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10.0 GLOSSARY

100-year frequency flood. A flood event of such magnitude that it occurs, on average, every 100 years. This equates to a 1 percent probability of occurring in any given year.

Acre-foot. A measure of water volume. The amount of water it would take to cover 1 acre of land to a depth of 1 foot; 325,851 gallons; 43,560 cubic feet.

Adit. A nearly horizontal passage from the ground surface in a mine.

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

Aggregate, construction. A broad category of coarse particulate material used in construction, including sand, gravel, crushed stone, slag, recycled concrete, and geosynthetic aggregates.

Air quality. The cleanliness of the air as measured by the levels established to protect human health and welfare.

Airshed. An area consisting of one hydrographic area. The Las Vegas Valley is in hydrographic area 212. The designation of an airshed is used for air quality planning purposes.

Alluvial fan. A broad, conical-shaped deposit of sediment typically found at the edge of mountain ranges, dissected by channels and composed of coarse-grained material, including sand, gravel, cobbles, and boulders.

Alluvium. Any stream-laid sediment deposit.

Ambient. Surrounding or background conditions in the absence of an identifiable source.

Ambient air. That portion of the atmosphere, outside of buildings, to which the general public has access.

Ambient Air Quality Standards. Standards established on a state or federal level that define the limits for airborne concentrations of designated criteria pollutants (nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, particulate matter with aerodynamic diameters less than 10 microns [PM₁₀], ozone, and lead) to protect public health with an adequate margin of safety (primary standards) and to protect public welfare, including plant and animal life, visibility, and materials (secondary standards).

Ammonium nitrate/fuel oil. Explosive used in mining consisting of a mixture of ammonium nitrate and oil.

Anion. A negatively charged ion.

Aquifer. A body of rock that contains enough saturated permeable material to transmit groundwater and to yield significant quantities of groundwater to wells and springs.

Aquitard. Refers to any layer in an aquifer or aquifer system that is much less permeable than the aquifers themselves, but not impermeable.

Artesian. Refers to groundwater under sufficient hydrostatic head to rise above the aquifer containing it.

Assessment (Environmental). An evaluation of existing resources and potential impacts to them from a proposed act or change to the environment.

At grade. On the same level.

Attainment area. A region that meets the NAAQS for a criteria pollutant under the CAA.

Baseline. The initial environmental conditions against which the environmental consequences of various alternatives are evaluated.

Candidate species. Species for which the USFWS has on file sufficient information on biological vulnerability and threat(s) to support the issuance of a proposed rule to list but issuance of the proposed rule is precluded.

Cation. A positively-charged ion.

Census block. Cluster of blocks within the same census tract. Census blocks do not cross county or census tract boundaries and generally contain between 250 and 550 housing.

Chert. A rock resembling flint and consisting essentially of a large amount of fibrous chalcedony with smaller amounts of cryptocrystalline quartz and amorphous silica.

Conductivity. Conductivity is an index of how easy it is for electricity to flow. Therefore, the higher the concentration of dissolved ions, like sodium and chloride, the higher the conductivity. In other words, higher total dissolved solids means higher conductivity, and vice versa. This means that the more sodium and chlorine contained in water, the more electricity is carried and the higher the conductivity.

Criteria pollutants. The CAA required the EPA to set air quality standards for common and widespread pollutants after preparing criteria documents summarizing scientific knowledge on their health effects. Today there are standards for six criteria pollutants: sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, particulate matter less than 10 micrometers in diameter (PM₁₀), nitrogen dioxide, ozone, and lead.

Cultigen. A cultivated or domestic organism that has diverged enough while in domestication or cultivation from its ancestors or closest wild relatives to be classified as a species, subspecies, or major variety.

Cumulative impact. Cumulative impact is the environmental impact resulting from the incremental impact from a particular activity when added to other past, present, or future activities. Cumulative impacts may be individually insignificant, but collectively, the individually insignificant activities may become significant.

Day-night average sound level. A-weighted SPLs averaged over a 24-hour period with 10 dBA added for events occurring between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m.

