

List of Acronyms, Abbreviations, and Glossary

Note:

The definitions in this glossary are derived from various sources, including the technical reports prepared by EDAW, Inc. and Geosyntec Consultants for the Laguna Creek Watershed assessment. Other sources included US EPA, Center for Watershed Protection, Sacramento Stormwater Quality Partnership, and other watershed management plans. The definitions in this glossary are generally tailored for the watershed setting and this Watershed Management Action Plan.

acre-foot (AF):	The quantity of water required to cover 1 acre to a depth of 1 foot. Equal to 1,233.5 cubic meters or 325,851 gallons.
aggradation:	The process of deposition of sediment at a site, typically a stream channel.
aggrade:	To raise the grade or level of (a river valley, a stream bed, etc.) by depositing detritus, sediment, or the like.
anoxic:	Conditions in which there is an absence of oxygen (anaerobic).
alluvial fan:	A fan-shaped deposit formed where a fast flowing stream flattens, slows, and spreads typically at the exit of a canyon onto a flatter plain.
alluvium:	Soil made up of particles and rocks that have been deposited by surface runoff.
anthropogenic:	Anthropogenic effects or processes are those that are derived from human activities, as opposed to effects or processes that occur in the natural environment without human influences.
aquifer:	Permeable subsurface materials (soil, sediments, and rock) that contain groundwater. Aquifers may be large or small, local or regional, shallow or deep,



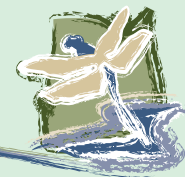
	and confined or unconfined, depending on the subsurface geologic conditions.		
bacteria:	Single-celled microorganisms that lack chlorophyll; some cause disease, others are necessary to sustain life.		reduce or eliminate the discharge of pollutants to surface waters from point and nonpoint source discharges including stormwater. BMPs include structural and nonstructural controls, and operation and maintenance procedures, which can be applied before, during, and/or after pollution producing activities.
baseflow:	Portion of stream flow that is not due to storm runoff and is supported by groundwater seepage into a channel.		
beneficial use:	Simple narrative description of water quality expectations or water quality goals. A beneficial (or designated) use is a legally recognized description of a desired use of the waterbody, such as (1) support of communities of aquatic life, (2) body contact recreation, (3) fish consumption, and (4) public drinking water supply. These are uses that the state or authorized tribe wants the waterbody to be healthy enough to fully support. The Clean Water Act requires that waterbodies attain or maintain the water quality needed to support beneficial/designated uses.	bioassessment:	The use of biological community information, along with the measure of the physical/habitat quality, to determine the integrity of a water body. The EPA defines biological integrity as <i>“the ability of an aquatic ecosystem to support and maintain a balanced, integrated, adaptive community of organisms having a species composition, diversity and functional organization comparable to that of the natural habitats of a region.”</i>
benthic macroinvertebrates (BMI):	invertebrates (or animals without a backbone) that live on the bottom of streams during all or part of their life cycle. They are useful as indicators of water quality.	biofiltration:	Use of natural materials and vegetation to trap and remove pollutants from stormwater.
berm:	A low earthen wall adjacent to a ditch. Used to control erosion and sedimentation by slowing the flow of surface runoff. bifurcation: Divided into two parts.	BMP:	best management practice.
best management practice (BMP):	Methods, measures, or practices designed and selected to	BMI:	Benthic macroinvertebrates
		BOD:	Biochemical oxygen demand – Quantity of dissolved oxygen used by microorganisms (e.g., bacteria) during the biochemical oxidation of matter (both organic and oxidizable inorganic matter) over a specified period of time.
		braided:	A stream that divides into an interlacing or tangled network of several branching and reunited channels separated from each other by branch islands or channel bars. Typically highly changeable with



