

CHAPTER 8 – GLOSSARY AND LIST OF ACRONYMS

GLOSSARY

Air Basin. A regional area defined for state air quality management purposes based on considerations that include topographic features that influence meteorology and pollutant transport patterns, and political jurisdiction boundaries that influence the design and implementation of air quality management programs.

Air Quality Control Region. A regional area defined for federal air quality management purposes based on considerations that include topographic features that influence meteorology and pollutant transport patterns, and political jurisdiction boundaries that influence the design and implementation of air quality management programs.

Alluvial Fan. Fan shaped landform consisting of water deposited material.

Ambient Air Quality Standards. A combination of air pollutant concentrations, exposure durations, and exposure frequencies that are established as thresholds above which adverse impacts to public health and welfare may be expected. Ambient air quality standards are set on a national level by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Ambient air quality standards are set on a state level by public health or environmental protection agencies as authorized by state law.

Ambient Air. Outdoor air in locations accessible to the general public.

Area of Critical Concern (ACEC). An area within the public lands where special management attention is required (when such areas are developed or used or where no development is required) to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources, or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards.

Attainment Area. An area that has air quality as good as or better than a national or state ambient air quality standard. A single geographic area may be an attainment area for one pollutant and a non-attainment area for others.

A-Weighted Decibel (dBA). A frequency-weighted decibel scale that approximates the relative sensitivity of human hearing to different frequency bands of audible sound.

Cancer. A class of diseases characterized by uncontrolled growth of somatic cells. Cancers are typically caused by one of three mechanisms: chemically induced mutations or other changes to cellular DNA; radiation induced damage to cellular chromosomes; or viral infections that introduce new DNA into cells.

Carbon Monoxide (CO). A colorless, odorless gas that is toxic because it reduces the oxygen-carrying capacity of the blood.

Carcinogen. A chemical substance or type of radiation that can cause cancer in living organisms.

Clean Water Act (CWA). Provides requirements for the restoration and maintenance of the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters.

Climate. A statistical description of daily, seasonal, or annual weather conditions based on recent or long-term weather data. Climate descriptions typically emphasize average, maximum,

and minimum conditions for temperature, precipitation, humidity, wind, cloud cover, and sunlight intensity patterns; statistics on the frequency and intensity of tornado, hurricane, or other severe storm events may also be included.

Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL). A 24-hour average noise level rating with a 5 dB penalty factor applied to evening noise levels and a 10 dB penalty factor applied to nighttime noise levels. The CNEL value is very similar to the Day-Night Average Sound Level (Ldn) value, but includes an additional weighting factor for noise during evening hours.

Criteria Pollutant. An air pollutant for which there is a national ambient air quality standard (carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, ozone, sulfur dioxide, inhalable particulate matter, fine particulate matter, or airborne lead particles).

Critical Habitat. Habitat designated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under Section 4 of the Endangered Species Act and under the following criteria: 1) specific areas within the geographical area occupied by the species at the time it is listed, on which are found those physical or biological features essential to the conservation of the species and that may require special management of protection; or 2) specific areas outside the geographical area by the species at the time it is listed but that are considered essential to the conservation of the species.

Cultural Resources. Locations of human activity, occupation, use, or those of importance to a group. They include expressions of human culture and history in the physical environment, such as archaeological sites, buildings, structures, objects, districts, or other places.

C-Weighted Decibel (dBC). A frequency-weighted decibel scale that correlates well with the physical vibration response of buildings and other structures to airborne sound.

Day-Night Average Sound Level (Ldn). A 24-hour average noise level rating with a 10 dB penalty factor applied to nighttime noise levels. The Ldn value is very similar to the CNEL value, but does not include any weighting factor for noise during evening hours.

De Minimis Level. A threshold for determining whether various regulatory requirements apply to a particular action or facility. In an air quality context, de minimis thresholds typically are based on emissions, facility size, facility activity levels, or other indicators.

Decibel (dB). A generic term for measurement units based on the logarithm of the ratio between a measured value and a reference value. Decibel scales are most commonly associated with acoustics (using air pressure fluctuation data); but decibel scales sometimes are used for ground-borne vibrations or various electronic signal measurements.

