

APPENDIX B
ACRONYMS AND GLOSSARY

APPENDIX B - ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

°C	degrees Celsius
°F	degrees Fahrenheit
µg/L	micrograms per Liter
µg/m ³	micrograms per cubic meter
AADT	Annual Average Daily Traffic
AAQS	ambient air quality standards
AB 32	California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006
AB	Authorized Biologist
AC	alternating current
ACEC	Area of Critical Environmental Concern
ACHP	Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
ACS	American Community Survey
AF	acre-feet
AFC	Application for Certification
AFY	acre-feet per year
ALUC	Airport Land Use Commission
ALUCP	Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan
amsl	Above Mean Sea Level
APE	Area of Potential Effects
APLIC	Avian Power Line Interaction Committee
APM	Applicant-Proposed Measures
APN	Assessor's Parcel Number
ARPA	Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979
ASTM	American Society for Testing Materials Standards
BA	Biological Assessment
BBCS	Bird and Bat Conservation Strategy
BCC	Birds of Conservation Concern
BEA	United States Bureau of Economic Analysis
BGEPA	Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act
bgs	below ground surface
BLM	United States Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management
BMPs	best management practices
BMSP	Blythe Mesa Solar Project
BO	Biological Opinion
BRMIMP	Biological Resources Mitigation, Implementation, and Monitoring Plan
BSPP	Blythe Solar Power Project
BTU/kWh	British thermal units per kilowatt hour
BUOW	Western burrowing owl
CAA	Clean Air Act
CAAQS	California ambient air quality standards
CAL FIRE	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
CAISO	California Independent System Operator

CalEPA	California Environmental Protection Agency
Cal-IPC	California Invasive Plant Council
Cal-OSHA	California - Occupational Safety and Health Administration
Caltrans	California Department of Transportation
CARB	California Air Resources Board
CARIDAP	California Archaeological Resources Identification and Data Acquisition Program
CBC	California Building Code
CBOC	California Burrowing Owl Consortium
CCD	Census County Division
CCH	Consortium of California Herbaria
CCR	California Code of Regulations
CDC	Centers for Disease Control
CDCA	California Desert Conservation Area
CDCA Plan	California Desert Conservation Area Plan of 1980, as amended
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CDMG	California Division of Mines and Geology
CDP	Census Designated Place
CDPA	California Desert Protection Act of 1994
CDPH	California Department of Public Health
CDOC	California Department of Conservation
CdTe	cadmium telluride
CDV	canine distemper virus
CEC	California Energy Commission
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
CERS	California Environmental Reporting System
CESA	California Endangered Species Act
CFC	chlorofluorocarbons
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
cfs	cubic feet per second
CGS	California Geological Survey
CH ₄	methane
CHRIS	California Historical Resources Information System
CHWMP	Riverside County Hazardous Waste Management Plan
CIWMP	Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan
CMA	Congestion Management Agency
CMA	Conservation and Management Action
CMP	Congestion Management Program
CNDDB	California Natural Diversity Database
CNEL	Community Noise Equivalent Level
CNPS	California Native Plant Society
CO	carbon monoxide
CO ₂	carbon dioxide

CO ₂ e	carbon dioxide equivalents
CPM	Compliance Project Manager
CPUC	California Public Utilities Commission
CRHR	California Register of Historical Resources
CRMMP	Cultural Resources Monitoring and Mitigation Plan
CRR	Cultural Resources Report
CRS	Cultural Resources Specialist
CRSS	Colorado River Substation
cSi	Crystalline Silicon
CT	census tract
CUP	Conditional Use Permit
CUPA	Certified Unified Program Authority
CVGB	Chuckwalla Valley Groundwater Basin
CWA	Clean Water Act
cy	cubic yards
DAS	data acquisition system
dB	decibel
dBA	A-weighted decibel
DC	direct current
DESCP	Drainage Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan
DFA	Development Focus Area
DHS	United States Department of Homeland Security
DoD	United States Department of Defense
DOE	United States Department of Energy
DOF	California Department of Finance
DOI	United States Department of Interior
DPM	diesel particulate matter
DPR	California Department of Parks and Recreation
DPV1	Devers-Palo Verde Transmission Line Number 1
DPV2	Devers-Palo Verde Transmission Line Number 2
DQSP	Desert Quartzite Solar Project
DRECP	California Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan
DTC/C-AMA	Desert Training Center California-Arizona Maneuver Area
DTSC	Department of Toxic Substances Control
DWMA	Desert Wildlife Management Area
DWR	Department of Water Resources
EAP	Emergency Action Plan
EICMPP	Environmental Inspection and Compliance Monitoring Program and Plan
EDD	California Employment Development Department
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EMF	Electric and Magnetic Field
EPAct	Energy Policy Act of 2005
EPCRA	Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act of 1986
EPRI	Electric Power Research Institute

