ATTACHMENT L:
Glossary

Active Areas of Construction
Active areas of construction are all areas subject to land surface disturbance activities related to the project including, but not limited to, project staging areas, immediate access areas and storage areas. All previously active areas are still considered active areas until final stabilization is complete. [The construction activity stages used in this General Permit are the Preliminary Stage, Mass Grading Stage, Streets and Utilities Stage and the Vertical Construction Stage.]

Active Treatment System (ATS)
An ATS is a treatment system that employs chemical coagulation, chemical flocculation, or electrocoagulation to aid in the reduction of turbidity caused by fine suspended sediment.

Acute Toxicity Test
A chemical stimulus severe enough to rapidly induce an effect; in aquatic toxicity tests, an effect observed within 96 hours or less is considered acute.

Best Available Technology Economically Achievable (BAT)
As defined by USEPA, technology-based standard established by the Clean Water Act (CWA) as the most appropriate means available on a national basis for controlling the direct discharge of toxic and nonconventional pollutants to navigable waters. BAT effluent limitations guidelines, in general, represent the best existing performance of treatment technologies that are economically achievable within an industrial point source category or subcategory.

Best Conventional Pollutant Control Technology (BCT)
As defined by USEPA, technology-based standard for the discharge from existing industrial point sources of conventional pollutants including biochemical oxygen demand (BOD), total suspended sediment (TSS), fecal coliform, pH, oil and grease. The BCT is established in light of a two-part "cost reasonableness" test which compares the cost for an industry to reduce its pollutant discharge with the cost to a POTW for similar levels of reduction of a pollutant loading. The second test examines the cost-effectiveness of additional industrial treatment beyond BCT. EPA must find limits which are reasonable under both tests before establishing them as BCT.

Beneficial Uses
As defined in the California Water Code, beneficial uses of the waters of the state that may be protected against quality degradation include, but are not limited to, domestic, municipal, agricultural and industrial supply; power generation; recreation; aesthetic enjoyment; navigation; and preservation and enhancement of fish, wildlife, and other aquatic resources or preserves.

Best Management Practices (BMPs)
BMPs are scheduling of activities, prohibitions of practices, maintenance procedures, and other management practices to prevent or reduce the discharge of pollutants. BMPs also include treatment requirements, operating procedures, and practices to control site runoff, spillage or leaks, sludge or waste disposal, or drainage from raw material storage.

Coagulation
Coagulation is the clumping of particles in a discharge to settle out impurities, often induced by chemicals such as lime, alum, and iron salts.

Chain of Custody (COC) Form
The COC Form is a form used to track sample handling as samples progress from sample collection to the analytical laboratory. The COC is then used to track the resulting analytical data from the laboratory to the client. COC forms can be obtained from an analytical laboratory upon request.

Direct Discharge
A direct discharge is one that is routed directly to a surface water of the state via a pipe, channel, or ditch (including a municipal storm sewer system), or via surface runoff.

Discharger
The discharger is the person or entity subject to this General Permit, as further clarified in the provisions of this General Permit.

Effluent
Effluent is any discharge of water by a discharger either to the receiving water or beyond the property boundary controlled by the discharger.

Erosion
Erosion is the process, by which soil particles are detached and transported by the actions of wind, water, or gravity.

Erosion Control BMPs
Vegetation, such as grasses and wildflowers, and other materials, such as straw, fiber, stabilizing emulsion, protective blankets, etc., placed to stabilize areas of disturbed soils, reduce loss of soil due to the action of water or wind, and prevent water pollution.

Field Measurements
Field measurements are testing procedures performed in the field with portable field-testing kits or meters.

Final Stabilization
"Final Stabilization" means that all soil disturbing activities at each individual parcel within the site have been completed in a manner consistent with the requirements in this General Permit (Section XI).

First Order Stream
A first order stream is one with no tributaries.

Flocculants
Flocculants are substances that interact with suspended particles and bind them together to form flocs.