Desert Pavement. A surface covering of closely packed rock fragments of pebble or cobble size found on desert soils.

Desert Wildlife Management Area (DWMA): areas established in the NECO Plan to address the recovery of the desert tortoise. They are intended to be areas where viable desert tortoise populations can be maintained (Category I habitat).

Equivalent Average Sound Pressure Level (Leq). The decibel level of a constant noise source that would have the same total acoustical energy over the same time interval as the actual time-varying noise condition being measured or estimated. Leq values must be associated with an explicit or implicit averaging time in order to have practical meaning.

Ethnohistoric Resources. Areas used by Native Americans following exploration and settlement by non-Native Americans. Sites or artifacts of particular significance to modern Native Americans are often kept secret by those groups to protect the sites from disturbance, looting, overuse, or other defamations.

Fossorial. Adapted to digging and life underground.

Geomorphic Setting. Resembling the earth or its shape or configuration of the earth's surface.

Greenhouse Gas. A gaseous compound that absorbs infrared radiation and re-radiates a portion of that back toward the earth's surface, thus trapping heat and warming the earth's atmosphere.

Groundwater Protection Areas and Wellhead Protection. The overall concept behind wellhead protection is to develop a reasonable distance between point sources of pollution and public drinking water wells so that releases from point sources are unlikely to impact groundwater from the well. The California Department of Public Health established the Drinking Water Source Assessment and Protection Program, which guides local agencies in protecting surface water and groundwater that are sources of drinking water.

Habitat. A specific set of physical conditions that surround a single species, a group of species, or a large community. In wildlife management, the major components of habitat are considered to be food, water, cover, and living space.

Hazardous Air Pollutant (HAP). Air pollutants that have been specifically designated by relevant federal or state authorities as being hazardous to human health. Most HAP compounds are designated due to concerns related to: carcinogenic, mutagenic, or teratogenic properties; severe acute toxic effects; or ionizing radiation released during radioactive decay processes.

Hertz (Hz). A standard unit for describing acoustical frequencies measured as the number of air pressure fluctuation cycles per second. For most people, the audible range of acoustical frequencies is from 20 Hz to 20,000 Hz.

Invasive Species. An exotic species whose introduction does or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health (Executive Order 13122, 2/3/99).

Isolate. Non-linear, isolated archaeological features without associated artifacts.

Maintenance Area. An area that currently meets federal ambient air quality standards but which was previously designated as a nonattainment area. Federal agency actions occurring in a maintenance area are still subject to Clean Air Act conformity review requirements.

Maximum Sound Pressure Level (Lmax). The highest decibel level measured during a stated or implied monitoring period or noise event. The Lmax value recorded by a sound level meter depends on the time factor used for integration of instantaneous sound pressure level measurements. For most modern sound meters, this is 1 second when the instrument is set for the slow sampling rate and 1/8 second when the instrument is set for the fast sampling rate.

Memorandum of Understanding. A formal document describing an agreement between parties.

Mutagen. A chemical substance or physical agent that causes a permanent change to the genetic material of a cell.

National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The NFIP is a federal program enabling property owners in participating communities to purchase insurance protection against losses from flooding. In support of the NFIP, FEMA identifies flood hazard areas throughout the U.S. and its territories by producing flood hazard boundary maps, flood insurance rate maps, and flood boundary and floodway maps.

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). The NPDES permit program has been delegated in California to the State Water Resources Control Board. These sections of the CWA require that an applicant for a federal license or permit that allows activities resulting in a discharge to waters of the United States must obtain a State certification that the discharge complies with other provisions of the Clean Water Act.

National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Administered by the U.S. National Parks Department, the NRHP is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect America's historic and archeological resources.

Nationwide Programmatic Agreement (PA). A document that details the terms of a formal, legally binding agreement between one party and other state and/or federal agencies. A PA establishes a process for consultation, review, and compliance with one or more federal laws, most often with those federal laws concerning historic preservation.

Native Americans. Indigenous peoples of the western hemisphere.