EPS	Emission Performance Standard
FAA	Federal Aviation Administration
FAST	Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act
FE	Federally listed as endangered
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FERC	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
FESA	Federal Endangered Species Act
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
FHSZ	Fire Hazard Severity Zone
FIRM	Flood Insurance Rate Map
FLPMA	Federal Land Policy and Management Act
FR	Federal Register
ft	foot
FT	Federally listed as threatened
FTA	Federal Transit Administration
gal	gallon
g/m ² yr	grams per square meter per year
GDP	gross domestic product
gen-tie	generation transmission
GHG	greenhouse gas
GIS	geographic information system
gpd	gallons per day
gpd/ft	gallons per day per foot
gpd/ft ²	gallons per day per square foot
gpm	gallons per minute
GPS	global positioning system
GWP	global warming potential
H ₂ S	hydrogen sulfide
HMBP	Hazardous Materials Business Plan
HCP	habitat conservation plan
HMA	Herd Management Area
HPTP	Historic Properties Treatment Plan
HRA	health risk assessment
HVAC	Heating, ventilation, and air conditioning
I-10	Interstate 10
IBC	International Building Code
IM	Instructional Memorandum
IOP	Interagency Operating Procedures
IPCC	International Panel on Climate Change
kg	kilogram
KOP	key observation point
kV	kilovolt
kW	kilowatt
kWh	kilowatt-hour

L90	The A-weighted noise level that is exceeded 90 percent of the time during the measurement period.
lbs	pounds
Ldn	day-night average noise level equivalent continuous sound level
Leq	equivalent continuous sound level
LORS	laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards
LOS	level of service
LR2000	Land & Mineral Legacy Rehost 2000 System
LRA	Local Responsibility Area
LTVAs	Long Term Visitor Areas
m	meter
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
MCA	Medieval Climatic Anomaly
MDAB	Mojave Desert Air Basin
MDAQMD	Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District
MDP	Monitoring and Discovery Plan
mg/L	milligrams per liter
mg/m ³	milligrams per cubic meter
mi	mile
ml	milliliter
mm	millimeter
MM	Modified Mercalli
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
Modified BSPP	Modified Blythe Solar Power Project
MPH	miles per hour
MRDS	Mineral Resources Data System
MRZ	Mineral Resource Zone
m/s	meters per second
MSEP	McCoy Solar Energy Project
MT	metric ton
MTR	Military Training Route
MUC	Multiple-Use Class
MW	megawatt
MWh	megawatt-hour
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NAGPRA	Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act
NAHC	Native American Heritage Commission
NECO	Northern and Eastern Colorado Desert Coordinated Management Plan
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NFIP	National Flood Insurance Program
NFPA	National Fire Protection Association
NFWF	National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
NGI	Norwegian Geotechnical Institute
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NLCS	National Landscape Conservation System

