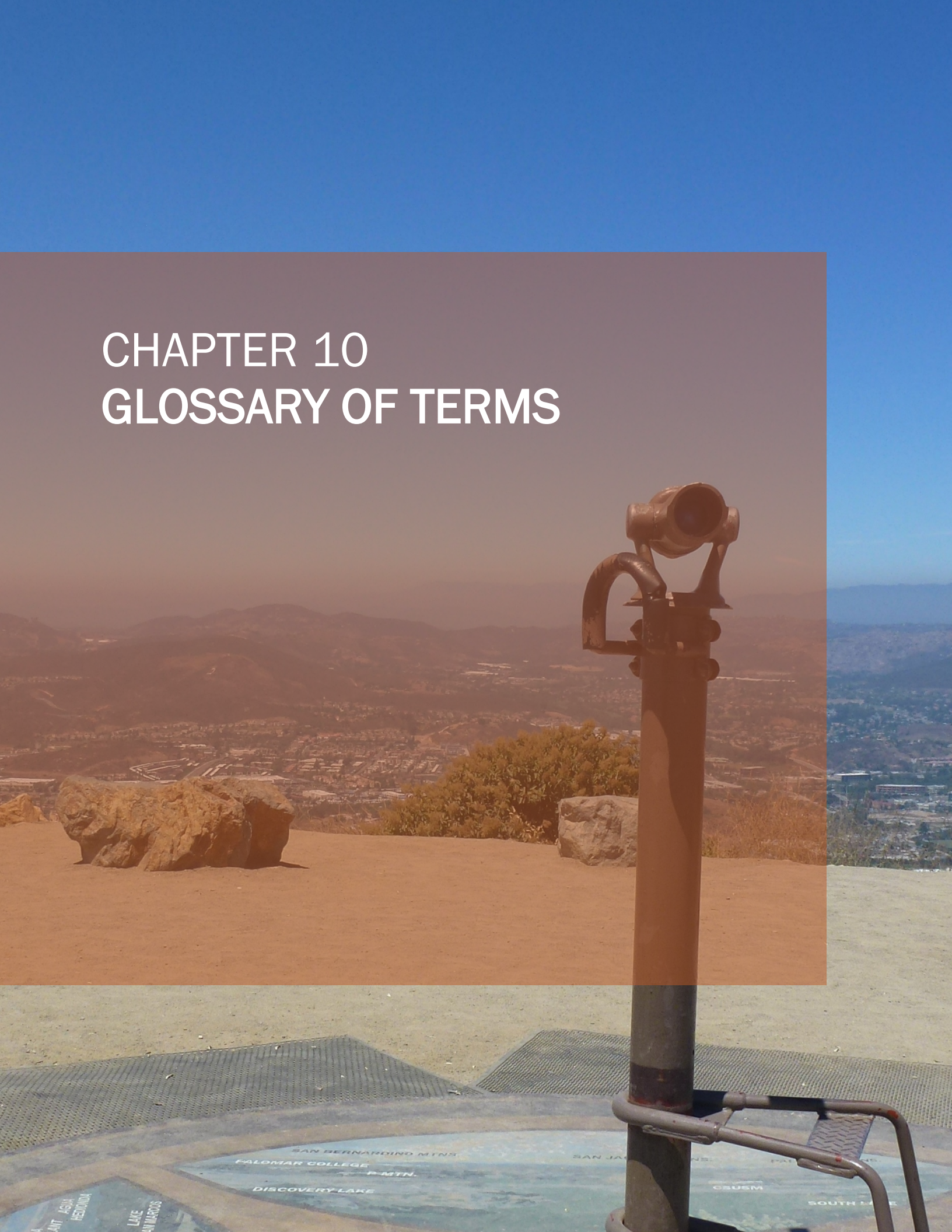


CHAPTER 10

GLOSSARY OF TERMS



10 GLOSSARY OF KEY TERMS

Term	Definition
Acoustics	The science of sound.
Acre feet	The volume of one acre of water to a depth of one foot. Each acre-foot of water is equal to 325,851.4 gallons.
Ambient Noise	The distinctive acoustical characteristics of a given area consisting of all noise sources audible at that location. In many cases, the term ambient is used to describe an existing or pre-project condition such as the setting in an environmental noise study.
Archaeology	The study of historic or prehistoric peoples and their cultures by analysis of their artifacts and monuments.
Attenuation	The reduction of noise.
A-Weighting	A frequency-response adjustment of a sound level meter that conditions the output signal to approximate human response.
BGS	Below ground surface.
Cfc	Cubic feet per second.
City Limits	The City Limits includes the area within the city's corporate boundary, over which the City exercises land use authority and provides public services.
Class I landfill	A landfill that accepts for disposal 20 tons or more of municipal solid waste daily (based on an annual average); or one that does not qualify as a Class II or Class III municipal solid waste landfill.
Class II landfill	A landfill that (1) accepts less than 20 tons daily of municipal solid waste (based on an annual average); (2) is located on a site where there is no evidence of groundwater pollution caused or contributed by the landfill; (3) is not connected by road to a Class I municipal solid waste landfill, or, if connected by road, is located more than 50 miles from a Class I municipal solid waste landfill; and (4) serves a community that experiences (for at least three months each year) an interruption in access to surface transportation, preventing access to a Class I landfill, or a community with no practicable waste management alternative.
Class III landfill	A landfill that is not connected by road to a Class I landfill or a landfill that is located at least 50 miles from a Class I landfill. Class III landfills can accept no more than an average of one ton daily of ash from incinerated municipal solid waste or less than five tons daily of municipal solid waste.
CNEL	Community Noise Equivalent Level. Defined as the 24-hour average noise level with noise occurring during evening hours (7 - 10 p.m.) weighted by a factor of three and nighttime hours weighted by a factor of 10 prior to averaging.
Complex	A patterned grouping of similar artifact assemblages from two or more sites, presumed to represent an archaeological culture.
Decibel or dB	Fundamental unit of sound, defined as ten times the logarithm of the ratio of the sound pressure squared over the reference pressure squared.
Effluent	In the context of wastewater treatment plants, effluent is wastewater that has been through a treatment process to remove pollution and undesirable constituents from the water.
Ethnography	The study of contemporary human cultures.
Frequency	The measure of the rapidity of alterations of a periodic acoustic signal, expressed in cycles per second or Hertz.
GPD	Gallons per day.
GPM	Gallons per minute.

Term	Definition
