

LIST OF DEFINITIONS

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Affordable Housing. Refers to housing affordable to persons or families of very low, low or moderate income based upon the median income for Los Angeles County. According to the State Housing Department, very low is defined as not exceeding 50 percent of the area median income, low is defined as between 50 percent and 80 percent, and moderate, between 80 percent and 120 percent of the area median income.

Alquist-Priolo Special Studies Zone Program. Under the Alquist-Priolo Special Studies Zone Act of 1972, the State Geologist is required to delineate "Special Studies Zones" along known active faults. Cities or counties affected by the zones must regulate development within the designated zones. Building permits for sites within state-designated zones must be withheld until geologic investigations demonstrate that a proposed development is not threatened by surface displacement from future faulting.

Ambient. When used in connection with sound level, refers to the prevailing background noise, exclusive of a particular intruding sound under consideration.

Build-out Capacity. The maximum theoretical level of development based on the land use capacity as determined by the Community Plan land use designations and zoning.

California Environmental Quality Act. A State law, enacted in 1970, that requires public agencies to reveal the potential environmental impacts that could occur if a project or plan is implemented.

CNEL. Community Noise Equivalent Level; same as L_{dn} , except in addition to the 10 dB nighttime weighting, the evening (7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.) levels are weighted by 5 dB. For most situations, the L_{dn} and CNEL will be equal within a fraction of a dB, and may be considered synonymous.

Community Plan. One of the 35 plans - divided geographically - that serve as the land Use element of the City's General Plan. A community plan sets policies and standards for guiding on how land is to be developed in that community.

Cumulative Impacts. They refer to two or more individual effects which when considered together, are considerable or which compound or increase other environmental impacts. The individual effects may be changes resulting from a single project or a number of separate projects. The cumulative impacts for several projects are the

changes in the environment which result from the incremental impact of these projects when added to other closely related past, present, and reasonably foreseeable probable future projects. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant projects taking place over a period of time.

dba. A measure of sound level; the "dB" denotes decibels, the "A" denotes a weighting that results in a noise measurement which approximates the frequency response of the human ear.

Decibel. (dB) is a unit of sound pressure (P) denoting the logarithm (to the base 10) of the ratio between the total instantaneous pressure (Pi) at a particular point in the presence of a sound wave minus the static pressure (Pa) at that point to a reference pressure (Po). Mathematically, $L (dB) = 20 \log_{10} (P/Po)$ where $P = Pi - Pa$.

Earthquake. A shaking or trembling of the earth that is volcanic or tectonic in origin. An earthquake is classified by the amount of energy released, which is quantified using the Richter Scale.

Environmental Impact Report. A detailed document revealing the possible environmental impacts that could result from the implementation of a project or plan. Some of the issues discussed in an EIR are environmental setting, mitigation measures, project alternatives, and cumulative impacts.

Existing Conditions. The assumed current condition for any environmental impact category as of 1996.

Existing Wilshire Community Plan. The Plan that was adopted on Oct. 26, 1979 and amended in 1987. This document also included all the General Plan Amendment cases that were approved in the community.

Fault(s). A fracture or line of weakness in the earth's crust along which rocks on one side of the fault are offset relative to the same rocks on the other side of the fault. Sudden movement along one of these faults results in an earthquake. Faults are classified into three categories: active, potentially active, and inactive. The criteria for determining the classification of a fault were developed by the California Division of Mines and Geology for the Alquist-Priolo Special Studies Zone Program. An active fault is defined as a fault that has had surface displacement within the last 11,000 years, within Holocene time. A potentially active fault has demonstrated surface displacement during the last two million years, during Quaternary time (the past 1.6 million years), but does not exhibit Holocene displacement. A fault that has not moved within the last two million years is considered inactive.

Geologic Hazards (Seismicity). Seismic hazards occurring at a project site or in an area, primarily limited to those caused by earthquakes which include subsidence, landsliding and liquefaction.

Hazardous Materials. Any substance that is toxic, ignitable, reactive or corrosive and causes injury or death, or damages or pollutes land, air and water.

Initial Study. A preliminary analysis prepared by the lead agency to determine whether an Environmental Impact Report (EIR), a Mitigated Negative Declaration or a Negative Declaration must be prepared or to identify the significant environmental effects to be analyzed in an EIR.

L₅₀. The A-weighted sound level exceeded 50 percent of the sample time, the median sound level.

Land Use Designation. A category that allows a specific range of zones as a means of guiding development types and densities.