NNSR	Nearest Noise Sensitive Receptor
NO ₂	nitrogen dioxide
NOA	Notice of Availability
NOI	Notice of Intent
NOP	Notice of Preparation
NO _x	nitrogen oxides
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NPPA	Native Plant Protection Act
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NREL	National Renewable Energy Laboratory
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
NSPS	New Source Performance Standard
NSR	New Source Review
NTP	Notice to Proceed
NWIS	National Water Information System
O ₂	oxygen
O ₃	ozone
O&M	operation and maintenance
OEHHA	Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment
OHV	off-highway vehicle
OSHA	United States Occupational Safety and Health Administration
PA	Programmatic Agreement (when used in context of cultural resources)
PA	Plan Amendment (when used in context of CDCA Plan)
PA/EIS/EIR	Proposed Plan Amendment/Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report
PAR	Property Analysis Record
PCE	Passenger Car Equivalents
PCS	power conversion station
PEIS	Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement
PFYC	Potential Fossil Yield Classification
PGA	peak ground acceleration
PHA	Project Historical Archaeologist
PL	Public Law
PM	particulate matter
PM ₁₀	particulate matter less than 10 microns in diameter
PM _{2.5}	particulate matter less than 2.5 microns in diameter
POD	Plan of Development
PPA	Power Purchase Agreement
ppm	parts per million
PPV	Peak Particle Velocity
PRMMP	Paleontologic Resources Monitoring and Mitigation Plan
PRPA	Paleontologic Resources Preservation Act
PSD	Prevention of Significant Deterioration
PTNCL	Prehistoric Trails Network Cultural Landscape
PUP	Public Use Permit

PV	photovoltaic
PVCS	Photovoltaic Combining Switchgear
PVGB	Palo Verde Groundwater Basin
PVID	Palo Verde Irrigation District
PVMGB	Palo Verde Mesa Groundwater Basin
PVVAP	Palo Verde Valley Area Plan
PVVGB	Palo Verde Valley Groundwater Basin
PVVTA	Palo Verde Valley Transit Agency
R	State characterized as rare
RCFD	Riverside County Fire Department
RCGP	Riverside County General Plan
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976
RCTC	Riverside County Transportation Commission
ROD	Record of Decision
ROG	reactive organic gas
ROW	right-of-way
RMP	Resource Management Plan
RMS	Root Mean Square
RPS	Renewables Portfolio Standard
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SARA	Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986
SCE	Southern California Edison
SDWA	Safe Drinking Water Act
SE	State listed as endangered
SEZ	Solar Energy Zone
SF	Standard form
SF ₆	sulfur hexafluoride
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Officer
SLRU	Sensitivity Level Rating Units
SMARA	Surface Mining and Reclamation Act
SMZ	Sand Migration Zone
SO ₂	sulfur dioxide
SO _x	sulfur oxides
SPCC	Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures
SQRU	Scenic Quality Rating Units
SR	State Route
SRA	State Responsibility Area
SSC	Species of Special Concern
ST	State listed as threatened
SUA	Special Use Airspace
SVP	Society of Vertebrate Paleontology
SWPPP	Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
TAC	toxic air contaminant
TCR	Tribal Cultural Resource

TDS	Total Dissolved Solids
TSCA	Toxic Substances Control Act of 1976
UL	Underwriters Laboratory
U.S.	United States
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
USC	United States Code
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USDOT	United States Department of Transportation
USEPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
USFS	United States Forest Service
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	United States Geological Survey
UST	underground storage tank
UXO	unexploded ordnance
UV	ultraviolet
V	volts
VMT	vehicle miles traveled
VOC	volatile organic compound
VRI	Visual Resource Inventory
VRM	Visual Resource Management
VRMP	Vegetation Resources Management Plan
VSOI	visual sphere of influence
W	watts
WAPA	Western Area Power Administration
WDR	Waste Discharge Requirement
WEPS	Wind Erosion Prediction System
WEAP	Worker Environmental Awareness Program
WHMA	Wildlife Habitat Management Area
WIU	Wilderness Inventory Unit
WL	Watch List
WRCC	Western Regional Climate Center
WSA	Wilderness Study Area
WSA	Water Supply Assessment
W/m ²	watts per square meter
yr	year

GLOSSARY

A

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.

Alluvium: a fine-grained fertile soil consisting of mud, silt, and sand deposited by flowing water on flood plains, in river beds, and in estuaries.

Alluvial Fan: Fan shaped material of water deposited material.

Ambient Air Quality Standards (AAQS): 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 Environmental Concern (ACEC): A designated area on public lands where special management attention is required: (1) to protect and prevent irreparable damage to fish and wildlife; (2) to protect important historic, cultural, or scenic values, or other natural systems or processes; or (3) to protect life and safety from natural hazards.