Decibel. A standard unit of measuring SPLs based on a reference sound pressure of 0.0002 dynes per square centimeter. This is the smallest sound a human can hear.

Decibel, A-weighted. Adjusted unit of sound measurement that corresponds to the relative sensitivity of the human ear at specified frequency levels. This represents the loudness as perceived by humans.

Designated uses. Designated uses of a water body are those uses that should be attained by the water body. Designated uses include, but are not limited to, drinking water, water-based recreation, aquatic life, and agricultural and industrial water supplies.

Detention basin. A basin designed to hold floodwaters.

Direct effects. Beneficial or harmful impacts that are caused by an action and occur at the same time and place.

Direct impact. Effects resulting solely from the proposed alternative(s).

Disposal boundary area. The land area within the boundary established by the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act of 1998, and as expanded by the Clark County Conservation of Public Land and Natural Resources Act of 2002.

Distance zones. A subdivision of the landscape as viewed from an observer position. The subdivision (zones) includes foreground-middleground, background, and seldom seen.

Effluent. Waste material (as smoke, liquid industrial refuse, or sewage) discharged into the environment especially when serving as a pollutant.

Endangered species. A plant or animal species that is threatened with extinction or serious depletion in its range and is formally listed as such by the USFWS.

Environmental Impact Statement. A detailed written statement that helps public officials make decisions that are based on understanding of environmental consequences and to take actions that protect, restore, and enhance the environment.

Ephemeral. Lasting only a brief period of time.

Ephemeral stream. A stream or portion of a stream that flows only in direct response to precipitation.

Equivalent sound level. A single number representing the fluctuating sound level in decibels over a specified period of time. The average of a fluctuating level of sound energy.

Erosion. The wearing away of the land surface by running water, wind, ice, or other geologic agents and by such processes as “gravitation creep.”

Evapotranspiration. Loss of water from the soil both by evaporation and by transpiration from the plants growing.

Extinct. No longer existing.

Fault. A fracture or fracture zone in the earth’s surface along which there has been displacement of the sides relative to one another parallel to the fracture.

Floodplain. That portion of a river or stream valley, adjacent to the river channel, that is built of sediments and is inundated with water when the stream overflows its banks.

Fossil. The remains or traces of an organism or assemblage of organisms that have been preserved by natural processes in the earth’s crust, exclusive of organisms that have been buried since the beginning of historical time.

Fugitive dust. Particulate matter composed of soil. Fugitive dust may include emissions from haul roads, wind erosion of exposed soil surfaces, and other activities in which soil is either removed or redistributed.

Geologic. Any natural process acting as a dynamic physical force on the earth; i.e., faulting, erosion, and mountain-building resulting in rock formations.

Groundwater. Subsurface water within the zone of saturation.

Groundwater recharge. Water that infiltrates the land surface and is not lost to evaporation or consumed by plants can percolate downward and replenish the groundwater aquifers. This deep percolation is called recharge.

Habitat. The combination of physical and biological environmental conditions necessary to support a single species. A group of species sharing overlapping affinities for like or similar environmental conditions make up a habitat community (inclusion of a large community is itself on the threshold of connoting habitat; In wildlife management, the major components of habitat are considered to be food, water, cover, and home range.

Hazardous waste. Wastes that are designated as hazardous by the EPA or state regulations. Hazardous waste, defined under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, is waste from production or operation

activities that poses a potential hazard to human health or the environment when improperly treated, stored, or disposed of. Hazardous wastes that appear on special EPA lists or possess at least one of the four following characteristics: ignitability, corrosivity, reactivity, and toxicity.

Human environment. The natural and physical environment and the relationship of people with the environment.

Hydric soils. Soils that are saturated to the surface sometime during the growing season.

Hydrographic basin. Nevada has been divided into 14 hydrographic regions or basins, which are now used by the Nevada Division of Water Resources, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and the USGS to compile information pertaining to water resources and water use. These regions are also further subdivided into 232 *Hydrographic Areas*.

Hydrology. A science dealing with the properties, distribution, and circulation of water on and below the earth's surface and in the atmosphere.

