

---

## 12. GLOSSARY AND ABBREVIATIONS

---

### 12.1 GLOSSARY

**ACTIVE FAULT:** A fault that has moved recently and which is likely to move again. For planning purposes, an "active fault" is usually defined as one that shows movement within the last 11,000 years and can be expected to move within the next 100 years.

**A-WEIGHTED SOUND LEVEL (dBA):** The sound level measured on an instrument containing an "A" Filter, which electronically simulates the frequency response of the human ear under an average intensity of sound.

**ADVERSE:** A term used to describe unfavorable, harmful, or detrimental environmental condition changes.

**AMBIENT NOISE:** The background noise associated with a given environment, being usually a composite of sounds from many sources near and far.

**AQUIFER:** A natural underground formation that is saturated with water, and from which water can be withdrawn.

**AREA EMPLOYMENT:** The number of jobs provided in one area, including self-employment jobs. Such jobs can be filled by residents of the subject area or persons commuting from another area of residence.

**ASSESSMENT:** Determination of the nature, amount, importance, or value of an environmental condition change.

**ASSIGNABLE SQUARE FEET (ASF):** A physical planning term referring to the amount of floor space in a building that is usable by programs. ASF does not include hallways, bathrooms, or floor space used by heating, ventilating, and air conditioning equipment.

**AVERAGE DAILY TRAFFIC:** The number of vehicles passing a given point on a road going in a given direction during a 24-hour period.

**BACKGROUND GROWTH:** Anticipated residential growth within the region under study independent of project-related growth.

**BACKGROUND NOISE:** See Ambient Noise.

**BASELINE:** The existing environmental condition plus Category 1 - Approved Development in the absence of project development.

**BASE YEAR:** For the purpose of this DEIR, base year is 1985.

**CLAYPAN:** A layer of fine grained-soil with very low permeability.

**CLEAN FILL:** Dirt or similar material used to cover solid wastes at a landfill activity.

**COMMUNITY NOISE EQUIVALENT LEVEL (CNEL):** The CNEL represents the average continuous noise level over a 24-hour period, with special weighting factors applied to noise events during the night time (10 p.m. to 7 a.m.), the evening (7 p.m. to 10 p.m.), and the daytime (7 a.m. to 7 p.m.).

**COMPACTED VOLUME:** The volume of solid wastes after compaction by collection trucks, as opposed to the loose, or un-compacted volume of wastes in dumpsters.

**CRITERION:** A standard, rule, or test by which a judgment can be formed.

**CRITICAL FACILITY:** Includes facilities housing or serving many people or otherwise posing unusual hazards in case of damage from or malfunction during an earthquake, such as hospitals, fire, police, and emergency service facilities, utility "lifeline" facilities, such as water, electricity, and gas supply, sewage disposal, and communications and transportation facilities.

**CUMULATIVE IMPACT:** Environmental impact of the project under study plus background growth.

**DAY-NIGHT AVERAGE SOUND LEVEL ( $L_{dn}$ ):** The A-weighted average sound level in decibels during a 24-hour period with a 10 dB weighting applied to nighttime sound levels (10 p.m. to 7 a.m.). This exposure method is similar to the CNEL, but deletes the evening time period (7 p.m. to 10 p.m.) as a separate factor.

**DECIBEL:** A unit for expressing the relative intensity (loudness) of sounds. The decibel is the logarithm of the ratio of the intensity of a given sound to the faintest sound discernible by the human ear.

**DEGRADATION:** The reduction of environmental quality in an area through a lessening of diversity, the creation of growth anomalies, or the supplanting of native species by non-native plant and animal species.

**DESIGN CAPACITY:** The capacity at which a water distribution pipe, pump or reservoir, or a wastewater pipe or treatment plant is intended to operate.

**DROUGHT-TOLERANT:** An adjective used to describe any plant species that is capable of surviving with little or no water for extended periods.

**DWELLING UNIT:** One or more habitable rooms that can be occupied by one family with facilities for living, sleeping, cooking, and dining.

**ENDANGERED:** A species or subspecies of plant or animal whose prospects of survival and reproduction are in immediate jeopardy.