Area of Potential Effects (APE): The geographic area or areas within which an action may directly or indirectly cause changes in the character or use of historic properties, if such properties exist.

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.

B

Best Management Practices (BMPs): A practice or combination of practices that are determined to provide the most effective, environmentally sound, and economically feasible means of managing an activity and mitigating its impacts.

C

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 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.

Characteristic: A distinguishing trait, feature, or quality.

Characteristic Landscape: The established landscape within an area being viewed. This does not necessarily mean a naturalistic character. It could refer to an agricultural setting, an urban landscape, a primarily natural environment, or a combination of these types.

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.

Contrast: Opposition or unlikeness of different forms, lines, colors, or textures in a landscape.

Contrast Rating: A method of analyzing the potential visual impacts of proposed management activities.

Corrosive Soils: Potential soil-induced electrochemical or chemical action that could corrode or deteriorate concrete, reinforcing steel in concrete structures, and bare-metal structures.

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 Federal 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 or 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 Landscape: A geographic area, including both natural and cultural resources, associated with a historic event, activity, group, or person; or, a geographic area that has been assigned cultural or social meaning by associated cultural groups.

Cultural Modification: Any man-caused change in the land form, water form, vegetation, or the addition of a structure which creates a visual contrast in the basic elements (form, line, color, texture) of the naturalistic character of a landscape.

Cultural Resource: A location of human activity, occupation, or use identifiable through field inventory, historical documentation, or oral evidence. Cultural resources include archaeological and historical sites, structures, buildings, objects, artifacts, works of art, architecture, and natural features that were important in past human events. They may consist of physical remains or areas where significant human events occurred, even though evidence of the events no longer remains. And they may include definite locations of traditional, cultural, or religious importance to specified social or cultural groups.

D

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.

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 Amendment to the CDCA 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). These were eliminated in DRECP, and replaced by Desert Tortoise ACECs.

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

E

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.

Erosion: A natural process whereby soil and highly weathered rock materials are worn away and transported to another area, most commonly by wind or water.

Ethnographic Resources: Resources representing the heritage of a particular ethnic or cultural group, such as Native Americans or African, European, Latino, or Asian immigrants. They may include traditional resource-collecting areas, ceremonial sites, value-imbued landscape features, cemeteries, shrines, or ethnic neighborhoods and structures.

Excavation: The scientific examination of an archaeological site through layer-by-layer removal and study of the contents within prescribed surface units, e.g. square meters.

Expansive Soils: A soil which significantly changes its volume in horizontal and vertical planes with changes in moisture content.

F

Fault (active): A fault that has had surface displacement during Holocene time (last 11,000 years).

Fault (potentially active): A Quaternary-age (last 1.8 million years) fault that lacks evidence of Holocene-age displacement.

Fluvial: Of, relating to, or occurring in a river.

Form: The mass or shape of an object or objects which appear unified, such as a vegetative opening in a forest, a cliff formation, or a water tank.

G

Glare: The sensation produced by luminance within the visual field that is sufficiently greater than the luminance to which the eyes are adapted, which causes annoyance, discomfort, or loss in visual performance and visibility. See Glint.

Glint: A momentary flash of light resulting from a spatially localized reflection of sunlight.

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

H

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.

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.

Historical Site: A location that was used or occupied after the arrival of Europeans in North America (ca. A.D. 1492). Such sites may consist of physical remains at archaeological sites or areas where significant human events occurred, even though evidence of the events no longer remains. They may have been used by people of either European or Native American descent.

Holocene: Of, denoting, or formed in the second and most recent epoch of the Quaternary period, which began 10,000 years ago at the end of the Pleistocene.

Hydrocarbons: Any organic compound containing only carbon and hydrogen, such as the alkanes, alkenes, alkynes, terpenes, and arenes.

I

Indian Tribe: Any American Indian group in the United States that the Secretary of the Interior recognizes as possessing tribal status (listed periodically in the Federal Register).

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.

K

Key Observation Point (KOP): One or a series of points on a travel route or at a use area or a potential use area, where the view of a management activity would be most revealing.