	different flows. bypass flow: Water flow that is allowed to pass a diversion in stream or reservoir rather than being diverted out of the stream flow or reservoir.		due to erosion caused by moderate to larger floods.
Bufferlands:	Over 2500 acres of protected open space/agricultural land surrounding the Sacramento Wastewater Treatment Plant in Elk Grove (see p. 3-3)	channel incision:	process of lowering of the channel bed elevation.
CALFED:	California Bay-Delta Authority (now referred to as the CALFED Bay-Delta Program, part of the State Department of Conservation)	chemical oxygen demand (COD):	Quantity of maximum oxidizable matter in a sample.
canopy cover:	The vegetation that projects over a stream. Can arbitrarily be divided into two levels: Crown cover is more than three feet (1 m) above the water surface. Overhang cover is less than three feet (1 m) above the water surface.	CNDDDB:	California Natural Diversity Database
CARB:	California Air Resources Board	COD:	chemical oxygen demand
cascade:	A waterfall or a series of waterfalls.	coliform:	Coliform bacteria are a commonly-used bacterial indicator of sanitary quality of water. Coliforms are naturally present in the environment; as well as feces; fecal coliforms and E. coli only come from human and animal fecal waste.
CASQA:	California Stormwater Quality Association	colluvium:	A general term applied to loose and incoherent deposits, usually at the foot of a slope or cliff and brought there chiefly by gravity.
CCSD:	Cosumnes Community Services District	confluence:	A juncture where two or more streams or rivers flow together.
Cenozoic:	The latest of the four eras into which geologic time is divided; it extends from the close of the Mesozoic Era, about 65 million years ago, to the present.	conglomerate:	A coarse-grained, clastic sedimentary rock composed of rounded fragments larger than 2 mm in diameter set in a fine-grained matrix.
CEQA:	California Environmental Quality Act	CPAC:	Community Planning Advisory Council (unincorporated Sacramento County)
channel:	Natural or artificial waterway that periodically or continuously contains moving water. Channels have a definite bed and banks that confine the water.	Cretaceous age:	The final period of the Mesozoic Era thought to have covered the span of time between 135 and 65 million years ago. Also the system of strata deposited during that period.
channel erosion:	Widening, deepening, and headward cutting of small channels and waterways	CTRR:	California Traction Railroad
		cubic feet per second (cfs):	units of measure for discharge flow rate, typically in a stream.



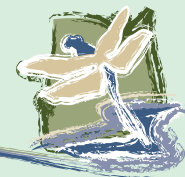
culvert:	Covered channel or large diameter pipe that crosses under a road, embankment, sidewalk, driveway, etc.	drainage basin (shed):	A topographic area in which all surface runoff is collected and concentrated into a creek or system of creeks. In undeveloped and rural areas, the runoff is typically conveyed via overland flow and roadside ditches and in developed areas, the runoff is typically collected in a system of piped or channelized storm drains which ultimate discharge to a creek or system of creeks. Also known as drainage shed.
CWA:	Clean Water Act	dry weather flow:	Flow occurring during the dry season (generally considered to be May through September) that may be associated with reservoir releases or releases of water from industrial, commercial, or residential activities.
degradation:	Loss of quality. Process of lowering of channel in elevation (opposite of aggradation).	DWR:	Sacramento County Department of Water Resources, or State of California Department of Water Resources.
detention basin:	Constructed basin that temporarily stores stormwater runoff and releases it at controlled rates. Can be used for flood control and/or water quality (pollutants removed through gravitational settling).	easement:	A legal right to cross a land parcel belonging to another party, e.g. a pipeline easement, or a power line easement. Public agencies can hold maintenance easements to perform maintenance on private property.
discharge:	Release or flow of stormwater or other substance from a conveyance system or storage container.	ecosystem:	The complex of organisms and their environment in a given geographic area with a distinctive structure and functional systems.
disinfection:	Destruction of microbial pathogens in the water supply.	ecosystem processes:	Interrelated physical, chemical and biological processes vital for the maintenance of healthy habitats and water quality.
diversion:	Channel, embankment or other man-made structure constructed to divert water from one area to another.	EGUSD:	Elk Grove Unified School District
DO	Dissolved oxygen - Oxygen that is present (dissolved) in water and available for use by fish and other aquatic animals. The ability of water to retain oxygen decreases with increasing temperature or dissolved-solids concentration. Photosynthesis and respiration by plants commonly cause diurnal (day/night) variations in DO concentrations.		
DOC:	California Department of Conservation (also an acronym for dissolved organic carbon)		
downgradient:	A location at lower elevation than the reference point.		