**EROSION:** Process by which material is removed from the earth's surface (including: weathering, dissolution, abrasion, and transportation).

**ESTIMATE:** A statement regarding future conditions based on non-mathematical analysis.

**FAULT:** A fracture in the earth's crust forming a boundary between rock masses that have shifted.

**FORECAST:** A statement regarding future conditions based on non-linear numerical assumptions.

**FOOTPRINT:** The ground area covered by a building.

**GRADING:** Alteration of existing slope and shape of the ground surface.

**GRAVITY-FED:** An adjective used to describe a water distribution or wastewater collection system that relies on gravity to move the fluids through pipelines.

**GREYWATER:** Wastewater that does not carry human or animal wastes, which may be used for irrigation purposes.

**GROSS SQUARE FEET (GSF):** Total space within a building.

**GROUND FAILURE:** Mudslide, landslide, liquefaction, or the seismic compaction of soils.

**GROUNDWATER:** Water beneath the surface of the earth.

**HALOGENATED:** Substance treated or combined with fluorine, chlorine, bromine, iodine, or astatine.

**HAZARDOUS BUILDING:** A building that may be hazardous to life in the event of an earthquake because it:

- (1) Was constructed prior to the adoption and enforcement of local codes requiring earthquake resistant design of buildings;
- (2) Is constructed of un-reinforced masonry; or,
- (3) Exhibits any one of the following characteristics:
  - o Exterior parapets and ornamentation that may fall on passers-by;
  - o Exterior walls that are not anchored to the floors, roof, or foundation;
  - o Sheeting on roofs or floors incapable of withstanding lateral loads;
  - o Large openings in walls that may cause damage from torsional forces; or,
  - o Lack of an effective system to resist lateral forces.

**HAZARDOUS MATERIAL:** A material or form of energy that could cause injury or illness to persons, livestock, or the natural environment.

**HERBICIDE:** A substance used to destroy plants, especially weeds.

**HOUSEHOLD:** A group of persons living together who may or may not be related.

**IGNEOUS ROCK:** Rock formed by the solidification of molten or partially molten material from within the earth.

**IMPERVIOUS SURFACE:** Ground surface that cannot be penetrated by water. Includes paved and compacted surfaces, as well as those covered by buildings.

**INACTIVE FAULT:** A fault which shows no evidence of movement in recent geologic time and no potential for movement in the relatively near future.

**IN-PLACE VOLUME:** The volume of solid wastes at the densities achieved in a landfill, using earthmoving equipment.

**INFILTRATION:** The introduction of underground water, such as groundwater, into wastewater collection systems. Infiltration results in increased wastewater flow levels.

**INFLOW:** Surface water, such as rainfall runoff, that enters a wastewater collection system through manhole covers and joints or cracks in pipes. Inflow results in increased wastewater flow levels.

**INFRASTRUCTURE:** Permanent utility installations, including roads, water supply lines, sewage collection pipes, and power and communications lines.

**INTERSECTION CAPACITY:** The maximum number of vehicles that has a reasonable expectation of passing through an intersection in one direction during a given time period under prevailing roadway and traffic conditions.

**INVERSION LAYER:** A state in which the air temperature increases with increasing altitude, holding surface air down along with its pollutants.

**ISSUE:** A point or item of discussion focusing on environmental questions germane to a proposed action, used as the structuring unit in this environmental impact assessment.

**KILOWATT:** A measure of the rate of electrical flow equal to one thousand watts.

**KILOWATT-HOUR:** A measure of a quantity of electrical consumption equal to the power of one kilowatt acting for one hour.

**LABOR FORCE:** Residents of working age who are employed or seeking employment.

**LANDFILLING:** A procedure for the disposal of solid or hazardous wastes. The wastes are placed in a designated dumping site and usually covered with dirt or other fill materials.

**LANDSLIDE:** Any downslope mass movement of rock or soil, including rock falls, earth flows, and landslides in the technical sense (a soil mass that retains its essential internal arrangement and becomes disjointed from its subsurface interface).

**LEVEL OF SERVICE:** A measure of the mobility characteristics of an intersection, as determined by vehicle delay and a secondary factor, volume-to-capacity ratio. A volume-to-capacity ratio of less than 0.600 corresponds to level of service "A," while a ratio of 1.00 and above corresponds to level of service "F."

