

## **Glossary**

**Adaptive management.** A method for examining alternative strategies for meeting measurable biological goals and objectives, and then if necessary, adjusting future conservation management actions according to what is learned. (65 FR 106, June 1, 2000)

**Affected environment.** Existing biological, physical, social, and economic conditions of an area subject to change, both directly and indirectly, as a result of a proposed human action.

**Best Management Practice.** Any program, technology, process, siting criterion, operating method, measure, or device that controls, prevents, removes, or reduces pollution.

**Biological assessment.** To facilitate compliance with section 7(a)(2), Federal agencies must prepare a BA, pursuant to section 7(c)(1) that identifies the likely effects of the Federal action on 8 threatened and endangered species.

**Biological opinion (BO).** The document stating the opinion of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and/or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service as to whether or not a federal action is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat (50 CFR 402.02). A BO is one of the decision documents of a consultation under Section 7 of the federal Endangered Species Act.

**CNEL Community Noise Equivalent Level.** A measure of the 25 cumulative noise exposure in a community, with a 5 dB penalty added to evening (7:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M.) and a 10 dB addition to nocturnal (10:00 P.M. to 7:00 28 A.M.) noise levels.

**Conservation measure.** A management action that, when implemented, will partially or wholly achieve HCP/NCCP objectives for covered species, vegetation communities, biodiversity, or ecosystem function.

**Covered species.** Those species addressed in the Plan for which conservation measures will be implemented and for which the permittee seeks authorization for take under Section 10 of the federal Endangered Species Act and Section 2081 of the California Endangered Species Act.

**Critical habitat.** An area designated as critical habitat by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service pursuant to the federal Endangered Species Act. Critical habitat areas are specific geographic areas, whether occupied by listed species or not, that are determined to be essential for the conservation and management of listed species, and that have been formally described and designated in the Federal Register.

**Cultural resources.** Building, site, district, structure, or object significant in history, architecture, archeology, culture, or science.

**dB decibel.** a unit for measuring relative amplitude of sound.

**dBA A-weighted sound.** a measure of sound amplitude which gives greater weight to the frequencies of sound to which the human ear is most sensitive.

**Ecosystem.** A community of organisms and their physical environment interacting as an ecological unit.

**Endangered Species Act.** The Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 26 1531-1544), as amended, under section 9, provides for the prohibition of “take” of any fish or wildlife species listed as threatened or endangered under the ESA unless specifically authorized by regulation.

**Geographic Information System (GIS).** Computer-based mapping technology that manipulates geographic data in digital layers and enables one to conduct a wide array of environmental analyses.

**Habitat.** The environmental conditions that support occupancy of a given organism in a specified area (Hall et al. 1997). In scientific and lay publications, habitat is defined in many different ways and for many different purposes. For the purpose of the Plan, habitat is defined as the specific places where the environmental conditions (i.e., physical and biological conditions) required to support occupancy by individuals or populations of a given species are present. Habitat may be occupied (individuals or population of the species are, or have recently been, present) or unoccupied.

**Habitat Conservation Plan.** Per section 10(a)(2)(A) of the ESA, a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) is a planning document that 21 is a mandatory component of an incidental take permit application. An HCP specifies, among other things, the impacts that are likely to result from the taking and the measures the permit applicant will undertake to minimize and mitigate such impacts.

**Habitat creation.** The establishment of a vegetation community in an area that did not previously support it. For example, stock ponds can be created in areas that previously did not support them by grading and installing a check dam.

**Habitat enhancement.** The improvement of an existing degraded vegetation community. Enhancement involves improving one or more ecological factors, such as species richness, species diversity, overall vegetative cover, or wildlife value. Enhancement activities typically occur on substrates that are largely intact.

**Habitat restoration.** Restoration is the establishment of a vegetation community in an area that historically supported it, but no longer supports it because of the loss of one or more required ecological factors. Restoration may involve altering the substrate to improve a site's ability to support the historic vegetation community.

**Harass.** An intentional or negligent act or omission that creates the likelihood of injury to wildlife by annoying it to such an extent as to significantly disrupt normal behavioral patterns which include, but are not limited to, breeding, feeding, or sheltering (50 CFR 17.3).

**Harm.** An act that actually kills or injures wildlife. Such an act may include significant habitat modification or degradation where it kills or injures wildlife by significantly impairing essential behavioral patterns, including breeding, feeding, or sheltering (50 CFR 17.3).

**Hydrology.** The movement of surface and subsurface water flows in a given area. The hydrology of an area is intimately connected with its precipitation, soils, and topography.

**Important Farmland** As defined by the USDA NRCS (formerly the Soil Conservation Service), Important Farmlands include Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, and Farmland of Local Importance. The categorization of farmland is based upon a soil classification system, which accounts for the physical and chemical characteristics of the land and the suitability of the land for producing crops. Important Farmlands are afforded special protection 1 due to their importance to agricultural production.

**Incidental take.** Any taking otherwise prohibited, if such taking is incidental to, and not the purpose of, the carrying out of an otherwise lawful activity (50 CFR 17.3).

**Ldn.** The Day/Night Average Sound Level (Ldn) is essentially the same as CNEL, with the exception that the evening time period is dropped and all occurrences during this 3-hour period are grouped into the daytime period.

**Land-cover type.** The dominant feature of the land surface discernible from aerial photographs and defined by vegetation, water, or human uses.

**Land-use designation.** The designation, by parcel, in an adopted city or county General Plan of the allowable uses.

**Lead agency.** A lead agency is an agency initiating and overseeing the preparation of an environmental impact report or environmental impact statement.

**Leq.** Leq is an energy-equivalent sound/noise descriptor that is described in terms of an average level that has the same acoustical energy as the summation of all the time-varying events. The most common averaging period is hourly, but Leq can describe any series of noise events of arbitrary duration

**National Register of Historic Places.** The nation's official list of cultural resources worthy of preservation. Authorized under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Register is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect our historic and archeological resources. Properties listed in the Register include districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that are significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture.

**No-take species.** Species for which take is not authorized under this HCP/NCCP.

**PM10.** Particulate matter less than 10 microns in mean diameter.

**Permittees.** Those entities requesting a Section 10(a)(1)(B) incidental take permit from USFWS and a take permit under the NCCPA from CDFG for the species and activities covered in the HCP/NCCP.

**Preconstruction surveys.** Surveys conducted for certain biological resources immediately prior to construction to ensure that species and habitat avoidance and minimization measures can be effectively implemented during construction of covered projects or implementation of covered activities.

**Preserves.** Preserves are discrete areas of conserved habitats managed as single units under the HCP/NCCP.

**Preserve System.** All HCP/NCCP preserves considered collectively.

**Riparian habitat.** Vegetation associated with river, stream, or lake banks and floodplains.

**Ruderal lands.** Highly disturbed lands.

**Suitable habitat.** Habitat that exhibits the characteristics necessary to support a given species.

**Take.** According to the federal Endangered Species Act (Section 3[18]), *take* means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect,

or to attempt to engage in any such conduct. According to the California Endangered Species Act (Section 86 of the California Fish and Game Code), *take* means to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill.

**Threatened species** A species or subspecies that is likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future.

**Waters of the U.S.** Per the Clean Water Act, “Waters of the U.S.” include: (1) all waters that may be susceptible to use in interstate or foreign commerce; (2) all interstate waters