Nitric Oxide (NO). A colorless toxic gas formed primarily by combustion processes that oxidize atmospheric nitrogen gas or nitrogen compounds found in the fuel. A precursor of ozone, nitrogen dioxide, numerous types of photochemically generated nitrate particles (including PAN), and atmospheric nitrous and nitric acids. Most nitric oxide formed by combustion processes is converted into nitrogen dioxide by subsequent oxidation in the atmosphere over a period that may range from several hours to a few days.

Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂). A toxic reddish gas formed by oxidation of nitric oxide. Nitrogen dioxide is a strong respiratory and eye irritant. Most nitric oxide formed by combustion processes is converted into nitrogen dioxide by subsequent oxidation in the atmosphere. Nitrogen dioxide is a criteria pollutant in its own right, and is a precursor of ozone, numerous types of photochemically generated nitrate particles (including PAN), and atmospheric nitrous and nitric acids.

Nitrogen Oxides (NO_x). A group term meaning the combination of nitric oxide and nitrogen dioxide; other trace oxides of nitrogen may also be included in instrument-based NO_x measurements. A precursor of ozone, photochemically generated nitrate particles (including PAN), and atmospheric nitrous and nitric acids.

Nonattainment Area. An area that does not meet a federal or state ambient air quality standard. Federal agency actions occurring in a federal nonattainment area are subject to Clean Air Act conformity review requirements.

Organic Compounds. Compounds of carbon containing hydrogen and possibly other elements (such as oxygen, sulfur, or nitrogen). Major subgroups of organic compounds include hydrocarbons, alcohols, aldehydes, carboxylic acids, esters, ethers, and ketones. Organic compounds do not include crystalline or amorphous forms of elemental carbon (graphite, diamond, carbon

black, etc.), the simple oxides of carbon (carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide), metallic carbides, or metallic carbonates.

Ozone (O₃). A compound consisting of three oxygen atoms. Ozone in the lower atmosphere is a major constituent of photochemical smog that is formed primarily through chemical reactions in the atmosphere involving reactive organic compounds, nitrogen oxides, and ultraviolet light. Ozone is a toxic chemical that damages various types of plant and animal tissues and which causes chemical oxidation damage to various materials. Ozone is a respiratory irritant, and appears to increase susceptibility to respiratory infections. A natural layer of ozone in the upper atmosphere absorbs high energy ultraviolet radiation, reducing the intensity and spectrum of ultraviolet light that reaches the earth's surface.

Particulate Matter. Solid or liquid material having size, shape, and density characteristics that allow the material to remain suspended in the atmosphere for more than a few minutes. Particulate matter can be characterized by chemical characteristics, physical form, or aerodynamic properties. Categories based on aerodynamic properties are commonly described as being size categories, although physical size is not used to define the categories. Many components of suspended particulate matter are respiratory irritants. Some components (such as crystalline or fibrous minerals) are primarily physical irritants. Other components are chemical irritants (such as sulfates, nitrates, and various organic chemicals). Suspended particulate matter also can contain compounds (such as heavy metals and various organic compounds) that are systemic toxins or necrotic agents. Suspended particulate matter or compounds adsorbed on the surface of particles can also be carcinogenic or mutagenic chemicals.

Peak particle velocity. A measure of ground-borne vibrations. Physical movement distances are typically measured in thousandths of an inch, and occur over a tiny fraction of a second. But the normal convention for presenting that data is to convert it into units of inches per second.

Percentile Sound Pressure Level (L_x). The decibel level exceeded x percent of the time during a monitoring episode.

Peroxyacetyl Nitrate (PAN). A toxic organic nitrate compound formed by photochemical reactions in the atmosphere. PAN is a strong respiratory and eye irritant, and a strong necrotic agent affecting plant tissues. Also called peroxyacetic nitric anhydride. A number of similar organic nitrate compounds are formed along with PAN during photochemical smog reactions. In relatively remote rural areas PAN and related organic nitrates, together with nitric acid, are often the dominant atmospheric nitrogen compounds generated by photochemical smog reactions.

pH (parts hydrogen). The logarithm of the reciprocal of hydrogen-ion concentration in gram atoms per liter. Used as a measure of acidity.

