

Chapter 6

Glossary

Abutments

The part of a structure that supports weight or withstands lateral pressure

Alluvium

Materials deposited by running water

Ambient air quality

The condition of the air in the surrounding environment

Anchor tenant

A principal tenant, leasing the largest site

Aquitard

Low permeability layer that allows leakage to occur

Bedload

Material in movement along stream bottom or, if wind is moving agency, along surface. Contrast with material carried in suspension or solution.

Biogenic

Describing changes in the environment resulting from the activities of living organisms

Biota

The animal and plant life of a particular region.

Blind channel slough

Connected to a river channel but only on one end; may be an ephemeral or seasonal wetland or may be open water

Carbon monoxide

A colorless, odorless, extremely poisonous gas formed by incomplete combustion of carbon or any carbonaceous material

Cemented alluvium

Materials deposited by running water that have become hardened and impenetrable

Confined Aquifer

Geologic formation that is saturated and transmits large quantities of water, but is bounded by an impermeable layer

Conforming uses

Uses of land that are in accordance with the applicable land-use regulations

Criteria pollutants

The 1970 amendments to the Clean Air Act required EPA to set National Ambient Air Quality Standards for certain pollutants known to be hazardous to human health. EPA has identified and set standards to protect human health and welfare for six pollutants: ozone, carbon monoxide, total suspended particulates, sulfur dioxide, lead, and nitrogen oxide. The term, "criteria pollutants" derives from the requirement that EPA must describe the characteristics and potential health and welfare effects of these pollutants.

Degradation

The act or process of degrading or worsening in quality

Diffuse

Diluted or mixed, spread out

Dissipation

Disappearance through being scattered or dispersed

Dominant substrate

A stream bottom whose surface is mostly gravel or sediment with some exposed bedrock or mostly bedrock with some gravel or sediment, for example.

Entrained sediment

Soil material that is being carried within the water column

Entrenched (stream type)

A stream with a degraded bed elevation to a point that flood flows are constrained by steep banks

Ephemeral wetlands

Wetlands that do not persist throughout the year but are seasonal or temporary in appearance

Fanglomerate

Heterogeneous materials that were originally deposited in an alluvial fan but since deposition have been cemented into solid rock.

Fugitive dust

Dust particles that are introduced into the air through certain activities such as soil cultivation, or vehicles operating on open fields or dirt roadways. A subset of fugitive emissions.

Geomorphic

Pertaining to or like the form or figure of the earth

Herbaceous

A non-woody plant; plants that do not have woody stems

Impaired water bodies

Water bodies that are not capable of performing the natural functions they would be able to perform in an unimpaired state and do not meet water quality standards for one or more parameters

Impermeable surface

A surface that water does not readily penetrate, for example buildings, parking lots, even in some cases landscaped surfaces

Incursions

Anything that enters an area from the outside, for example, a location where noxious weeds have entered

In-situ

In the natural or original position

Interflow zones

Soil layers with a given permeability to water movement

Intermittent

Starting and stopping at intervals

Interstices

Small spaces between layers

Lateral instability

The potential for channel bed or bank movement in a horizontal direction across the valley. This may be movement of the entire channel or widening of the channel.

Lead

A soft heavy dull gray metallic element, used in solder, bullets, and paints; toxic in the environment

Lift station

Location of a pump that mechanically lifts liquid up a hill or gradient

Loess

Soil that is formed from windblown sediments

Microenterprise

A business that is smaller than a small business, typically has ten or fewer employees

Miocene Epoch

A period of time that extends from about 23 to 5.3 million years before the present

Morphological

Of, relating to, or concerned with form or structure

Neotropical

Relating to a geographic area of plant and animal distribution east, south, and west of Mexico's central plateau that includes Central and South America and the West Indies

Nephelometric

Method of measuring turbidity in a water sample by passing light through the sample and measuring the amount of the light that is deflected

Nexus

A link or relationship

Nitrogen oxides

NO_x (pronounced "nox") are produced from high temperature combustion in air. They are nitrogen oxide and nitrogen dioxide

Octane

Any of several hydrocarbon compounds occurring in petroleum

Ozone

A poisonous, blue, unstable gaseous form of oxygen by electric discharge or exposure or exposure to ultraviolet radiation used to purify water and as a bleach

Paleoenvironments

Past environmental/climatic conditions.

Palustrine Emergent Temporarily Flooded

Shallow (< 6.6 feet), freshwater, vegetated wetlands with no wave action dominated by plant species that can tolerate water at their base but can not survive long periods of submersion. Temporarily flooded refers to wetlands that may be inundated for short periods of time.