EIR:	Environmental impact report		
electrical conductivity:	Electrical conductivity is a measure of the amount of salts in the water. See also micro-mhos as a measure of electrical conductivity.		runoff, but can be intensified by land-clearing practices relating to farming, residential or industrial development, construction, road building, or timber cutting. See also: channel erosion.
emergent vegetation:	Vegetation in or along the edge of a water body in which the root system is underwater and the plant body (stems, leaves, etc.) are above water.	ESA:	Environmental Species Act
embankment:	A natural or artificial slope comprised of earth, concrete or other material.	estuarine:	Referring to environments with shared characteristics of both fresh water and salt water conditions, typically in a bay.
endemic:	Referring to local or natural conditions in the environment.	eutrophic:	Having waters rich in mineral and organic nutrients that promote a proliferation of plant life, especially algae, which reduces the dissolved oxygen content.
entrainment:	The process by which solid material and chemicals are picked up by flowing water and transported from the site of origin.	evapotranspiration (ET):	a term used to describe the sum of evaporation and plant transpiration from the Earth's land surface to the atmosphere.
Environmental impact report (EIR):	an environmental document produced during the CEQA process to assess the significant environmental impacts of a project.	Farmland of Local Importance:	Land of importance to the local agricultural economy as determined by each county's board of supervisors and a local advisory committee, as mapped by the CA Department of Conservation's Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program.
Eocene:	An epoch of the Tertiary period (see Tertiary) thought to span 45 to 38 million years before present.	Farmland of State Importance:	Farmland similar to Prime Farmland but with minor shortcomings, such as greater slopes or less ability to store soil moisture, as mapped by the CA Department of Conservation's Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program.
EGWS:	Elk Grove Water Service		
EPA:	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency		
ephemeral:	Refers to streams that flow only for short duration during and following a rain storm.	fault zone:	A zone in which there are a number of more or less closely spaced faults.
epilimnion:	The top-most layer in a thermally stratified reservoir, occurring above the deeper hypolimnion. It is warmer and typically has a higher pH and dissolved oxygen concentration than the hypolimnion.	FEMA:	Federal Emergency Management Agency
erosion:	Wearing away of land surface by wind or water. Occurs naturally from weather or	fish passage:	Referring to stream conditions that allow fish to move freely, as in a migration.



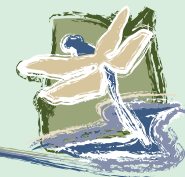
fisheries:	A term used to refer to protection and enhancement of fishery habitat, including augmentation of stream flows during certain times of the year.	groundwater table:	Level below which the soil is saturated (i.e., where pore spaces between individual soil particles are filled with water).
floodplain:	The area periodically inundated by flood waters and lying above the normal channel of a river or stream.	habitat:	Place where a biological organism lives. Describes the organic and non-organic surroundings that provide life requirements such as food and shelter.
FMMP:	Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program	hardpan:	A dense layer of soil, clay or minerals that water cannot pass through easily, located a few inches or a few feet below the surface.
FRCD:	Florin Resource Conservation District	headwaters:	The source of water for the watershed's primary waterbody; the place from which the water originates. The most distant point in the watershed from which water could possibly flow.
freeboard:	Vertical distance between design water surface elevation and elevation of the bank, levee or revetment that contains the water.	Holocene time:	Approximately the last 11,000 years.
geomorphology:	The study of landforms and the processes that create them, e.g., erosion, sediment transport, sediment deposition, slope processes and others.	HS:	high school
GIS:	Geographic information system – A tool that links spatial features commonly seen on maps with information from various sources ranging from demographics to pollutant sources.	hydrograph:	A chart that depicts certain water conditions over a given period of time.
glide:	A slow-moving shallow run.	hydrogeomorphology (fluvial geomorphology):	Landform evolution associated with stream and river systems. As an integrative field, it includes the related disciplines of geology, hydrology and hydraulics, sediment transport, soil mechanics, and the role of vegetation on hydraulics and stability.
grading:	Cutting and/or filling of land surface to a desired slope or elevation.	hydrology:	The study of water, water movement, and water use.
gradient:	see slope	Hydromodification:	The change in the natural watershed hydrologic processes and runoff characteristics (i.e., interception, infiltration, overland flow, interflow and
groundwater:	Water in the ground held within soil material, fractures and other spaces in the rock.		
groundwater recharge:	an inflow of water to a groundwater reservoir from the surface. Infiltration of precipitation and its movement to the water table is one form of natural recharge		