L

Landscape Character: The arrangement of a particular landscape as formed by the variety and intensity of the landscape features and the four basic elements of form, line, color, and texture.

These factors give the area a distinctive quality which distinguishes it from its immediate surroundings.

Landscape Features: The land and water form, vegetation, and structures which compose the characteristic landscape.

Landslide: A slope failure that involves downslope displacement and movement of material, either triggered by static (i.e., gravity) or dynamic (i.e., earthquake) forces.

Leasable Minerals: Minerals whose extraction from Federally managed land requires a lease and the payment of royalties. Leasable minerals include coal, oil and gas, oil shale and tar sands, potash, phosphate, sodium, and geothermal steam.

Line: The path, real or imagined, that the eye follows when perceiving abrupt differences in form, color, or texture. Within landscapes, lines may be found as ridges, skylines, structures, changes in vegetative types, or individual trees and branches.

Liquefaction: A condition in which a saturated cohesionless soil may lose shear strength because of a sudden increase in pore water pressure caused by an earthquake.

Locatable Minerals: Minerals subject to exploration, development, and disposal by staking mining claims as authorized by the Mining Law of 1872, as amended. This includes deposits of gold, silver, and other uncommon minerals not subject to lease or sale.

M

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.

Mining Claim: A mining claim is a selected parcel of Federal Land, valuable for a specific mineral deposit or deposits, for which a right of possession has been asserted under the General Mining Law. This right is restricted to the development and extraction of a mineral deposit. The rights granted by a mining claim protect against a challenge by the United States and other claimants only after the discovery of a valuable mineral deposit. The two types of mining claims are lode and placer. In addition, mill sites and tunnel sites may be located to provide support facilities for lode and placer mining.

Mitigation: Mitigation includes: (a) Avoiding the impacts altogether by not taking an action or parts of an action, (b) Minimizing impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation, (c) Rectifying the impact by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected environment, (d) Reducing or eliminating the impact over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the action, (e) Compensating for the impact by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments (40 CFR §1508.20).

N

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: The official list, established by the National Historic Preservation Act, of the Nation's cultural resources worthy of preservation. The National Register lists archeological, historic, and architectural properties (i.e. districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects) nominated for their local, state, or national significance by state and Federal agencies and approved by the National Register Staff. The National Park Service maintains the National Register.

Native American: 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: A toxic, reddish gas formed by the 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.

Non-native Species: See Invasive Species.

Noxious Weed: According to the Federal Noxious Weed Act (PL 93-629), a weed that causes disease or has other adverse effects on man or his environment and therefore is detrimental to the agricultural and commerce of the United States and to the public health.

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.

O

Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV): Any vehicle capable of or designed for travel on or immediately over land, water, or other natural terrain, deriving motive power from any source other than muscle. OHVs exclude: 1) any non-amphibious registered motorboat; 2), any fire, emergency, or law enforcement vehicle while being used for official or emergency purposes; 3) any vehicle whose use is expressly authorized by a permit, lease, license, agreement, or contract issued by an authorized officer or otherwise approved; 4) vehicles in official use; and 5) any combat or combat support vehicle when used in times of national defense emergencies.

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.

Overdraft condition: A condition in which the total volume of water being extracted from the groundwater basin would be greater than the total recharge provided to the basin.

Ozone (O₃): A compound consisting of three oxygen atoms. Ozone 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.

P

Paleontological Resources (Fossils): The physical remains of plants and animals preserved in soils and sedimentary rock formations. Paleontological resources are for understanding past environments, environmental change, and the evolution of life.

Paleontology: A science dealing with the life forms of past geological periods as known from fossil remains.

Paleozoic Era: An era of geologic time (600 million to 280 million years ago) between the Late Precambrian and the Mesozoic eras and comprising the Cambrian, Ordovician, Silurian, Devonian, Mississippian, Pennsylvanian, and Permian periods.

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. See PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}.