PM₁₀ (inhalable particulate matter). Suspended particulate matter with aerodynamic equivalent diameters smaller than 50 micrometers, which can penetrate to the lower respiratory tract (tracheo-bronchial airways and alveoli in the lungs).

PM_{2.5} (fine particulate matter). Suspended particulate matter with aerodynamic equivalent diameters smaller than approximately 2.0 – 2.5 micrometers, which can penetrate into the alveoli in the lungs.

Precursor. A compound or category of pollutant that undergoes chemical reactions in the atmosphere to produce or catalyze the production of another type of air pollutant.

Prehistoric Resources. Those attributed to Native American groups who occupied the region before contact with Europeans; historic resources are those associated primarily with Europeans and Americans but also include resources of Native Americans following contact.

Protocol Agreement (Protocol). A modified version of the NPA, adapted to the unique requirements of managing cultural resources on public lands in California, and is used as the primary management guidance for BLM offices in the state.

Reactive Organic Compounds (ROC). The most technically accurate term for the organic precursors of ozone and other photochemically generated pollutants. The more commonly used term is “reactive organic gases (ROG)”, although many of the compounds of concern may be present in both gaseous and aerosol states.

Reactive Organic Gases (ROG). Organic compounds emitted into the air which have photochemical reaction rates sufficient to be considered precursors of ozone. Organic compounds that are not considered reactive in the lower atmosphere include methane, ethane, acetone, methyl acetate, carbonic acid, ammonium carbonate, methylene chloride, methyl chloroform, and numerous fully-saturated chloro-fluorocarbon compounds.

Riparian. Situated on or pertaining to the bank of a river, stream, or other body of water. Normally describes plants of all types that grow rooted in the water table or sub-irrigation zone of streams, ponds, and springs.

Scenic Vista. A distant view of a broad area that is visually or aesthetically pleasing.

Special Status Species. Federal- or state-listed species, candidate or proposed species for listing under the provisions of the Endangered Species Act or a comparable state law, or species otherwise considered sensitive or threatened by state and federal agencies.

State Implementation Plan (SIP). Legally enforceable plans adopted by states and submitted to EPA for approval that identify the actions and programs to be undertaken by the State and its subdivisions to achieve and maintain national ambient air quality standards in a time frame mandated by the Clean Air Act.

State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). Created in 1967, joint authority of water allocation and water quality protection enables the State Water Board to provide comprehensive protection for California's waters. The mission of the nine Regional Boards is to develop and enforce water quality objectives and implementation plans that will best protect the State's waters, recognizing local differences in climate, topography, geology and hydrology.

Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂). A pungent, colorless, and toxic oxide of sulfur formed primarily by the combustion of fossil fuels. It is a respiratory irritant, especially for asthmatics. A criteria pollutant in its own right, and a precursor of sulfate particles and atmospheric sulfuric acid.

Sulfur Oxides (SO_x). A group term meaning the combination of sulfur dioxide and sulfur trioxide; treated as a precursor of sulfur dioxide, sulfate particles, and atmospheric sulfuric acid.

Teratogen. A chemical substance or physical agent that causes birth defects through abnormal development or malformation of a fetus.

Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). A TMDL is a calculation of the maximum amount of a pollutant that a waterbody can receive and still safely meet water quality standards.

Toxic. Poisonous. Exerting an adverse physiological effect on the normal functioning of an organism's tissues or organs through chemical or biochemical mechanisms following physical contact or absorption.

Traditional Cultural Properties. Areas associated with the cultural practices or beliefs of a living community. These sites are rooted in the community's history and are important in maintaining cultural identity.

U.S. Secretary of the Interior. The U.S. Department of the Interior is in charge of the nation's internal affairs. The Secretary serves on the President's cabinet and appoints citizens to the National Park Foundation board.

Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT). The cumulative amount of vehicle travel within a specified or implied geographical area over a given period of time.