groundwater flow) caused by urbanization or other land use changes that result in increased stream flows and sediment transport. Alteration of stream and river channels, installation of dams and water impoundments, and excessive stream bank and shoreline erosion are considered types of hydromodification, due to their disruption of natural watershed hydrologic processes.	Infiltration:	Downward entry of water into the surface of the soil.
hydrophytic vegetation: Plants that are adapted to living in wet conditions, e.g., wetland plants.	inflow:	Water flowing into a water body, such as a lake, reservoir or stream or through subsurface groundwater movement.
hypolimnion: The cool, dense bottom water layer in a reservoir that lies below the warmer, lighter epilimnion on the surface.	Inlet:	Entrance into a ditch, storm drain system, stormwater treatment facility, or other waterway.
igneous rock: Rocks created by solidification of hot fluid material, e.g., volcanic material flowing and cooling on the earth surface (such as basalt) or magma material cooling within the crust of the earth (such as granite).	intermittent stream:	A watercourse that flows only for part of the year and dries up part of the year (generally when bed seepage and evapotranspiration exceed the water supply).
impair: to damage, harm	Inundate:	to cover with water; flood
impaired water body: A waterbody that does not meet the criteria that support its designated use.	invasive species:	nonnative species (e.g. plants or animals) that adversely affect the habitats they invade economically, environmentally or ecologically.
Impermeable: Properties that prevent the movement of water through the material.	IPM:	Integrated Pest Management – an ecosystem-based strategy that focuses on long-term prevention of pests or their damage through a combination of techniques such as biological control, habitat manipulation, modification of cultural practices, and use of resistance varieties. Chemical pesticides are used only after monitoring indicates they are needed according to established guidelines, and treatments are made with the goal of removing only target organism.
Impervious: resists or blocks the passage of water (e.g., impervious surface)		Pest control materials are selected and applied in a manner that minimizes risks to human health, beneficial and non-target organisms, and the environment. (University of California Statewide
Incision: See channel incision		
Indicator: Direct or indirect measurements of some valued component or quality in a system. Can be used to measure the current health of the watershed and to provide a way to measure progress toward meeting the watershed goals.		



	Integrated Pest Management (UCIPM definition). Chemicals generally are only applied as a last resort.	mean:	The sum of all data values divided by the number of samples. The mean is strongly influenced by “outlier” samples (extremely high or low samples), with one outlier sample possibly shifting the mean significantly higher or lower.
IRWM:	Integrated Regional Water Management (ARB IRWMP is the American River Basin Integrated Regional Water Management Plan)	median:	The 50th percentile data point; the central value of the dataset when ranked in order of magnitude. The median is more resistant to outliers than the mean and is only minimally affected by single observations.
LCWC:	Laguna Creek Watershed Council	µg/L:	micrograms per liter
LID:	Low impact development – A stormwater management and land development strategy that emphasizes conservation and the use of on-site natural features integrated with engineered, small-scale hydrologic controls to more closely reflect pre-development hydrologic functions.	micro-mhos per centimeter (umhos/cm):	Units used when measuring electrical conductivity. umhos/cm is a rate at which a small electrical current flows through a solution.
limnology:	Scientific study of the physical and biological characteristics of inland bodies of water such as lakes and ponds.	mg/L:	milligrams per liter
linear feet:	A total length measured in feet along a straight or curved line.	mitigation:	Actions taken to avoid, reduce, or compensate for the effects of environmental damage; among the broad spectrum of possible actions are those that restore, enhance, create, or replace damaged ecosystems
loam:	Soil comprised of an approximately even distribution of clay, silt, sand, and organic material.	model:	A representation of an environmental system obtained through the use of mathematical equations or relationships.
macroinvertebrate:	An invertebrate animal (without backbone) larger than 0.5 millimeters or large enough to be seen without magnification.	MOU:	Signed, written agreement between two or more parties (e.g., governmental agencies) typically used to define roles and responsibilities.
Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):	The maximum concentration of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. The MCL is established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).	neotropical migrants	Birds that spend their summers in North America and their winters in the New World tropics of Central and South America, Mexico or the Caribbean.
		NEPA:	National Environmental Policy Act
		nephelometric turbidity units (NTUs):	Units used to measure turbidity (or clarity) in water. The term