Landslides. Landslides, mudslides and rockslides can be triggered by seismic activity as well as other natural forces. Although the potential for landslides is generally greater on slopes of 25 percent or steeper, it is also depended upon geologic conditions (i.e. structural rigidity, susceptibility to erosion, etc.). The risk of this type of failure increases during seismic events.

L_{dn}. Day-night average sound level: same as L_{eq} (24) except that the nighttime (10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.). Levels are weighted by 10 dB, reflecting a person's increased sensitivity to noise at night (a 10 dB increase is judged twice as loud). L_{dn} (or CNEL) is the parameter normally used by the EPA, the state, and local governments to define acceptable levels of noise.

Lead Agency. The public agency which has the principal responsibility for carrying out or approving a project. The lead agency will decide whether an EIR or negative declaration will be required for the project and will cause the document to be prepared.

L_{eq}. Equivalent sound level; dBA values averaged on an energy basis over a stated time period.

L_{eq(24)}. The L_{eq} of a 24-hour period.

Liquefaction. A process by which water-saturated sediment suddenly loses strength, commonly

accompanies strong ground motions caused by earthquakes. During an extended period of ground shaking or dynamic loading, porewater pressures increase and the ground is temporarily altered from a solid to a liquid state.

Market Forecast for 2010. An estimate of future year 2010 conditions based on socioeconomic factors and trends.

Mixed Use. The development combining residential and commercial uses to improve jobs housing relationship in the CPA which is consistent with the Housing Element policies of the General Plan.

Primary Treatment. The initial step in the treatment of wastewater where approximately 70 percent of organic and inorganic solids are removed from raw wastewater. In this process, screened wastewater is detained in an undisturbed condition for one or two hours in primary sedimentation tanks, as solids (called primary sludge) settle to the bottom of the tanks or float to the surface. Chemicals are added to improve the efficiency of the settling process. The sludge is collected and pumped to anaerobic digesters for further processing. The water that remains after this treatment is called **primary effluent**.

Program EIR. An EIR which may be prepared on a series of actions that can be characterized as one large project and are related either: (1) geographically; (2) as logical parts in the chain of contemplated actions; (3) in connection with issuance of rules, regulations, plans, or other general criteria to govern the conduct of a continuing program; or (4) as individual activities carried out under the same authorizing statutory or regulatory authority and having generally similar environmental effects which can be mitigated in similar ways.

Project. The whole of an action, which has a potential for resulting in a physical change in the environment, directly or ultimately, that is subject to governmental agency approval.

Proposed Community Plan Update. A revision of the land use element of the Wilshire Community Plan Area, which is being proposed to replace the existing Community Plan upon adoption.

Proposed Plan. Same as above.

Reclaimed Water. Effluent that has been treated to very high standards which can be put to beneficial uses such as to irrigate landscaping or crops or to restore underground water.

Residential Land. All portions of the community's land designated for housing, including but not limited to single and multi-family units, mobile homes and shelters.

Richter Scale. A logarithmic scale where each whole number increase in Richter Magnitude (M) represents a tenfold increase in the wave amplitude generated by an earthquake, which is a representation of an earthquake's size. Also, for each full point increase in Richter magnitude, the corresponding amount of energy released increases 31.6 times. Thus, an M 6.3 earthquake is ten times stronger than an M 5.3 earthquake and releases 31.6 times more energy.

Secondary Treatment. This treatment, by using biological processes, removes practically all total organic and suspended inorganic solids (previously known as sludge but is now called biosolids) that remain in the primary effluent. Purification found in nature are duplicated, including biological treatment and clarification. **Secondary effluent**, the cleaned wastewater, is virtually free of pollutants and is compatible with the marine environment.

Seismic Safety Plan. A portion of the General Plan of the City of Los Angeles; such plan sets forth general planning policies for the City of Los Angeles concerning existing development, new development (e.g. prohibiting construction of buildings for human occupancy across surface fault traces, preparation of required geologic reports for projects located in designated study areas), critical facilities, emergency preparedness and post disaster recovery.

Subsidence. The downward settling of the earth's surface with little or no horizontal motion; a secondary hazard associated with seismic activity.

Tiering. The covering of general matters in broader EIR's with subsequent narrower EIR's incorporating, by reference, the issues specific to the EIR subsequently prepared.

Urban Water Management Plan. A plan prepared by the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power in response to the Urban Water Management Planning Act (AB 797 as amended by AB 266 1) requiring every urban water supplier providing water for municipal purposes to more than 3,000 customers or supplying more than 3,000 acre-feet of water annually to prepare and adopt an urban water management plan.

Zone. A category under which parcels of land are placed that establishes specific development limitations and guidelines.