Peak Ground Acceleration (PGA): A common measure of ground motion during an earthquake. The PGA for a given component of motion is the largest value of horizontal acceleration obtained from a seismograph. PGA is expressed as the percentage of the acceleration due to gravity (g), which is approximately 980 centimeters per second squared. Unlike measures of magnitude, which provide a single measure of earthquake energy, PGA varies from place to place, and is dependent on the distance from the epicenter and the character of the underlying geology (e.g. hard bedrock, soft sediments, or artificial fills).

Petroglyph: Pictures, symbols, or other art work pecked, carved, or incised on natural rock surfaces.

pH: a measure of the acidity or basicity of a water-based solution. Pure water is considered neutral with a pH of 7, while solutions with a pH less than 7 are said to be acidic and solutions with a pH greater than 7 are basic or alkaline.

Physiographic Province: An extensive portion of the landscape normally encompassing many hundreds of square miles, which portrays similar qualities of soil, rock, slope, and vegetation of the same geomorphic origin.

Pleistocene (Ice Age): An epoch in the Quaternary period of geologic history lasting from 1.8 million to 10,000 years ago. The Pleistocene was an epoch of multiple glaciation, during which continental glaciers covered nearly one fifth of the earth's land.

Pliocene: The Pliocene Epoch is the period in the geologic timescale that extends from 5.332 million to 2.588 million years before present.

PM₁₀ (inhalable particulate matter): A fractional sampling of suspended particulate matter that approximates the extent to which suspended particles with aerodynamic equivalent diameters smaller than 50 microns penetrate to the lower respiratory tract (tracheo-bronchial airways and alveoli in the lungs). In a regulatory context, PM₁₀ is any suspended particulate matter collected by a certified sampling device having a 50 percent collection efficiency for particles with aerodynamic equivalent diameters of 9.5 to 10.5 microns and an maximum aerodynamic diameter collection limit less than 50 microns. Collection efficiencies are greater than 50 percent for particles with aerodynamic diameters smaller than 10 microns and less than 50 percent for particles with aerodynamic diameters larger than 10 microns.

PM_{2.5} (fine particulate matter): A fractional sampling of suspended particulate matter that approximates the extent to which suspended particles with aerodynamic equivalent diameters smaller than 6 microns penetrate into the alveoli in the lungs. In a regulatory context, PM_{2.5} is any suspended particulate matter collected by a certified sampling device having a 50 percent collection efficiency for particles with aerodynamic equivalent diameters of 2.0 to 2.5 microns and an maximum aerodynamic diameter collection limit less than 6 microns. Collection efficiencies are greater than 50 percent for particles with aerodynamic diameters smaller than 2.5 microns and less than 50 percent for particles with aerodynamic diameters larger than 2.5 microns.

Power Purchase Agreement (PPA): A contract between two parties, one who generates and intends to sell electricity, and one who is looking to purchase electricity, defining the commercial terms for the sale of electricity between the two parties.

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: Refers to the period wherein American Indian cultural activities took place before written records and not yet influenced by contact with nonnative culture(s).

Q

Quaternary Age: The most recent of the three periods of the Cenozoic Era. In the geologic time scale of the International Commission on Stratigraphy, it follows the Tertiary Period, spanning time from approximately 2.6 ± 0.005 million years ago to the present. The Quaternary includes two geologic epochs: the Pleistocene and the Holocene.

R

Record of Decision (ROD): A formal decision document issued by a Federal agency to record the decision for the public.

Rehabilitation: A management alternative and/or practice which restores landscapes to a desired scenic quality.

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.

Road: A linear route declared a road by the owner, managed for use by low-clearance vehicles having four or more wheels, and maintained for regular and continuous use.

Route: “Routes” represents a group or set of roads, trails, and primitive roads that represents less than 100 percent of the BLM transportation system. Generically, components of the transportation system are described as routes.

S

Saleable Minerals: Common variety minerals on the public lands, such as sand and gravel, which are used mainly for construction and are disposed by sales or special permits to local governments. See also Mineral Material Disposal.

Scale: The proportionate size relationship between an object and the surroundings in which the object is placed.

Scenery: The aggregate of features that give character to a landscape.

Scenic Area: An area whose landscape character exhibits a high degree of variety and harmony among the basic elements which results in a pleasant landscape to view.