Good Housekeeping BMPs
"Good housekeeping BMPs" are those that are designed to reduce or eliminate the addition of pollutants to construction site runoff through analysis of pollutant sources, implementation of proper handling/disposal practices, employee education, and other actions.

Holding Time
Holding time is the elapsed time between the time the sample is collected and the time the analysis must be initiated and varies by analytical method.

Hydromodification
Hydromodification is the alteration of the hydrologic characteristics of coastal and noncoastal waters, which in turn could cause degradation of water resources. Hydromodification can cause excessive erosion and/or sedimentation rates, causing excessive turbidity, channel aggradation and/or degradation.

Inactive Areas of Construction
Inactive areas of construction are areas of construction activity that are not active and those that have been active and are not scheduled to be re-disturbed for at least 14 days.

K Factor
The K factor is the soil erodibility factor used in the Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation (RUSLE). It represents the combination of detachability of the soil, runoff potential of the soil, and the transportability of the sediment eroded from the soil.

Likely Precipitation Event
A likely precipitation event is any weather pattern that is forecasted to have a 50% or greater chance of producing precipitation in the project area. The discharger shall obtain likely precipitation forecast information from the National Weather Service Forecast Office (e.g., by entering the zip code of the project's location at http://www.srh.noaa.gov/forecast).

Mass Grading Stage
Mass grading stage includes reconfiguring the topography and slope including; alluvium removals; canyon cleanouts; rock undercuts; keyway excavations; land form grading; and stockpiling of select material for capping operations.

Maximum Allowable Threshold Concentration
The Maximum Allowable Threshold Concentration (MATC) is the allowable concentration of residual, or dissolved, coagulant/flocculant in effluent. The MATC shall be coagulant/flocculant-specific, and based on toxicity testing conducted by an independent, third-party laboratory. A typical MATC would be:

The MATC is equal to the geometric mean of the NOEC (No Observed Effect Concentration) and LOEC (Lowest Observed Effect Concentration) Acute and Chronic toxicity results for most sensitive species determined for the specific coagulant. The most sensitive species test shall be used to determine the MATC.

Non-Storm Water Discharges
Non-storm water discharges are discharges that do not originate from precipitation events. They can include, but are not limited to, discharges of process water, air conditioner condensate, non-contact cooling water, vehicle wash water, sanitary wastes, concrete washout water, paint wash water, irrigation water, or pipe testing water.

Numeric Action Level (NAL)
The numeric action level is used to determine if best management practices are effective; it is not an effluent limit. If any storm water sample exceeds the action level, then the discharger shall evaluate the BMPs and their adequacy and take the necessary corrective actions.

pH
The pH is universally used to express the intensity of the acid or alkaline condition of a water sample. The pH of natural waters tends to range between 6 and 9, with neutral being 7. Extremes of pH can have deleterious effects on aquatic systems.

Post-Construction BMPs
Post-construction BMPs includes structural and non-structural controls which detain, retain, or filter the release of pollutants to receiving waters after final stabilization is attained.

Preliminary Stage (Pre-Construction Stage)
The preliminary stage includes rough grading and/or disking, clearing and grubbing operations, or any soil disturbance prior to mass grading.

Qualified SWPPP Developer
A qualified SWPPP developer is an individual who is authorized to develop and revise the SWPPP. The requirements for this are specified in Section IX.A. of this General Permit.

Qualified SWPPP Practitioner
A qualified SWPPP practitioner is any person assigned responsibility for non-storm water and storm water visual observations, sampling and analysis, and responsibility to ensure full compliance with the permit and implementation of all elements of the SWPPP, including the preparation of the annual compliance evaluation and the elimination of all unauthorized discharges. The requirements for this are specified in Section IX.A. of this General Permit.

Qualifying Storm Event
A qualifying storm event is any event that produces 0.5 inches or more precipitation with a 48 hour or greater period between storm events.

