action that is capable of being done after taking into consideration cost, existing technology and logistics in light of overall project purposes.
<b>Receptors</b>	Term used in air quality and noise studies that refers to houses or businesses that could be affected by a project.
<b>Regulatory agency</b>	An agency that has jurisdiction by law.
<b>Responsible agency</b>	A public agency other than the Lead Agency that has responsibility for carrying out or approving a project under CEQA.
<b>Right-of-way</b>	A general term denoting land, property, or interest therein, usually in a strip, acquired for or devoted to transportation purposes.
<b>Riparian</b>	Pertaining to the banks and other adjacent terrestrial (as opposed to aquatic) environs of freshwater bodies, watercourses, estuaries, and surface-emergent aquifers, whose transported freshwater provides soil moisture sufficient in excess of that available through local precipitation to potentially support the growth of vegetation.
<b>RTP</b>	Regional Transportation Plan, prepared by the regional agency responsible for transportation planning and funding. In Contra Costa County, the RTP is prepared by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission to identify transportation improvement priorities.
<b>Section 106</b>	This section of the National Historic Preservation Act requires Federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings on historic properties and afford the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation a reasonable opportunity to comment on such undertakings.

<b>Special-status species</b>	Plant or animal species that are either (1) federally listed, proposed for or a candidate for listing as threatened or endangered; (2) bird species protected under the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act; (3) protected under state endangered species laws and regulations, plant protection laws and regulations, Fish and Game codes, or species of special concern listings and policies; (4) recognized by national, state, or local environmental organizations (e.g., California Native Plant Society).
<b>State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO)</b>	The official appointed or designated pursuant to Section 101(b)(1) of the National Historic Preservation Act to administer the State historic preservation program. In California, the SHPO manages the Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) and serves as executive secretary of the State Historical Resources Commission (SHRC).
<b>State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)</b>	The State Transportation Improvement Program, updated every 2 years, is the California Transportation Commission’s priorities for improvements on and off the state highway system.
<b>Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP)</b>	A Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan is prepared to evaluate sources of discharges and activities that may affect storm water runoff, and implement measures or practices to reduce or prevent such discharges.
<b>Threatened</b>	A species that is likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future in the absence of special protection.
<b>Underground Storage Tanks (USTs)</b>	Tanks that typically store fuel or liquid chemicals underground.
<b>Undertaking</b>	A project, activity, or program funded in whole or in part under the direct or indirect jurisdiction of a Federal agency, including those carried out by or on behalf of a Federal agency; those carried out with Federal financial assistance; those requiring a Federal permit, license or approval; and those subject to State or local regulation administered pursuant to a delegation or approval by a Federal agency. Federal agencies must ensure that their undertakings comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.
<b>Waters of the United States</b>	As defined by the USACE in 33 Code of Federal Regulations 328.3(a): <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. All waters that are currently used, or were used in the past, or may be susceptible to use in interstate or foreign commerce, including all waters that are subject to the ebb and flow of the tide;</li></ol>

2. All interstate waters including interstate wetlands;
3. All other waters such as intrastate lakes, rivers, streams (including intermittent streams), mudflats, sandflats, wetlands, sloughs, prairie potholes, wet meadows, playa lakes, or natural ponds, the use, degradation or destruction of which could affect interstate or foreign commerce, including any such waters:
  - (i) Which are or could be used by interstate or foreign travelers for recreational or other purposes; or
  - (ii) From which fish or shellfish are or could be taken and sold in interstate or foreign commerce; or
  - (iii) Which are used or could be used for industrial purposes by industries in interstate commerce;
4. All impoundment of waters otherwise defined as waters of the United States under this definition;
5. Tributaries of waters identified in paragraphs 1-4;
6. The territorial seas;
7. Wetlands adjacent to waters (waters that are not wetlands themselves) identified in paragraphs 1-6.

**Wetlands**

When used in a formal context, such as in this IS/EA, wetlands are areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances will 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(b)].