Impact. The terms "impacts" and "effects" are synonymous as used in the NEPA. Impacts may be beneficial or adverse and may apply to the natural, aesthetic, historic, cultural, and socioeconomic resources of the installation and the surrounding communities. Where applicable, impacts may be classified as direct or indirect.

Indirect impact. An indirect impact is caused by a proposed activity but is later in time or farther removed in distance, but still reasonably foreseeable. Indirect impacts may include land use changes or population density changes and the related effects these changes will have on air, water, and other natural or social systems.

Infiltration. Water that falls on the land surface that does not run off but percolates into the ground. Some of this water evaporates, some is used by plants, and some percolates downward to the groundwater.

Infrastructure. Utilities and other physical support systems needed to operate a pipeline.

Intermittent stream. A stream that flows only at certain times when it receives water from springs or from a surface source.

Invasive species. Describes a large number of non-native species whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health.

Lambing. Giving birth to a lamb.

Landform. A term used to describe the many types of land surfaces that exist as a result of geologic activity and weathering (e.g., plateaus, mountains, plains, and valleys).

Line. The path, real or imagined, that the eye follows when perceiving abrupt differences in form, color, or texture or when objects are aligned in a one-dimensional sequence. Usually evident as the edge of shapes or masses in the landscape.

Lithic. Pertaining to stone or a stone tool (e.g., lithic artifact).

Locatable minerals. Traditional “hard rock” minerals such as gold, silver, lead, copper, zinc, and industrial minerals such as fluorspar, barite, and high-calcium limestone.

Long-term impacts. Long-term impacts are neither temporary nor reversible. They may occur either during the construction or operational phases of an activity. For example, the construction of a new building may create long-term impacts during both the construction and operational phases. Draining of a wetland for the construction of a new building will create long-term and permanent impacts on biological resources. Likewise, once operational, the new building may create additional long-term impacts such as increased population density, waste generation, etc.

Master Plan. A document (or set of documents) that sets forth goals and policies for guiding future land use and development in a community. Also known as a Comprehensive Plan.

Metate. A stone with a concave upper surface used as the lower millstone for grinding grains, especially Indian corn.

Migratory. Birds, animals, or people that migrate or move from one region or country to another.

Mineral resource. Any inorganic or organic substance occurring naturally in the earth that has a consistent and distinctive set of physical properties. Examples of mineral resources include coal, nickel, gold, silver, and copper.

Mitigation. Mitigation generally includes: avoiding the impact altogether by stopping or modifying the proposed action; minimizing impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation; rectifying the impact by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected environment; reducing or eliminating the impact over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the action; compensating for the impact by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments.

National Ambient Air Quality Standards. Section 109 of the CAA requires the EPA to set nationwide standards for widespread air pollutants. Currently, six pollutants are regulated: sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, PM₁₀, nitrogen dioxide, ozone, and lead.

Native vegetation. Vegetation originating in a certain region or country.

No impact. “No impact” implies that a particular activity creates neither a direct nor indirect impact, does not have long- or short-term implications, and is neither beneficial nor negative.

Noise. Any sound that is undesirable because it interferes with speech and hearing or is intense enough to damage hearing.

Non-attainment area. An area that has been designated by the EPA or the appropriate state air quality agency as exceeding one or more national or state AAQS.

Noxious weed. Non-native plant species that are officially designated by state or federal agencies as “noxious.” These species often negatively impact crops, native plant communities, and/or management of natural or agricultural systems.

Off-highway vehicle. Any motorized vehicle designated for cross-country travel over any type of natural terrain.

Ozone (ground level). A major ingredient in smog. Ozone is produced from reactions of hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides in the presence of sunlight and heat.

Paleontology. The science that deals with the life of past geological ages through the study of the fossil remains of organisms.

Particulate. Fine liquid or solid particles, such as dust, smoke, mist, fumes, or smog, found in air or emissions.

Patina. A usually green film formed naturally on copper and bronze by long exposure or artificially (as by acids) and often valued aesthetically for its color; an appearance or aura that is derived from association, habit, or established character; a superficial covering or exterior.

Perennial. Lasting or active through the whole year. May refer to rivers, streams, or plants.

