Appendix G. Glossary of Stormwater Terms and Acronyms

Acronyms

BMPs	Best Management Practices
Caltrans	California Department of Transportation
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CSD	Community Services District
CWA	Clean Water Act
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
IWMA	Integrated Waste Management Authority
LID	Low Impact Development
MEP	Maximum Extent Practicable
MS4	Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System
NOI	Notice of Intent
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NPS	Nonpoint Source Pollution
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SLO	San Luis Obispo
SLOCPWQ	SLO County Partners for Water Quality
SWMP	Stormwater Management Program
SWP2	Stormwater Pollution Prevention
SWPPP	Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Load
UA	Urbanized Area
URL	Urban Reserve Line
U.S. EPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
VRL	Village Reserve Line
WDRs	Waste Discharge Requirements
WRAC	Water Resource Advisory Committee

Definition of Terms

Best Management Practices (BMPs): Best management practices are schedules of activities, prohibitions of practices, maintenance procedures, and other management practices to prevent or reduce the pollution of "waters of the United States." BMPs also include treatment requirements, operating procedures, and practices to control plant site runoff, spillage or leaks, sludge or waste disposal, or drainage from raw materials storage [see 40 CFR §122.2].

Detention Dam/Basin/Pond: Dams may be classified according to the broad function they serve, such as storage, diversion, or detention. Detention basins are constructed to retard flood runoff and minimize the effect of sudden floods. Detention dams fall into two main types. In one type, the water is temporarily stored, and released through an outlet structure at a rate which will not exceed the carrying capacity of the channel

downstream. Often, the basins are planted with grass and used for open space or recreation in periods of dry weather. The other type, most often called a retention pond, allows for water to be held as long as possible and may or may not allow for the controlled release of water. In some cases, the water is allowed to seep into the permeable banks or gravel strata in the foundation. This latter type is sometimes called a water-spreading dam or dike because its main purpose is to recharge the underground water supply. Detention dams constructed to trap sediment are often called debris dams.

Erosion: (1) The loosening and transportation of rock and soil debris by wind, rain, or running water. (2) The gradual wearing away of the upper layers of earth.

Flood, 100-Year: The magnitude of a flood expected to occur on the average every 100 years, based on historical data. The 100-year flood has a 1/100, or one percent, chance of occurring in any given year.

Floodplain: The relatively level land area on either side of the banks of a stream regularly subject to flooding. That part of the flood plain subject to a one percent chance of flooding in any given year is designated as an "area of special flood hazard" by the Federal Insurance Administration.

Hillsides: Hillside means property located in an area with known erosive soil conditions, where the development contemplates grading on any natural slope that is twenty-five percent or greater.

Industrial: The manufacture, production, and processing of consumer goods. Industrial is often divided into "heavy industrial" uses, such as construction yards, quarrying, and factories; and "light industrial" uses, such as research and development and less intensive warehousing and manufacturing.

Impervious surface: A surface that is incapable of being penetrated or passed through; an impermeable surface.

Infiltration: Infiltration means the downward entry of water into the surface of the soil.

Landscaping: Planting, including trees, shrubs, and ground covers, suitably designed, selected, installed, and maintained to enhance a site or roadway.

Land Use: The occupation or utilization of land or water area for any human activity or any purpose defined in the General Plan.

Maximum Extent Practicable (MEP): MEP is the technology based standard established by Congress in Clean Water Act Section 402(p)(3)(B)(ii) that municipal dischargers of stormwater must meet. MEP standard is not specifically defined; rather it is an ever-evolving, flexible, and advancing concept, which considers technical and economic feasibility. MEP is generally a result of emphasizing pollution prevention and

source control BMPs as the first line of defense in combination with structural and treatment methods, where appropriate serving as additional lines of defense.

Measurable Goal: Measurable goals are definable tasks or accomplishments that are associated with implementing best management practices.

Minimum Control Measure: A minimum control measure is stormwater program area that must be addressed (BMPs implemented to accomplish the program goal) by all regulated MS4s. The following six minimum control measures are required to be addressed by the regulated Small MS4s: Public Education and Outreach on Stormwater Impacts, Public Participation and Involvement, Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination, Construction Site Runoff Controls, Post-Construction Stormwater Management in New Development and Redevelopment, and Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations.

Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s): "a conveyance or system of conveyances (including roads with drainage systems, municipal streets, catch basins, curbs, gutters, ditches, man-made channels, or storm drains): (i) Owned or operated by a state, city, town, borough, county, parish, district, association, or other public body (created by or pursuant to State law)...including special districts under State law such as a sewer district, flood control district or drainage district, or similar entity, or an Indian tribe or an authorized tribal organization, or a designated and approved management agency under Section 208 of the Clean Water Act that discharges into waters of the United States. (ii) Designed or used for collecting or conveying stormwater; (iii) which is not a combined sewer; and (iv) which is not part of a Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW) as defined at 40 CFR §122.2."