	Nephelometric refers to the way the instrument estimates how light is scattered by suspended particulate material in the water. This measurement generally provides a very good correlation with the concentration of particles in the water that affect clarity.	outfall:	Point where stormwater discharges from a pipe, channel, ditch, or other conveyance to a waterway.
		outflow:	Water discharging from a water body.
NPDES:	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System - A provision of the Clean Water Act that prohibits the discharge of pollutants into waters of the United States unless a special permit is issued by EPA, a state or tribe.	outlet conduit:	A pipe or other conveyance structure that removes water from a reservoir, lake, stream or other water body.
		oxbow:	A u-shaped bend in a creek or river. An oxbow lake/pond is a crescent-shaped lake formed when a meander of a river or stream is cut off from the main.
nonnative species:	Plants and animals that have not evolved naturally in a subject habitat.	PAHs:	polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons
		Parkway:	Laguna Creek Parkway
nonpoint source:	Diffuse pollution source; a source without a single point of origin or not introduced into a receiving stream from a specific outlet. The pollutants are generally carried off the land by stormwater. Common nonpoint sources are agriculture, forestry, urban areas, mining, construction, dams, channels, land disposal, saltwater intrusion, and city streets.	peak flow:	The maximum instantaneous discharge for a stream at a specific location. Corresponds to the highest stage of a flood.
		perennial:	Lasting all year long, generally in reference to stream flow.
		permeable:	Having pores or openings that permit liquids or gases to pass through. Permeable (or pervious) surfaces allow water to infiltrate into the ground beneath.
NRCS:	Natural Resources Conservation Service	pesticide:	General term referring to entire class of chemical pesticides, including herbicides, fungicides, rodenticides and insecticides
nutrients:	Elements or substances such as nitrogen or phosphorous that are necessary for the growth and development of living things (e.g., plants). Large amounts of these substances reaching water bodies can lead to reduced water quality and eutrophication by promoting excessive aquatic algae growth. Some nutrients can be toxic at high concentrations.	pH:	pH is a measure of the acidity or alkalinity of the water or soil. pH of water is the negative logarithm of the hydrogen-ion activity. Solutions with pH less than 7.0 standard units are termed "acidic," and solutions with a pH greater than 7.0 are termed 'basic.'
		photosynthesis:	The process by which plants absorb solar energy and grow.



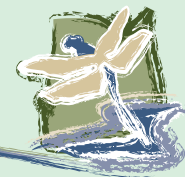
Plan:	Laguna Creek Watershed Management Action Plan		as mapped by the CA Department of Conservation's Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program.
point source:	A stationary location or fixed facility from which pollutants are discharged; any single identifiable source of pollution, such as a pipe, ditch, ship, ore pit, or factory smokestack.	QAPP:	Quality Assurance Project Plan - A project-specific document that specifies the data quality and quantity requirements of a study, as well as the procedures that will be used to collect, analyze, and report the data.
pollutant:	A contaminant in a concentration or amount that adversely alters the physical, chemical, or biological properties of the natural environment. In terms of water pollution, can include sediment, chemicals, oil and grease, nutrients, pesticides, etc.	Quaternary:	The second period of the Cenozoic era (following the Tertiary); is the geologic time period from the end of the Pliocene Epoch roughly 1.806 million years ago to the present. The Quaternary includes two geologic subdivisions: the Pleistocene and the Holocene Epochs.
pollutant load:	The amount of pollutants entering a waterbody. Loads are usually expressed in terms of a weight and a time frame, such as pounds per day.	RCD:	Resource Conservation District
pool:	Deeper areas of a stream with slow-moving water, often used by larger fish for cover.	reach:	A linear segment of a stream or river.
precipitation:	any form of rain or snow	redd:	A nest of fish eggs covered with gravel.
preservation:	The long-term protection of an area with high habitat and/or water quality protection value (e.g., wetland, riparian buffer), generally effected through the purchase or donation of a conservation easement by/to a government agency or non-profit group (e.g., land trust); such areas are generally left in their natural state, with minimal human disturbance or land management activities.	reference reach (or condition):	Ideally, a pristine or relatively undisturbed stream reach (or area of wetlands or riparian buffer) whose physical & biological conditions can serve as a baseline to judge the success of nearby restoration projects and other watershed management efforts.
prime farmland:	Farmland with the best combination of physical and chemical features able to sustain long term agricultural production,	Regional Water Board:	Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Region 5), also known as RWQCB.
		reservoir:	An artificially impounded body of water.
		restoration:	To return ecosystem function and condition using conditions prior to disturbance as a reference point for evaluating feasible targets. Restoration includes efforts to return an ecosystem or