Permeability. The measure of the ease with which a fluid can diffuse through a particular porous material.

Petroglyph. A carving or inscription on rock.

Physiographic province. An area characterized by distinctive topography, geologic structure, climate, drainage patterns, and other features and phenomena of nature.

Point Source. Any discernible, confined, and discrete conveyance, including but not limited to any pipe, ditch, channel, tunnel, or conduit from which pollutants are or may be discharged. This term does not include return flows from irrigated agriculture.

Quaternary. The geologic period following the Tertiary in the Cenozoic Era, beginning about 1.8 million years ago, composed of the Pleistocene and Holocene epochs, characterized by the evolution of Hominids into modern humans.

Radiocarbon. Radioactive carbon, especially carbon 14.

Range. A large, open area of land over which livestock can wander and graze.

Rare. A plant or animal restricted in distribution. May be locally abundant in a limited area or few in number over a wide area.

Reclamation. The act or process of reclaiming or restoring.

Record of Decision. A public document that explains which alternative will be selected for the area of concern.

Region. A large tract of land generally recognized as having similar character types and physiographic types.

Right-of-way. Strip of land acquired by legal means over which the power line and access roads would pass.

Riparian. The banks of a body of water.

Ruderal. Weedy and commonly introduced plants growing where the vegetational cover has been disturbed.

Salable minerals. Common variety mineral materials such as sand, gravel, cinders, and building stone that are sold on a permit basis.

Scope. The range of actions, alternatives, and impacts to be considered in an environmental impact statement.

Sediment. Solid fragmental material, either mineral or organic, that is transported or deposited by air, water, gravity, or ice.

Sensitive species. Species whose populations are small and widely dispersed or restricted to a few localities; species that are listed or candidates for listing by the state or federal government.

Sensitivity level. A measure of public concern for scenic quality based on various indicators of public concern.

Sheet flow. A smooth flow at relatively slow velocity in which the fluid elements follow paths that are straight and are parallel to the channel walls.

Short-term impacts. Short-term impacts are temporary and either direct or indirect. Short-term impacts usually occur during the construction phase of the activity.

Significance. Significance requires consideration of the context and intensity of the impact or effect under consideration. Significance can vary in relation to the context of the proposed action. Both short- and long-term effects may be relevant. Impacts may also be evaluated in terms of their intensity or severity.

Socioeconomic. Have or involving both social and economic factors. A given geographical area delineated for specific research.

Soil stabilizer. Soil stabilizers assist in strengthening soil and increasing its water resistance. This allows the soil to be used later as a durable building material.

Species. A group of individuals of common ancestry that closely resemble each other structurally and physiologically, and in nature interbreed producing fertile offspring.

Stratigraphic. Division of geology dealing with the definition and description of rocks and soils, especially sedimentary rocks.

Subsidence. The gradual settling or sinking of an area, usually due to the withdrawal of large amounts of groundwater.

Subsoil. The stratum of weathered material that underlies the surface soil.

Subspecies. A category in biological classification that ranks immediately below a species and designates a population of a particular geographic region genetically distinguishable from other such populations of the same species.

Subsurface. A zone below the surface of the earth whose geologic features are principally layers of rock that have been tilted or faulted and are interpreted on the basis of drill hole records and geophysical (seismic or rock vibration) evidence. Generally, it is all rock and solid materials lying beneath the earth's surface.

Sulfates. A combination of sulfur and oxygen and are a part of naturally-occurring minerals in some soil and rock formations that contain groundwater.

Texture. The aggregation of small forms or color mixtures into a continuous surface pattern; the aggregated parts are enough that they do not appear as discrete objects in the composition of the scene.

Threatened species. A species that is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

Topsoil. Surface soil usually including the organic layer in which plants have most of their roots.

Total dissolved solids. Solids in water that can pass through a filter. Total dissolved solids are a measure of the amount of material dissolved in water. This material can include carbonate, bicarbonate, chloride, sulfate, phosphate, nitrate, calcium, magnesium, sodium, organic ions, and other ions.