Scenic Quality: The relative worth of a landscape from a visual perception point of view.

Scenic Quality Ratings: The relative scenic quality (A, B, or C) assigned a landscape by applying the scenic quality evaluation key factors; scenic quality A being the highest rating, B a moderate rating, and C the lowest rating.

Scenic Values: See Scenic Quality and Scenic Quality Ratings.

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.

Sedimentary Rocks: Rocks, such as sandstone, limestone, and shale, that are formed from sediments or transported fragments deposited in water.

Sensitivity Levels: Measures (e.g., high, medium, and low) of public concern for scenic quality.

Settlement: A process by which soils decrease in volume. Earthquake induced settlement results when relatively unconsolidated granular materials experience vibration associated with seismic events. Local settlement can occur when areas containing compressible soils are subject to foundation or fill loads.

Special-Status Species: Federal- or state-listed species, candidate or proposed species for listing, or species otherwise considered sensitive or threatened by state and Federal agencies.

State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO): The official within and authorized by each state at the request of the Secretary of the Interior to act as liaison for the National Historic Preservation Act.

State Implementation Plan (SIP): Legally enforceable plans adopted by states and submitted to USEPA for approval, which 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 SWRCB to provide comprehensive protection for California's waters. The mission of the nine Regional Water Quality Control 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.

Stratigraphy: The order and relative position of strata (a layer of rock in the ground) and their relationship to the geological time scale.

Subsurface: Of or pertaining to rock or mineral deposits which generally are found below the ground surface.

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.

T

Tertiary: The Tertiary Period marks the beginning of the Cenozoic Era. It began 65 million years ago and lasted more than 63 million years, until 1.8 million years ago. The Tertiary is made up of 5 epochs: the Paleocene Epoch, the Eocene Epoch, the Oligocene Epoch, the Miocene Epoch, and the Pliocene Epoch.

Texture: The visual manifestations of the interplay of light and shadow created by the variations in the surface of an object or landscape.

Total Dissolved Solids: A measure of the combined content of all *inorganic* and *organic* substances contained in a liquid that are smaller than two micrometers in diameter (e.g., sodium).

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.

Trail: A linear route managed for human-powered, stock, or off-highway vehicle forms of transportation or for historical or heritage values. Trails are not generally managed for use by four-wheel drive or high-clearance vehicles.

Tribal Cultural Resource: Sites, features, places, cultural landscapes, and sacred places or objects that have cultural value or significance to a Tribe.

V

Vandalism (Cultural Resource): Malicious damage or the unauthorized collecting, excavating, or defacing of cultural resources. Section 6 of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act states that “no person may excavate, remove, damage, or otherwise alter or deface any archaeological resource located on public lands or Indian lands...unless such activity is pursuant to a permit issued under section 4 of this Act.”

Variables: Factors influencing visual perception including distance, angle of observation, time, size or scale, season of the year, light, and atmospheric conditions.

Variety: The state or quality of being varied and having the absence of monotony or sameness.

Viewshed: The landscape that can be directly seen under favorable atmospheric conditions, from a viewpoint or along a transportation corridor. Protection, rehabilitation, or enhancement is desirable and possible.

Visual Contrast: See Contrast.

Visual Quality: See Scenic Quality.

Visual Resources: The visible physical features on a landscape (e.g., land, water, vegetation, animals, structures, and other features).

Visual Resource Management Classes: Categories assigned to public lands based on scenic quality, sensitivity level, and distance zones. There are four classes. Each class has an objective which prescribes the amount of change allowed in the characteristic landscape.

Visual Resource Management (VRM): The inventory and planning actions taken to identify visual values and to establish objectives for managing those values; and the management actions taken to achieve the visual management objectives.

Visual Values: See Scenic Quality.

W

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

Wilderness Area: An area formally designated by Congress as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System as defined in the Wilderness Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 891), Section 2(c).

Wilderness Study Area: A roadless area or island that has been inventoried and found to have wilderness characteristics as described in Section 603 of FLPMA and Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 891). The source for both of these is BLM’s IMP and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review (December 1979).