Nonpoint Source Pollution: Sources for pollution that are less definable and usually cover broad areas of land, such as agricultural land with fertilizers that are carried from the land by runoff, or automobiles.

Outfall: A point source at the point where a municipal separate storm sewer discharges to waters of the United States and does not include open conveyances connecting two municipal separate storm sewers, or pipes, tunnels or other conveyances which connect segments of the same stream or other waters of the United States and are used to convey waters of the United States. [see 40 CFR §122.26(b)(9)]

Pollutant: Any introduced gas, liquid, or solid that makes a resource unfit for its normal or usual purpose.

Pollutants of Concern: Include biochemical oxygen demand (BOD), sediment or a parameter that addresses sediment (such as total suspended solids, turbidity or siltation), pathogens, oil and grease, and any pollutant that has been identified as a cause of impairment in any water body to which the MS4 discharges.

Pollution: The presence of matter or energy whose nature, location, or quantity

produces undesired environmental effects.

Pollution, Point Source: In reference to water quality, a discrete source from which pollution is generated before it enters receiving waters, such as a sewer outfall, a smokestack, or an industrial waste pipe.

Redevelopment: Redevelopment means, on an already developed site, the creation or addition of at least 5,000 square feet of impervious area. Redevelopment includes, but is not limited to: the expansion of a building footprint or addition of a structure; structural developments including an increase in gross floor area and/or exterior construction or remodeling; and land disturbing activities related with structural or impervious surfaces. Where redevelopment results in an increase of less that 50% of the impervious surface of a previously existing development, and the existing development was not subject to the Design Standards, the Design Standards apply only to the addition, and not to the entire development.

Regulated Small MS4: A regulated Small MS4 is a Small MS4 that is required to be permitted for discharging stormwater though its MS4 to waters of the U.S. and is designated either automatically by the U.S. EPA because it is located within an urbanized area, or designated by the SWRCB or RWQCB in accordance with the designation criteria listed in Finding 11of the MS4 General Permit.

Retention Basin/Retention Pond: (See "Detention Basin/Detention Pond.")

Runoff: That portion of rain or snow that does not percolate into the ground and is discharged into streams.

Sanitary Sewer: A system of subterranean conduits that carries refuse liquids or waste matter to a plant where the sewage is treated, as contrasted with storm drainage systems (that carry surface water) and septic tanks or leech fields (that hold refuse liquids and waste matter on-site). (See "Septic System.")

Septic System: A sewage treatment system that includes a settling tank through which liquid sewage flows and in which solid sewage settles and is decomposed by bacteria in the absence of oxygen. Septic systems are often used for individual home waste disposal where an urban sewer system is not available. (See "Sanitary Sewer.")

Siltation: (1) The accumulating deposition of eroded material. (2) The gradual filling in of streams and other bodies of water with sand, silt, and clay.

Slope: Land gradient described as the vertical rise divided by the horizontal run expressed in percent.

Soil: The unconsolidated material on the immediate surface of the earth created by natural forces that serves as natural medium for growing land plants.

Source Control BMP: Source Control BMP means any schedule of activities, prohibitions of practices, maintenance procedures, managerial practices or operations practices that aim to prevent stormwater pollution by reducing the potential for contamination at the source of pollution.

Storm Runoff: Surplus surface water generated by rainfall that does not seep into the earth and flows overland to flowing or stagnant bodies of water.

Structural BMP: Structural BMP means any structural facility designed and constructed to mitigate the adverse impacts of stormwater and urban runoff pollution (e.g. canopy, structural enclosure). The category may include both Treatment Control BMPs and Source Control BMPs.

Treatment Control BMP: Treatment Control BMP means any engineered system designed to remove pollutants by simple gravity settling of particulate pollutants, filtration, biological uptake, media adsorption or any other physical, biological, or chemical process.

Urbanized Areas (UA): A land area comprising one or more places, central place(s) and the adjacent densely settled surrounding area (urban fringe), that together have a residential population of at least 50,000 and an overall population density of at least 1,000 people per square mile. The UA is a calculation used by the Bureau of Census to determine the geographic boundaries of the most heavily developed and dense urban areas.

Watershed: The total area above a given point on a watercourse that contributes water to its flow; the entire region drained by a waterway or watercourse that drains into a lake, or reservoir. Watersheds are those land areas that catch rain or snow and drain to specific marshes, streams, rivers, lakes, or to ground water.