Total maximum daily load. Total maximum daily loads are established when a water body is not in compliance with water quality standards. Total maximum daily loads are established to bring the water body into compliance. The maximum amount of pollutant(s) that can be discharged while still meeting water quality standards.

Total suspended particulates. The amount of solids suspended in water, whether mineral (e.g., soil particles) or organic (e.g., algae).

Traditional cultural property. A location that is valued by some group, such as an ethnic group, because it is a place of cultural patrimony and an important place in the traditional cultural landscape.

Tributary. Any stream or wash that contributes water to another stream or wash.

Unemployment rate. The unemployment rate represents the number unemployed as a percentage of the labor force.

Viewshed. The landscape that can be directly seen under favorable atmospheric conditions from a viewpoint or along a transportation corridor.

Water quality criteria. The set of conditions to be met in order to attain designated uses. Water quality criteria are usually expressed quantitatively, such as scientific measurements of pollutant concentrations, toxicity, or temperature.

Waters of the U.S. Water such as intrastate lakes, rivers, streams (including intermittent streams).

Watershed. A region or area bounded peripherally by a water parting and draining ultimately to a particular body of water.

Wetlands. An area that is regularly saturated by surface water or groundwater and subsequently supports vegetation that is adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. To qualify as a USACE jurisdictional wetland, it must have hydric soil, be saturated to the surface sometime during the growing season, and contain wetland plant species.

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°C	degrees Celsius
°F	degrees Fahrenheit
µg/m ₃	micrograms per cubic meter
AAQS	ambient air quality standards
ACEC	Area of Critical Environmental Concern
AD	Anno Domini
AFY	acre-feet per year
APE	area of potential effect
BCE	before the Common Era
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
BMP	best management practice
CAA	Clean Air Act
CCRFC	Clark County Regional Flood Control District
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
Clark County Act	Clark County Conservation of Public Land and Natural Resources Act
CNEL	community noise equivalent level
CO	carbon monoxide
CWA	Clean Water Act
DAQEM	Department of Air Quality and Environmental Management
dB	decibels
dBA	A-weighted decibels
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
FLPMA	Federal Lands Policy Management Act
I-15	Interstate 15
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
KOP	key observation point
kV	kilovolt
kW-hr	kilowatt-hour
L _{dn}	day-night average sound level
L _{eq}	equivalent continuous noise level

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LOS	level of service
LT	listed threatened
LVVWD	Las Vegas Valley Water District
mg/m ₃	milligrams per cubic meter
mph	miles per hour
MPO	mining plan of operations
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NAC	Nevada Administrative Code
NCA	National Conservation Area
NDEP	Nevada Division of Environmental Protection
NDOT	Nevada Department of Transportation
NDOW	Nevada Department of Wildlife
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NNHP	Nevada Natural Heritage Program
NO ₂	nitrogen dioxide
NO _x	nitrogen oxides
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NPS	non-point source
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
NRS	Nevada Revised Statutes
O ₃	ozone
OHV	off-highway vehicle
Pb	lead
PL	Public Law
PM _{2.5}	fine particulate matter 2.5 microns or smaller in diameter
PM ₁₀	respirable particulate matter 10 microns or smaller in diameter
ppm	parts per million
PPV	peak particle velocity
Proposed Action	Sloan Hills Competitive Mineral Material Sales
Rinker	Rinker Materials West, LLC
RMP	Resource Management Plan
ROC	reactive organic compounds
ROD	Record of Decision
ROS	Recreation Opportunity Spectrum
RPW	relatively permanent water
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Officer
SNWA	Southern Nevada Water Authority

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S	Sensitive
SO ₂	sulfur dioxide
SOC	Species of Concern
SPLA&SL	San Pedro, Los Angeles, and Salt Lake Railroad
SR	State Route
SRMA	Special Recreation Management Area
SRP	Service Rock Products Corporation
SSS	Special Status Species
SWPPP	Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan
TCP	Traditional Cultural Property
TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Load
TNW	traditional navigable water
U.S.	United States
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USC	United States Code
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
VdB	vibration decibels
VOC	volatile organic compound
VRM	Visual Resources Management

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