Groundwater	Water that is underground and below the water table, as opposed to surface water, which flows across the ground surface. Water beneath the earth’s surface fills the spaces in soil, gravel, or rock formations. Pockets of groundwater are often called “aquifers” and are the source of drinking water for a large percentage of the population in the United States. Groundwater is often extracted using wells which pump the water out of the ground and up to the surface. Groundwater is naturally replenished by surface water from precipitation, streams, and rivers when this recharge reaches the water table.
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Hydric Soils	One of the three wetland identification parameters, according to the Federal definition of a wetland, hydric soils have characteristics that indicate they were developed in conditions where soil oxygen is limited by the presence of saturated soil for long periods during the growing season. There are approximately 2,000 named soils in the United States that may occur in wetlands.
Hydrophytic Vegetation	Plant types that typically occur in wetland areas. Nearly 5,000 plant types in the United States may occur in wetlands. Plants are listed in regional publications of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and include such species as cattails, bulrushes, cordgrass, sphagnum moss, bald cypress, willows, mangroves, sedges, rushes, arrowheads, and water plantains.
Impulsive L(n)	Sound of short duration, usually less than one second, with an abrupt onset and rapid decay. The sound level exceeded a described percentile over a measurement period. For instance, an hourly L50 is the sound level exceeded 50 percent of the time during the one hour period.
LACSD	Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County. The Sanitation Districts are a partnership of 24 independent special districts that serve the wastewater and solid waste management needs of approximately 5.5 million people in Los Angeles County (County). The Sanitation Districts' service area covers approximately 824 square miles and encompasses 78 cities and unincorporated territory within the County. Within the Sanitation Districts' service area, there are approximately 9,500 miles of sewers that are owned and operated by the cities and County that are tributary to the Sanitation Districts' wastewater collection system. The Sanitation Districts own, operate, and maintain approximately 1,400 miles of sewers, ranging from 8 to 144 inches in diameter, that convey approximately 500 million gallons per day of wastewater to 11 wastewater treatment plants. Included in the Sanitation Districts' wastewater collection system are 48 active pumping plants located throughout the County.
Ldn	Day/Night Average Sound Level. Similar to CNEL but with no evening weighting.
Leq	Equivalent or energy-averaged sound level.
Lmax	The highest root-mean-square (RMS) sound level measured over a given period of time.
Loudness	A subjective term for the sensation of the magnitude of sound.
MCL	Maximum contaminant limit
MGD	Million gallons per day.
Midden	A deposit marking a former habitation site and containing such materials as discarded artifacts, bone and shell fragments, food refuse, charcoal, ash, rock, human remains, structural remnants, and other cultural leavings.
Noise	Unwanted sound.

