

# Glossary of Terms

#

**100-Year Flood.** The flood event that has a one-percent chance of occurrence in any one year.

A

**Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU).** An additional dwelling unit located on the same lot as a single-family residence which may be attached to the primary residence, detached from the primary residence, or contained within an existing residence or accessory building. An Accessory Dwelling unit cannot be sold separately from the primary residence but may be rented separately from the main residence. ADUs typically have the amenities of full units, including bathrooms, kitchens, parking, living areas, and bedrooms although may be limited in allowable square footage.

**Active Lifestyle.** A way of living that incorporates activities such as walking, biking, and play into daily routines.

**Active and Passive Recreation.** In addition to a park's primary classification, the city may describe a park as containing active and/or passive areas. Parks can be developed with either active or passive park amenities or a combination of both. Active park areas typically provide a form of organized and/or supervised recreation, such as gymnasiums, swim complexes, multi-use ball fields, tot lots, hard court play surfaces, volleyball, horseshoe areas, BMX bike courses, and skate parks or a combination thereof. Passive park areas often provide minimal or no amenities associated with active use. The very nature of passive use implies quiet, contemplative, low impact activity, such as nature trails, walkways, picnic tables, benches, and small turf and/or landscaped areas.

**Active Open Space.** Open space areas that typically include more complex site improvements and generally have provisions for programmed recreation.

**Active Transportation.** Human-powered transportation that includes but not limited to walking, cycling, using a wheelchair, in-line skating, or skateboarding.

**Adaptive reuse.** The process of repurposing buildings for viable new uses and modern functions, other than those originally intended to address present-day needs.

**Affordable Housing.** Housing for which the allowable housing expenses for a for-sale or rental dwelling unit paid

by a household would not exceed thirty percent of the gross monthly income for target income levels, adjusted for household size.

**Agriculture.** The cultivation and tilling of the soil, dairying, the production, cultivations, growing and harvesting of any agricultural or horticultural commodities, the raising of livestock, bees, fur-bearing animals, or poultry, and the preparation of farm products for market.

**Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan (ALUCP).** Article 3.5, Airport Land Use Commissions, California Public Utilities Code Sections 21670 - 21679.5 requires Airport Land Use Commissions to develop Airport Land Use Compatibility Plans to help minimize the public's exposure to excessive noise and safety hazards while providing for the orderly expansion of airports.

**Arterial.** Streets that collect and distribute traffic to/from freeways and expressways to the local network.

B

**Boulevard.** Type of arterial designed to connect major destinations within the City and are highly visible and aesthetically landscaped with shade trees and wide sidewalks. Boulevards provide consolidated access to adjacent commercial and residential uses while balancing the needs of motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians with sidewalks and protected bicycle facilities

**Best Management Practices (BMP).** The combination of conservation measures, structure, or management practices that reduces or avoids adverse impacts of development on adjoining site's land, water, or waterways, and waterbodies.

**Bike Facilities.** These include bike paths (Class I Facilities), bike lanes (Class II Facilities), and bike routes (Class III Facilities), following a classification system established in the Visalia Bikeway Plan.

**Blight.** Hazardous or unsightly condition, including disrepair, deterioration, the accumulation of debris, and lack of maintenance, regardless of the condition of other properties in the neighborhood.

**Buffer.** In terms of land use, a buffer is a transitional zone or piece of land between two different land uses.

**Buildout.** The level of development characterized by full occupancy of all developable sites in accordance with the General Plan; the maximum probable level of development envisioned by the General Plan under specified assumptions about densities and intensities.

**Bulbout.** An extension to the curb located at intersections, which result in a narrower curb-to-curb roadway width, used to shorten the distance that pedestrians have to cross; typically associated with pedestrian safety improvements.

## C

**California Department of Transportation (Caltrans).** The state agency in charge of transportation planning, construction and maintenance of the state's highway system.

**California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).** Requires the assessment of projects for environmental effects, establishes procedures for preparing and processing environmental documents and includes requirements for the monitoring of environmental mitigation conditions placed on a project.

**Capital Improvement Program (CIP).** The multi-year scheduling of public physical improvements based on studies of fiscal resources available and the choice of specific improvements to be constructed.

**Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>).** The most common of the greenhouse gases, CO<sub>2</sub> is emitted as a result of fossil fuel combustion.

**Certified Local Government Program (CLG).** A program that is jointly administered by the National Parks Service and State Historic Preservation Offices with the goal of creating a partnership between local, state, and federal governments for historic preservation.

**Certified Unified Public Agency (CUPA).** A local agency certified by the California Environmental Protection Agency to implement the hazardous waste and materials standards of the California Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Toxic Substances Control, Governor's Office of Emergency Services, Cal FIRE-Office of the State Fire Marshal, and State Water Resources Control Board.

**City Limits.** Used to refer to the boundaries within which a city's local jurisdictions exercises legal authority.

**Class I Bikeway (bike path).** Provides a separated corridor that is not served by streets and highways and is away from the influence of parallel streets. Class I bikeways are for non-vehicle use only with opportunities for direct access and recreational benefits, right-of-way for the exclusive use of bicycles and pedestrians, and cross flow conflicts are minimized.