	habitat to a designated level of its original community structure, natural complement of species, and natural functions. Implicit in this definition is that ecosystems are naturally dynamic and that societal uses may place constraints on future potential. It is therefore not possible to recreate a system exactly. The restoration process reestablishes the general structure, function, and dynamic but self-sustaining behavior of the ecosystem.	SASD:	Sacramento Area Sewer District (formerly known as County Sanitation District-1, or CSD-1)
riffle:	A shallow section in a stream where water is breaking over rocks or other partially submerged organic debris and producing surface agitation.	scour:	The clearing and digging action of flowing water, especially the downward erosion caused by stream water in removing material (e.g., soil, rocks) from a channel bed or bank or around in-channel structures.
riparian:	Habitat along a waterbody.	SCWA:	Sacramento County Water Agency
riprap:	A layer of large pieces of rock placed on top of a surface to protect the surface from erosion.	sediment:	Soil, sand and minerals.
run:	The straight fast-moving section of a stream between riffles.	sedimentation:	Process of sand, gravels and mud settling and building up on the bottom/bed or banks of a creek, river, lake, or wetland.
runoff:	Stormwater and/or dry weather surface flows from a drainage area that reach a storm drain system, water body or subsurface. During dry weather runoff is typically comprised of base flow and nuisance flows. Also see urban runoff.	SL:	Service Learning
run-on:	Stormwater or other surface flow which enters property other than that where it originated.	slope:	Degree of deviation of a surface from the horizontal, measured as a percentage, a numerical ratio, or in degrees
RWA:	Regional Water Authority	SMUD:	Sacramento Municipal Utility District
SACOG:	Sacramento Area Council of Governments	Southgate:	Southgate Recreation and Park District
SAFCA:	Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency	Special-Status Species:	Species identified as rare, threatened, endangered or other wise of concern based on California Environment Quality Act Guidance 15380, which includes federal status, California status, California Department of Fish and Game listing, or California Native Plant Society listing.
		Splash:	Sacramento area non-profit watershed education program which delivers a science-based education program to build awareness of local water resources and the public's role in their protection.
		SR:	State Route
		SRCS D:	Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District



SRWTP:	Sacramento Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant		and other pollutants directly into creeks and rivers.
SSHCP:	South Sacramento Habitat Conservation Plan	streambed:	The bottom of a stream comprised of natural materials (sand, silt, clay, cobbles, boulders or artificial constructed materials.
SSQP:	Sacramento Stormwater Quality Partnership (Sacramento County and Cities of Citrus Heights, Elk Grove, Folsom, Galt, Rancho Cordova and Sacramento)	substrate:	Soil or the materials at the bottom of a lake or stream in which plants grow.
stakeholder:	Individual or organization that has a stake in the outcome of the watershed plan.	subwatershed:	A component drainage area within a larger watershed.
State Water Board:	State of California Water Resources Control Board, also known as SWRCB.	swale:	see vegetated swale
STF:	Sacramento Tree Foundation	SWAMP	Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program - State of California initiative that integrates surface water quality monitoring data at the state and regional levels and with other monitoring programs in California.
Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge:	Protected conservation/open space area located just outside lower end of Laguna Creek Watershed, managed by US Fish and Wildlife Service. http://www.fws.gov/stonelakes/	TDS:	Total dissolved solids
storm drain:	Above or below ground structures (typically concrete pipe) for transporting stormwater to streams or outfalls for flood control purposes.	Tertiary age:	One of the major divisions of the geologic timescale, lasting from the end of the Cretaceous (about 65 million years ago) to the start of the Quaternary (about 2 million years ago). Also the system of strata deposited during that period.
stormwater:	water that flows overland as a result of precipitation onto saturated or impermeable surfaces; can flow as diffuse sheet flow over impervious surfaces (e.g., parking lots) and/or can be concentrated into ditches, gullies & swales or manmade conveyances such as storm pipes, culverts, or lined channels; in urban areas or other disturbed landscapes, stormwater can convey sediment, nutrients, fecal coliform	TMDL:	total maximum daily load – The amount, or load, of a specific pollutant that a waterbody can assimilate and still meet the water quality standard for its beneficial/designated use. For impaired waters the TMDL reduces the overall load by allocating the load among current pollutant loads (from point and nonpoint sources), background or natural loads, a margin of safety, and sometimes an allocation for future growth.
		total dissolved solids (TDS):	The portion of solids in water that can pass through a 2 micron filter. The more minerals dissolved into the water