Palustrine Emergent Seasonally Flooded

Shallow (< 6.6 feet), freshwater, vegetated wetlands with no wave action dominated by plant species that can tolerate water at their base but can not survive long periods of submersion. Seasonally flooded refers to wetlands that are inundated in association with normal precipitation or runoff cycles.

Particulate matter

Small dust-like particles emitted from hazardous waste combustion units

Perched Water Table

An unconfined water body or aquifer that is supported by an impermeable layer and separated from a main aquifer

Permeable

Capable of being permeated, penetrable

pH

A numerical measure of the acidity or alkalinity of chemical solution

Pollution abatement

The reduction in degree or intensity of pollution in soil, rivers, lakes, seas, atmosphere, etc

Quaternary alluvium

Quaternary: geologic time period, 1.75 million years ago to the present. Alluvium: unconsolidated sedimentary material such as clay, silt, sand, gravel, that was deposited by a stream.

Ramp terminals

Where traffic stops at an off-ramp prior to making a turning or continuing movement; where the ramp connects with the road system

Riparian

Of or on the bank of a natural course of water

Rosgen stream type

A classification system developed by Dave Rosgen that is used to describe and categorize a stream channel based on specific physical characteristics of entrenchment, ratio of width to depth, sinuosity and gradient.

Sedimentation

The act or process of settling particles from a state of suspension in air or water

Semiarid

A term applied to regions or climates where moisture is normally greater than under arid conditions but still limits the growth of most crops

Semi-confined Aquifer

Geologic formation that is saturated and transmits large quantities of water, but is partially bound by an impermeable layer

Semi-consolidated sedimentary deposits

Sediments such as clay, silt, sand, or gravel that are held loosely together by a cementing agent such as silica, carbonates, or clay minerals.

Shear stress

The stress component parallel to a given surface, such as a fault plane, that results from forces applied parallel to the surface or from remote forces transmitted through the surrounding rock

Shovel testing

A subsurface detection technique using either posthole diggers or shovels to quickly determine the density and distribution of archaeological remains. Samples of soil from carefully selected test pits that are sieved for artifacts. Also, a shovel-sized sample taken at various intervals across a site.

Silviculture

The art and science of controlling the establishment, growth, composition, health and quality of forests and woodlands.

Sinuous

Having many bends or curves; winding

Static Water Levels

The water surface elevation in a well that is at rest (no pumping pressure); the level to which water naturally rises in a well.

Storm water discharge

Rain water that falls on impermeable surfaces, which cannot absorb it, and then runs off of them, sometimes carrying particles or substances picked up from the impermeable surfaces

Shishamiishpa

Name of area that includes Tutuilla Church and Cemetery, a known Traditional Cultural Property

Sulfur oxides

Pungent, colorless gases (sulfates are solids) formed primarily by the combustion of sulfur-containing fossil fuels, especially coal and oil. Considered major air pollutants, sulfur oxides may impact human health and damage vegetation.

Swale

A shallow troughlike depression that carries water mainly during rainstorms or snow melts.

Topography

The physical features of a place or region

Track-out

Typically on a construction site; the tracking of dirt or other materials in the tread of heavy equipment off-site, can lead to dust and/or noxious weed dispersal

Traded sector jobs

The traded sector is that sector of an economy that brings in resources from outside the economy rather than recirculating dollars within the economy. Manufacturing is usually considered traded sector since the products can be sold outside the region to bring dollars into the local economy. Retail is usually not traded sector.

Traditional Cultural Property

Generally, a property that is eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places because of its association with cultural practices or beliefs of a living community that are important in maintaining the continuing cultural identity of the community

Turbidity

A measure of opacity of a substance; the degree to which light is scattered or absorbed by a fluid

Unconfined Aquifer

Geologic formation that is saturated and transmits large quantities of water and the surface rises and falls with changes in volume of water stored.

Unconsolidated sedimentary deposits

Sediment such as clay, silt, sand, or gravel that are loosely deposited, by a stream or wind, for example.

Unimpeded

Not obstructed or hindered

Vectors (of transport)

A material or mechanism that transports a material in some manner

Vertical instability

The potential for a channel bed to raise or lower in elevation in relation to the valley floor.

Volatile organic chemicals

Chemicals of an organic nature (containing hydrogen, oxygen, and carbon) which readily volatilize, or travel from the water into the air