Visual character and quality of a site and its surroundings. The combination of visual resources in a specific area that contribute to the overall local setting.

Wetlands. Permanently wet or intermittently water-covered areas, such as swamps, marshes, bogs, potholes, swales, and glades.

Wildlife corridor. A strip of land that aids in the movement of species between disconnected areas of their natural habitat.

LIST OF ACRONYMS

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| AADT | annual average daily traffic |
| AB | Assembly Bill |
| AC | alternating current |
| ACEC | Area of Critical Environmental Concern |
| AFM | Awareness Floodplain Mapping |
| AIRFA | American Indian Religious Freedom Act |
| AM | Applicant Measure |
| AMSL | above mean sea level |
| APCD | Air Pollution Control District |
| APE | Area of Potential Effects |
| AQMD | Air Quality Management District |
| AQRV | air quality related values |
| ARPA | Archaeological Resources Protection Act |
| ASTM | American Society for Testing and Materials |
| BEA | Bureau of Economic Analysis |
| BGEPA | Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act |
| BLM | Bureau of Land Management |
| BMP | Best Management Practices |
| BMPs | BLM's Best Management Practices |
| BO | biological opinion |
| BOE | California Board of Equalization |

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| BRTR | Biological Resources Technical Report |
| BSPP | Blythe Solar Power Project |
| BTU | British thermal units |
| CAA | Clean Air Act |
| CADOF | California Department of Finance |
| CAISO | California Independent System Operator |
| Cal/OSHA | California Occupational Safety and Health Administration |
| CARB | California Air Resources Board |
| CASQA | California Stormwater Quality Association |
| CASTNET | Clean Air Status and Trends Network |
| CAT | Climate Action Team |
| CBC | California Building Code |
| CCH | Consortium of California Herbaria |
| CCR | California Code of Regulations |
| CDCA | California Desert Conservation Area |
| CDD | California Desert District |
| CDFG | California Department of Fish and Game |
| CDPH | California Department of Public Health |
| CDWR | California Department of Water Resources |
| CEC | California Energy Commission |
| CEQ | Council on Environmental Quality |
| CEQA | California Environmental Quality Act |
| CERCLA | Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act |
| CESA | California Endangered Species Act |
| CFR | Code of Federal Regulations |
| CH ₄ | methane |
| CHU | Critical Habitat Unit |
| CIWMC | California Interagency Watershed Mapping Committee |
| CMMS | Computerized Maintenance Management Software |
| CMP | Congestion Management Plan |
| CNDDB | California Natural Diversity Database |
| CNEL | community noise equivalent level |
| CNPS | California Native Plant Society |
| CO | carbon monoxide |
| CO ₂ | carbon dioxide |
| CPUC | California Public Utilities Commission |
| CRBC | Colorado River Board of California |
| CRHR | California Register of Historical Resources |
| CRPR | California Rare Plant Rank |
| CSP | concentrated solar power |
| CTNA | Crucifixion Thorn Natural Area |
| CUP | Conditional Use Permit |
| CUPA | Certified Unified Program Agency |
| CVGB | Chuckwalla Valley Groundwater Basin |
| CVWD | Coachella Valley Water District |