Glossary of Key Terms

Term	Definition
Paleontology	The science of the forms of life existing in former geologic periods, as represented by their fossils.
Planning Area	For the purposes of the San Marcos General Plan Update, the Planning Area is defined as the area within the City's Sphere of Influence that is included in the analysis and planning for the approximate 20-year horizon of the City's General Plan Update.
Scenic Highway Corridor	The area outside of a highway right-of-way that is generally visible to persons traveling on the highway.
Scenic Highway/Scenic Route	A highway, road, drive, or street that, in addition to its transportation function, provides opportunities for the enjoyment of natural and human-made scenic resources and access or direct views to areas or scenes of exceptional beauty (including those of historic or cultural interest). The aesthetic values of scenic routes often are protected and enhanced by regulations governing the development of property or the placement of outdoor advertising. Until the mid-1980's, General Plans in California were required to include a Scenic Highways Element.
SEL	A rating, in decibels, of a discrete event, such as an aircraft flyover or train passby, that compresses the total sound energy into a one-second event
Sensitive Natural Community	A sensitive natural community is a biological community that is regionally rare, provides important habitat opportunities for wildlife, is structurally complex, or is in other ways of special concern to local, State, or Federal agencies. CEQA identifies the elimination or substantial degradation of such communities as a significant impact. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) tracks sensitive natural communities in the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB).
Sphere of Influence	A Sphere of Influence (SOI) is the probable physical boundary and service area of a local agency, as adopted by a Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO). An SOI may include both incorporated and unincorporated areas within which a city or special district will have primary responsibility for the provision of public facilities and services. San Marcos' SOI extends past its City Limits.
Surface water	Water collected on the ground or from a stream, river, lake, wetland, or ocean. Surface water is replenished naturally through precipitation but is lost naturally through evaporation and seepage into soil.
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Transfer station	A facility for the temporary deposition of some wastes. Transfer stations are often used as places where local waste collection vehicles will deposit their waste cargo prior to loading into larger vehicles. These larger vehicles will transport the waste to the end point of disposal or treatment.
TVMWD	Three Valley Municipal Water District
View Corridor	A view corridor is a highway, road, trail, or other linear feature that offers travelers a vista of scenic areas within a city or county.
VOC	Volatile Organic Compounds
Waste Management Plan	A Waste Management Plan (WMP) is a completed WMP form, approved by the City, submitted by the applicant for any covered project. A WMP must be completed and approved to obtain a building permit. Prior to project start, the WMP shall identify the types of construction and demolition (C&D) debris materials that will be generated for disposal and recycling. A completed WMP contains actual weight or volume of the material disposed recycled receipts.

Term	Definition
Waters of the U.S	The Federal government defines waters of the U.S. as "lakes, rivers, streams, intermittent drainages, mudflats, sandflats, wetlands, sloughs, and wet meadows" [33 C.F.R. §328.3(a)]. Waters of the U.S. exhibit a defined bed and bank and ordinary high water mark (OHWM). The OHWM is defined by the USACE as "that line on shore established by the fluctuations of water and indicated by physical character of the soil, destruction of terrestrial vegetation, the presence of litter and debris, or other appropriate means that consider the characteristics of the surrounding areas" [33 C.F.R. §328.3(e)].
Wetlands	Wetlands are ecologically complex habitats that support a variety of both plant and animal life. The Federal government defines wetlands as "those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support and under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions" [33 C.F.R. §328.3(b)]. Wetlands require wetland hydrology, hydric soils, and hydrophytic vegetation. Examples of wetlands include freshwater marsh, seasonal wetlands, and vernal pool complexes that have a hydrologic link to waters of the U.S.