R Factor
The R factor is the erosivity factor used in the Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation (RUSLE). The R factor represents the erosivity of the climate at a particular location. An average annual value of R is determined from historical weather records using erosivity values determined for individual storms. The erosivity of an individual storm is computed as the product of the storm's total energy, which is closely related to storm amount, and the storm's maximum 30-minute intensity.

Rain Event Action Plan (REAP)
A REAP is a written document, specific for each rain event, that when implemented is designed to protect all exposed portions of the site within 48 hours of any likely precipitation event.

Runoff Control BMPs
Runoff control BMPs are measures used to divert runon from offsite and runoff within the site. Examples include perimeter swales, dikes, and check dams.

Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation (RUSLE)
The Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation is an empirical model that calculates average annual soil loss as a function of rainfall and runoff erosivity, soil erodibility, topography, erosion controls, and sediment controls.

Sampling and Analysis Plan
A sampling and analysis plan is a document that describes how the samples will be collected and under what conditions, where and when the samples will be collected, what the sample will be tested for, what test methods and detection limits will be used, and what methods/procedures will be maintained to ensure

the integrity of the sample during collection, storage, shipping and testing (i.e., quality assurance/quality control protocols).

Sediment
Sediment is solid particulate matter, both mineral and organic, that is in suspension, is being transported, or has been moved from its site of origin by air, water, gravity, or ice and has come to rest on the earth's surface either above or below sea level.

Sedimentation
Sedimentation is the process of deposition of suspended matter carried by water, wastewater, or other liquids, by gravity. It is usually accomplished by reducing the velocity of the liquid below the point at which it can transport the suspended material.

Sediment Control BMPs
Practices that trap soil particles after they have been eroded by rain, flowing water, or wind. They include those practices that intercept and slow or detain the flow of storm water to allow sediment to settle and be trapped (e.g., silt fence, sediment basin, fiber rolls, etc.).

Settleable Solids
The settleable solids (SS) test measures the solid material that can be settled within a water column during a specified time frame. It is typically tested by placing a water sample into an Imhoff settling cone and then allowing the solids to settle by gravity for a given length of time. Results are reported either as a volume (mL/L) or a mass (mg/L) concentraion.

Sheet Flow
Sheet flow is flow of water that occurs overland in areas where there are no defined channels where the water spreads out over a large area at a uniform depth.

Soil Amendment
Soil amendment is any material that is added to the soil to change its chemical properties, engineering properties, or erosion resistance that could become mobilized by storm water.

Streets and Utilities Stage
Streets and utilities stage Includes excavation and street paving, lot grading, curbs, gutters and sidewalks, public utilities, public water facilities including fire hydrants, public sanitary sewer systems, storm sewer system and/or other drainage improvements.

Suspended Sediment Concentration (SSC)

SSC is a measure of the concentration of suspended solid material in a water sample by measuring the dry weight of all of the solid material from a known volume of a collected water sample. Results are reported in mg/L.

Total Suspended Solids (TSS)
TSS is a measure of the suspended solids in a water sample includes inorganic substances, such as soil particles and organic substances, such as algae, aquatic plant/animal waste, particles related to industrial/sewage waste, etc. The TSS test measures the concentration of suspended solids in water by measuring the dry weight of a solid material contained in a known volume of a sub-sample of a collected water sample. Results are reported in mg/L.

Toxicity
Toxicity is the adverse response(s) of organisms to chemicals or physical agents ranging from mortality to physiological responses such as impaired reproduction or growth anomalies.

Turbidity
Turbidity is the cloudiness of water quantified by the degree to which light traveling through a water column is scattered by the suspended organic and inorganic particles it contains. The turbidity test is reported in Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTU) or Jackson Turbidity Units (JTU).

Vertical Construction Stage
Vertical construction stage includes building construction from the installation of the foundation through the landscaping stage.

Water Quality Objectives (WQO)
Water quality objectives are defined in the California Water Code as limits or levels of water quality constituents or characteristics, which are established for the reasonable protection of beneficial uses of water or the prevention of nuisance within a specific area.