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| CWA | Clean Water Act |
| DC | direct current |
| DCAP | Desert Center Area Plan |
| DEH | Department of Environmental Health |
| DHSP | Desert Harvest Solar Project |
| DOC | determination of compliance |
| DOE | Department of Energy |
| DOI | U.S. Department of the Interior |
| DPF | diesel particulate filter |
| DPLA | Department of Planning and Local Assistance |
| DPM | diesel particulate matter |
| DPV | Devers–Palo Verde |
| DPV1 | Devers–Palo Verde No. 1 Transmission Line Project |
| DPV2 | Devers–Palo Verde No. 2 Transmission Line Project |
| DRECP | Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan |
| DSSF | Desert Sunlight Solar Farm |
| DTC/C-AMA | Desert Training Center/California-Arizona Maneuver Area |
| DTRO | Desert Tortoise Recovery Office |
| DTSC | Department of Toxic Substance Control |
| DWMA | Desert Wildlife Management Area |
| DWR | (California) Department of Water Resources |
| DWSAP | Drinking Water Source Assessment and Protection |
| ECMCP | Environmental and Construction Monitoring and Compliance Program |
| EERE | Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy |
| EIR | Environmental Impact report |
| EIS | Environmental Impact Statement |
| EMF | electromagnetic fields |
| EMPS | Eagle Mountain Pumped Storage |
| EPA | Environmental Protection Agency |
| EPC | engineering, procurement, and construction |
| EPS | emission performance standards |
| ERMA | Extensive Recreation Management Areas |
| ESA | Endangered Species Act |
| FAA | Federal Aviation Administration |
| FEMA | Federal Emergency Management Agency |
| FERC | Federal Energy Regulatory Commission |
| FHSZ | Fire Hazard Severity Zones |
| FICUN | Federal Interagency Committee on Urban Noise |
| FIFRA | Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act |
| FIRM | Flood Insurance Rate Map |
| FLPMA | Federal Land Policy and Management Act |
| FMMP | Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program |
| FP | Fully Protected |
| FPM | Floodplain Management |
| FRA | Federal Responsibility Area |

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| GHG | greenhouse gas |
| GIP | Generator Interconnection Procedures |
| GIS | Geographic Information System |
| GO | General Order |
| GSEP | Genesis Solar Energy Project |
| HA | Hydrologic Area |
| HAP | Hazardous Air Pollutant |
| HCP | Habitat Conservation Plan |
| HMP | Habitat Management Plan |
| HR | Hydrologic Region |
| HSC | Health and Safety Code |
| HU | Hydrologic Unit |
| I-10 | Interstate 10 |
| IBC | International Building Code |
| ICC | International Code Council |
| IMPROVE | Inter-agency Monitoring of Protected Visual Environments |
| IOU | investor-owned utility |
| IPCC | Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change |
| ISO | Insurance Service Office |
| IWMB | Integrated Waste Management Board |
| IWMP | Integrated Weed Management Plan |
| JTNP | Joshua Tree National Park |
| KOP | Key Observation Point |
| LACM | Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County |
| LOS | Level of Service |
| LR2000 | Mineral Legacy Rehost 2000 System of automated records |
| LRA | Local Responsibility Area |
| LST | Localized Significance Threshold |
| LTVA | Long Term Visitor Area |
| LU | land use |
| LUST | Leaking Underground Storage Tank |
| MBTA | Migratory Bird Treaty Act |
| MDAQMD | Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District |
| MEC | munitions and explosives of concern |
| MLD | Most Likely Descendent |
| MM | mitigation measure |
| MOA | Memorandum of Agreement |
| MOU | Memorandum of Understanding |
| MRDS | Mineral Resources Data System |
| MRZ | mineral resource zone |
| MSDS | Material Safety Data Sheet |
| MTPs | BLM Master Title Plats |
| MUC | Multiple Use Class |
| MW | megawatt |
| MWD | Metropolitan Water District of Southern California |

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| N ₂ O | nitrous oxide |
| N-A | Natural Assets |
| NAGPRA | Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act |
| NAHC | Native American Heritage Commission |
| NCCP | Natural Community Conservation Planning |
| NCMPD | North Chuckwalla Mountain Petroglyph District |
| NECO | Northern and Eastern Colorado Desert Coordinated Management Plan |
| NEPA | National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 |
| NERC | North American Electric Reliability Corporation |
| NFIP | National Flood Insurance Program |
| NFWF | National Fish and Wildlife Foundation |
| NHPA | National Historic Preservation Act |
| NO ₂ | nitrogen dioxide |
| NOA | Notice of Availability |
| NOAA | National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration |
| NOI | Notice of Intent |
| NOP | Notice of Preparation |
| NPA | Nationwide Programmatic Agreement |
| NPDES | National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System |
| NPS | National Park Service |
| NRCS | Natural Resources Conservation Service |
| NRHP | National Register of Historic Places |
| O ₃ | ozone |
| OHV | off-highway vehicle |
| OPLA | Omnibus Public Lands Management Act |
| OSHA | Occupational Safety and Health Administration |
| OWTS | on-site water treatment system |
| PA | Plan Amendment |
| PAR | Property Assessment Report |
| PCE | passenger car equivalent |
| PCS | power conversion station |
| PEIS | Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement |
| PFYC | Potential Fossil Yield Classification |
| PLP | Polarized Light Pollution |
| PM ₁₀ | inhalable particulate matter |
| PM _{2.5} | fine particulate matter |
| POD | Plan of Development |
| PPV | peak particle velocity |
| PRC | Public Resources Code |
| PRMP | Paleontological Resource Management Plan |
| PRPA | Paleontological Resources Preservation Act |
| PSD | Prevention of Significant Deterioration |
| PSEP | Palen Solar Energy Project |
| PTNCL | Prehistoric Trails Network Cultural Landscape |
| PUP | Public Use Permit |