	the higher the total dissolved solids. TDS is used as an indication of aesthetic characteristics of drinking water and as an aggregate indicator of presence of a broad array of chemical contaminants.		agricultural crops, as mapped by the CA Department of Conservation's Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program.
total organic carbon (TOC):	the amount of carbon bound in an organic compound; often used as a non-specific indicator of water quality	UPA:	Urban Policy Area (Sacramento County)
toxic:	Related to or caused by a poison, hazardous waste or toxin.	UPRR:	Union Pacific Railroad
tributary:	In the contest of watershed planning, a small creek/stream that enters into the main creek or river.	Urban runoff:	Runoff from urbanized areas, comprised of stormwater, irrigation and other residential/commercial discharges (e.g., from washing cars and pavement).
trophic:	Referring to specified kinds of nutrition or feeding requirements of organisms.	USB:	Urban Services Boundary (Sacramento County)
TSS:	Total suspended solids	USGS:	United States Geological Survey
turbidity:	Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness or clarity of the water. Turbidity is the condition resulting from suspended solids in the water, including silts, clays, industrial wastes, sewage and plankton. Such particles absorb heat in the sunlight, thus raising water temperature, which in turn lowers dissolved oxygen levels. (See also NTUs as a measure of turbidity.)	vegetated swale (biofilter):	An earthen conveyance system in which the filtering action of grass/plants and soil infiltration are utilized to remove pollutants from surface runoff. Swales/biofilters can be designed with check dams and wide depressions to increase runoff storage, enhance infiltration and promote greater settling of pollutants.
UC Davis (UCD):	University of California, Davis	velocity:	Related to water in a stream, the speed at which water flows past a certain point, measured as the distance the water travels in a given direction (in feet or meters) during an interval of time (seconds).
UCC:	Sacramento Urban Creeks Council		
ULCC:	Upper Laguna Creek Collaborative	vernal pool:	A rare type of shallow seasonal wetland found in the Laguna Creek Watershed (about 400 acres). The pool is underlain by hardpan and fills with water during the wet phase (typically December-March), flowers in the spring phase (thus "vernal" meaning "Spring" in Latin) and is dry during the rest of the year. Vernal pools
undercuts:	Natural, inadvertent or intentional excavation of a slope or embankment in which underlying material is removed more deeply than the overlying material, creating an unstable slope.		
Unique Farmland:	Farmland of lesser quality soils used for the production of the state's leading		



	provide habitat for several threatened or endangered wildlife species and are protected Waters of the State.		related to water quality, aquatic habitat, flooding, and any other concerns raised by local stakeholders.
Waters of the state:	any surface water or groundwater, including saline waters, within boundaries of the state. Includes for example, wetlands, vernal pools, and intermittent and ephemeral streams.	watershed plan:	A document that provides assessment and management information for a geographically defined watershed, including the analyses, actions, participants, and resources related to development and implementation of the plan.
water quality standards:	Standards that set the goals, pollution limits, and protection requirements for each waterbody. These standards are composed of designated (beneficial) uses, numeric and narrative criteria, and antidegradation policies and procedures.	weir:	Structure that extends across the width of a channel and is intended to impound, delay or in some way alter the flow of water through the channel. Dams of any kind, including check dams, are considered weirs.
watershed:	Land area that drains to a common waterway, such as a stream, lake, estuary, wetland, or ultimately the ocean.	WEP:	watershed education program
watershed approach:	A flexible framework for managing water resource quality and quantity within specified drainage area, or watershed. This approach includes stakeholder involvement and management actions supported by sound science and appropriate technology.	wet season:	The calendar period beginning October 1 and ending April 30; also known as rainy season. (Sacramento Stormwater Quality Partnership).
watershed assessment:	Detailed analysis of a watershed and/or component sub-watersheds; the process whereby existing watershed conditions are assessed and documented using various tools, including field sampling, data compilation, land use & land cover analysis, GIS mapping, and computer modeling. The primary goal of watershed assessment, within the context of local watershed planning, is to identify and document existing issues and problems	wet weather flow:	Water derived primarily from rain, melting snow or irrigation during the wet season (generally considered to be October through April) that flows over the ground surface
		wetlands:	Areas characterized by three key features: hydrophytic (water-adapted) plants, hydricsoils, and specific indicators of periodic saturation/indundation by water (hydrology indicators, e.g., water marks or water-carried debris on trees). Wetlands are protected Waters of the State.