**LIQUEFACTION:** A geologic phenomenon in which surface and near-surface materials (soils, alluvium, etc.) behave like a liquid during seismic shaking.

**MEAN:** Sum of a group of numerical values divided by the number of values - also known as "average."

**MEDIAN:** The middle value in a set of figures arranged in order of magnitude.

**METAMORPHIC ROCK:** A geologic formation that is transformed from sedimentary depositions by contact with heat from intrusion of molten material.

**MAXIMUM CREDIBLE EARTHQUAKE:** The largest Richter magnitude (M) seismic event that appears to be reasonably capable of occurring under the conditions of the presently known geological framework. In the Bay Area, M8.3 is the maximum credible

earthquake for the San Andreas fault, M7.5 for the Hayward and Calaveras faults, and M7.0 for the Rodgers Creek and Green Valley-Concord faults.

**MIDDEN:** A refuse heap, especially of a prehistoric habitation.

**MITIGATION MEASURE:** Action taken to reduce or eliminate environmental impacts.

**MOBILE SOURCES:** A source of air pollution that is related to transportation vehicles, such as automobiles or buses.

**MODAL SPLIT:** The distribution of commuters among various transportation modes (single-occupant vehicles, carpools, public transit, etc.).

**NOISE:** Annoying, harmful, or unwanted sound.

**ONCOGENIC:** Tending to cause the formation of tumors.

**OPEN LANDSCAPE:** A landscape with vegetation no taller than eye level - this generally refers to meadows and low brush.

**OVERFLOW:** A condition where effluent completely fills a wastewater line, rises into a manhole shaft and spills onto the surrounding street or ground surface. Line capacity is exceeded.

**PARKLAND LANDSCAPE:** A landscape in which signs of active management are apparent. Little or no understory vegetation or dead wood is found on the forest floor. Lower tree limbs may be trimmed. May include mowing of non-irrigated grassland.

**PASSIVE SOLAR DESIGN:** The use of non-mechanical architectural features and landscaping to control solar heat gain.

**PEAK DRY-WEATHER FLOW:** Wastewater flows consisting of sanitary flow and groundwater infiltration. The period over which dry weather flows are measured is June through September.

**PEAK HOUR:** In reference to public services infrastructure or transportation systems, the hour during which the greatest use occurs.

**PEAK WET-WEATHER FLOW:** Total wastewater flow, consisting of sanitary flow, inflow, and infiltration.

**PERCENT SLOPE:** A common way of expressing the slope of terrain, which is derived by dividing the change in elevation by the horizontal distance traversed. A 45-degree slope can thus be expressed as a 100-percent slope.

**PERCOLATION:** Downward movement of groundwater through soil and bedrock.

**PERFORMANCE STANDARDS:** An adopted set of criteria by which the operation of a system can be rated.

**POTENTIALLY ACTIVE FAULT:** (1) A fault that last moved within the Quaternary Period before the Holocene Epoch (the last 2,000,000 to 11,000 years); (2) a fault which, because it is judged to be capable of ground rupture or shaking, poses an unacceptable risk for a proposed structure.

**PROJECTION:** A statement regarding future conditions based on linear extrapolations of past and present conditions.

**QUATERNARY:** The period of geologic time in the Cenozoic era from the Tertiary through the present.

**RADIOISOTOPE:** A natural or artificially created radioactive form of a chemical element. Typically used in medical therapy and biological research.

**RARE:** A condition in which a species or subspecies, although not currently threatened with extinction, exists in such small numbers throughout its range that it may be endangered if the quality of its environment worsens.

**REACTIVE ORGANIC GASES:** Classes of hydrocarbons (olefins, substituted aromatics, and aldehydes) that are likely to react with ozone and nitrogen dioxide in the atmosphere to form photochemical smog.

**RECYCLING:** Any of a variety of processes whereby waste is separated for reuse or reprocessing into a useful form.

**REGIONAL EMPLOYMENT:** The number of jobs provided in a region. This differs from the number of employed residents in a region to the degree that residents commute to jobs out of the region and to the degree that non-residents fill jobs provided in the region.