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| PV | photovoltaic |
| PVID | Palo Verde Irrigation District |
| QS | Quaternary Sands |
| Qal | Quaternary Alluvium |
| Ql | Quaternary lake or playa sediments |
| Qc | Pleistocene nonmarine deposits |
| Qco | Older Pleistocene nonmarine deposits |
| QT | Quaternary-Tertiary playa deposits |
| RCRA | Resource Conservation and Recovery Act |
| RCWMD | Riverside County Waste Management Department |
| REAT | Renewable Energy Action Team |
| RES | Renewable Electricity Standard |
| RHA | Rivers and Harbors Act |
| RMP | resource management plan |
| RO | reverse osmosis |
| ROD | Record of Decision |
| ROI | Region of Influence |
| ROW | right-of-way |
| RPS | Renewable Portfolio Standard |
| RTP | Regional Transportation Plan |
| RWQCB | Regional Water Quality Control Board |
| SAA | Streambed Alteration Agreement |
| SAC | Science Advisory Committee |
| SB | Senate Bill |
| SCAG | Southern California Association of Governments |
| SCAQMD | South Coast Air Quality Management District |
| SCE | Southern California Edison |
| SEZ | Solar Energy Zone |
| SF ₆ | sulfur hexafluoride |
| SFR | single-family residential |
| SHPO | State Historic Preservation Office |
| SIP | State Implementation Plan |
| SLF | Sacred Lands File |
| SMARA | Surface Mining and Reclamation Act |
| SMGB | State Mining and Geology Board |
| SO ₂ | sulfur dioxide |
| SPCC Plan | Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure Plan |
| SR | State Route |
| SRA | State Responsibility Area |
| SSC | Species of Special Concern |
| SWPP | Surface Water Protection Plan |
| SWPPP | storm water pollution prevention plan |
| SWRCB | State Water Resources Control Board |
| TDS | total dissolved solids |
| TLMA | Transportation and Land Management Agency |

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| TMDL | Total Maximum Daily Load |
| TRB | Transportation Research Board |
| UBC | Uniform Building Code |
| UCMP | University of California at Berkeley Museum of Paleontology |
| UFC | Uniform Fire Code |
| USACE | U.S. Army Corps of Engineers |
| USBR | U.S. Bureau of Reclamation |
| USC | United States Code |
| USDA | U.S. Department of Agriculture |
| USEPA | United States Environmental Protection Agency |
| USFWS | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service |
| USGS | U.S. Geological Survey |
| UST | underground storage tank |
| UWMPs | Urban Water Management Plan |
| VFR | visual flight rules |
| VMT | vehicle miles traveled |
| VOC | Volatile Organic Compound |
| VRI | Visual Resource Inventories |
| VRM | Visual Resource Management |
| VS-VC | Visual Sensitivity – Visual Change |
| WA | Wilderness Area |
| WDID | Waste Discharge Identification Number |
| WDR | Waste Discharge Requirement |
| WEAP | Worker Environmental Awareness Program |
| WHMA | Wildlife Habitat Management Area |
| WIMP | Wind Implementation Monitoring Program |
| WIU | Wilderness Inventory Unit |
| WQC | Water Quality Certifications |
| WSA | Water Supply Assessment |