**RETROFIT:** Replacement of existing fixtures with new or modified fixtures to improve efficiency.

**RICHTER SCALE:** A logarithmic scale developed in 1935/36 by Dr. Charles F. Richter and Dr. Benno Gutenberg to measure earthquake magnitude by the amount of energy released, as opposed to earthquake intensity as determined by local effects on people, structures, and earth materials.

**RIGHT LATERAL:** The movement of one side of a fault relative to the other is toward the right. The western side of the Hayward fault is moving north while the eastern side is moving south.

**RIPRAP:** A loose assemblage of broken rock or concrete, often used to prevent erosion.

**SAFE YIELD:** In reference to water supply, the combined yield of all available water sources during the worst drought year on record.

**SANITARY FLOW:** That portion of wastewater flow that is generated by domestic, industrial, and commercial customers, as distinct from inflow and infiltration.

**SECONDARY EMPLOYMENT:** Combined indirect and induced employment.

**SEDIMENTARY ROCK:** Rock formed from sediment or transported rock fragments.

**SEDIMENTATION:** Process by which material suspended in water is deposited in a body of water.

**SEICHE:** An earthquake-induced wave in a lake, reservoir, or harbor.

**SODIUM-VAPOR LIGHTS:** Electric lamps containing a small amount of sodium and neon gases. These lamps are more efficient than conventional street lighting.

**SPOILS:** Rock and soil removed during excavation.

**STATIONARY SOURCE:** A source of air pollution that is not mobile, such as a heating plant or an exhaust stack from a laboratory.

**SUBSIDENCE:** The gradual, local settling or sinking of the earth's surface with little or no horizontal motion. (Subsidence is usually the result of gas, oil, or water extraction, hydrocompaction, or peat oxidation, and not the result of a landslide or slope failure.)

**SURCHARGE:** A condition where effluent completely fills a wastewater line and rises into a manhole shaft, but does not overflow onto the surrounding street or ground surface. Line capacity is exceeded.

**SURFACE RUPTURE:** A break in the ground's surface and associated deformation resulting from the movement of a fault.

**SURFACE WATER:** Water in lakes, streams or rivers, as distinct from subsurface groundwater.

**THERM:** The amount of energy necessary to raise 100,000 pounds of water one degree Fahrenheit.

**TOTAL SUSPENDED PARTICULATE MATTER:** A particle of solid or liquid matter, including soot, dust, aerosols, fumes, and mist.

**TRANSITION LANDSCAPE:** A landscape that forms the border between a closed landscape and an open landscape.

**TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT:** A program for encouraging alternatives to private automobile use, such as increased reliance on public transit, carpooling, and bicycles.

**TRUNK LINE:** A primary sewage collection pipeline that collects wastewater from smaller feeder lines.

**TSUNAMI:** A wave, commonly called a tidal wave, caused by an underwater seismic disturbance, such as sudden faulting, landslide, or volcanic activity.

**UNEMPLOYMENT RATE:** The number of persons of working age who are actually seeking employment, divided by the number of persons in the labor force.

**UNINCORPORATED AREA:** Areas that are not within the bounds of an incorporated city.

**VACANCY RATE:** The number of habitable housing units that are vacant for rent or sale divided by the total number of habitable housing units.

**VEGETATION CLEARING:** The removal of all vegetation in an area.

**VEGETATION COMMUNITY:** A group of plant species commonly occurring together in roughly similar proportions.

**VIEWSHED:** The area that can be seen from a specified location.

**VOLUME-TO-CAPACITY RATIO:** In reference to public services or transportation, ratio of peak hour use to capacity.

**WARRANTED:** A condition under which a given action would be justified based on the relevant criteria.

**WATERCOURSE:** Path followed by surface water flow; shown on U.S. Geological Service maps as solid or dashed blue lines.

**WATERSHED:** The area of a landscape from which surface runoff flows to a given point.

**WILDLAND FIRES:** Fires occurring in a non-urban, natural area which contains uncultivated lands, timber, range, watershed, brush, or grasslands.

**WILDLAND LANDSCAPE:** A landscape in which no signs of active management are apparent. Understory vegetation is noticeable and dead and decaying wood is found on the forest floor.

**WILDLIFE CORRIDORS:** A natural corridor, such as an undeveloped ravine, that is frequently used by wildlife to travel from one area to another.

**YIELD:** In relation to surface water supply facilities, the "safe yield" is the amount of water delivered by that facility in the worst drought on record. In relation to subsurface water obtainable by wells, the yield is the average annual amount of water delivered by that well.

## 12.2 ABBREVIATIONS

**ABAG:** Association of Bay Area Governments

**AC-FT/YR:** Acre-feet (of water) per year

**ADT:** Average Daily Traffic

**ADWF:** Average Dry Weather Flow

**AFDC:** Assistance to Families with Dependent Children

**ASF:** Assignable Square Feet (or "Footage")

**BAAQMD:** Bay Area Air Quality Management District

**BIASP:** Bethel Island Area Specific Plan

**Caltrans:** California Department of Transportation

**CARB:** California Air Resources Board

**CCCWD:** Contra Costa County Water District

**CDBG:** Contra Costa County Community Development Block Grant

**CEQA:** California Environmental Quality Act

**CFP:** California Fully Protected Species as designated by California Fish and Game Code

**CFR:** Code of Federal Regulations

**CHAP:** California State Comprehensive Homeless Assistance Program

**CIAP:** Comprehensive Improvement Assistance Program

**CNEL:** Community Noise Equivalent Level

**CNPS:** California Native Plant Society

**dB:** Decibel

**DEIR:** Draft Environmental Impact Report

**DGP:** Draft General Plan of Contra Costa County

**DHS:** California Department of Health Services

**DRC:** Design Review Committee

**EBMUD:** East Bay Municipal Utilities District

**EDD:** California State Employment Development Department

**EIR:** Environmental Impact Report -- A public document prepared under CEQA used by a governmental agency to analyze the significant environmental effects of a proposed project, to identify alternatives, and to disclose possible ways to reduce or avoid possible environmental damage.

**EPA:** U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

**FAR:** Floor Area Ratio

**FEMA:** Federal Emergency Management Agency

**FHA:** Federal Housing Administration

**FmHa:** Farmers Home Administration

**GPD:** Gallons per Day

**GPM:** Gallons per Minute

**GSF:** Gross Square Feet

**HCD:** California Department of Housing and Community Development

**HUD:** U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

**I/I:** Inflow and Infiltration

**IOC:** Internal Operations Committee, Contra Costa County

**kW:** Kilowatt

**kWh:** Kilowatt-Hour

**LAFCO:** Local Agency Formation Commission

**L<sub>dn</sub>:** Day-night Average Sound Levels

**LIHTC:** Low Income Housing Tax Credits

**MCC:** Mortgage Credit Certificates

**MGD:** Million Gallons per Day

**MOU:** Memorandum of Understanding

**MRB:** Contra Costa Mortgage Revenue Bond Program

**NAAQS:** National Ambient Air Quality Standards

**NEPA:** National Environmental Policy Act

**NOP:** Notice of Preparation, as required by CEQA

**NO<sub>x</sub>:** Oxides of Nitrogen

**ORU:** Organized Research Unit

**OSHA:** Occupational Safety and Health Administration (Federal)

**PG&E:** Pacific Gas and Electric Company

**PLAM:** Price Level Adjusted Mortgage

**ROG:** Reactive Organic Gases

**RRP:** Federal Rental Rehabilitation Program

**RWQCB:** Regional Water Quality Control Board

**SCS:** Soil Conservation Service

**SHURP:** Special Housing and Urban Renewal Program

**SRO:** Single Resident Occupancy Hotel

**SSC:** Species of Special Concern as designated by California Department of Fish and Game

**RCEB:** Regional Center of the East Bay for Persons with Developmental Disabilities

**TAC:** Toxic Air Contaminants

**THC:** Total Hydrocarbons

**TKN:** Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen

**TOG:** Total Organic Gases

**TSP:** Total Suspended Particulate Matter

**TSM:** Transportation Systems Management

**ULL:** Urban Limit Line

**USGS:** U.S. Geologic Survey

**V/C:** Volume-to-Capacity Ratio