**Class II Bikeway (bike lane).** Provides a delineated right-of-way assigned to bicyclists to enable more predictable movements, accommodating bicyclists through corridors where insufficient room exists for side-by-side sharing of existing streets by motorists and bicyclists.

**Class III Bikeway (bike route).** Shared facility that serves either continuity to other bicycle facilities or designates preferred routes through high demand corridors.

**Class IV Bikeway (bike path).** Protected bike lanes, which provide a right-of-way designated exclusively for bicycle travel within a roadway, protected from vehicular traffic with devices such as curbs, flexible posts, inflexible physical barriers, or on-street parking.

**Climate Action Plan (CAP).** A comprehensive plan that outlines the specific activities that an agency will undertake to address climate change impacts, sustainability, and GHG emission reduction measures.

**Climate Change.** Climate change, or global climate change, refers to a change in the average climate of the earth that may be measured by wind patterns, storms, precipitation, and temperature. The baseline by which these changes are measured originates in historical records identifying temperature changes that have occurred in the distant past, such as during previous ice ages.

**Clustering/Cluster-Type Housing.** Development patterns in which the uses are grouped or "clustered" through a density transfer, rather than spread evenly throughout a parcel as in conventional lot-by-lot development. A zoning ordinance may authorize such development by permitting smaller lot sizes if a specified portion of the land is kept in permanent open space either through public dedication or through creation of a homeowners association.

**Community Choice Aggregation.** A state policy that enables local governments to aggregate electricity demand within their jurisdictions in order to procure alternative energy supplies while maintaining the existing electricity provider for transmission and distribution services.

**Community Garden.** A cooperatively-managed garden in an urbanized area. Community gardens can be a source of fresh produce and provide learning opportunities for community members.

**Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL).** The average equivalent A-weighted sound level during a 24-hour day, obtained after addition of five decibels to sound levels in the evening from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. and after addition of 10 decibels to sound levels in the night from 10 p.m. to 7 a.m.

**Community Supported Agriculture (CSA).** An economic model of agriculture and food distribution in which individuals purchase shares of the anticipated harvest of one or more farms at the onset of the growing season and receive shares of the produce and other farm products throughout the growing season.

**Compatible.** Capable of existing together without conflict or ill effects.

**Complete Neighborhoods.** Neighborhoods in which there is access to a range of day-to-day goods and services within walking distance of residences, including medical facilities, community services, youth programs, and employment opportunities.

**Complete Streets.** Streets designed and operated to enable safe access for all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and transit riders of all ages and abilities.

**Conditional Use Permit (CUP) or Use Permit.** Conditional Use Permits are typically required for uses that may be suitable only in specific locations in a zoning district or that require special consideration in their design, operation, or lay-out to ensure compatibility with surrounding uses. Some uses have specific purposes and requirements.

**Connectivity.** The quality of street patterns that allows for through movement between and within neighborhoods.

**Conservation.** The management of natural resources to prevent waste, destruction, or neglect.

**Consistent.** Free from variation or contradiction.

**Coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19).** Refers to the global pandemic caused by the contagious disease SARS-CoV-2 and its variants. As of writing the General Plan (2021), the COVID-19 pandemic is still ongoing.

**Corridor.** A connecting area of land that is identified by a specific common characteristic. Examples include greenways, trails, wildlife linkages, visual corridors and transportation rights-of-way.

**Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED).** A multidisciplinary approach to deterring criminal behavior through the built, social, and administrative environment, including improving visibility of potential offenders to the general public and clearly differentiating public space from private space.

**Cultural Competence.** The application of cultural knowledge, sensitivity, and awareness of different racial, ethnic, religious, or social groups by an agency in its standards, policies, practices, and attitudes that enables them to work effectively cross-culturally. A culturally competent organization must have the capacity to value diversity; conduct self-assessment; manage the dynamics of difference; acquire and institutionalize cultural knowledge; and adapt to diversity and the cultural contexts of the communities they serve. These principles should be incorporated in all aspects of policy making, administration, practice, and service delivery, and systematically involve consumers, key stakeholders, and communities.

Note: This definition is adapted from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on Cultural Competence in Health and Human Services. (<https://npi.cdc.gov/pages/cultural-competence>)

**Culture.** The acquaintance with and taste in fine arts, humanities, and broad aspects of science reflected in institutions specializing in zoology, paleontology, history, archaeology, and horticulture.

**Curb cut.** The opening along the curb line at which point vehicles or other wheeled forms of transportation may enter or leave the roadway. Curb cuts are essential at street corners for wheelchair users.

## D

**Day-Night Noise Level (Ldn).** The A-weighted average sound level for a given area (measured in decibels) during a 24-hour period with a 10 dB weighting applied to nighttime sound levels (after 10 p.m. and before 7 a.m.). The Ldn is approximately numerically equal to the CNEL for most environmental settings.

**Decibel (dB).** A unit of measurement used to express the relative intensity of sound as heard by the human ear describing the amplitude of sound, equal to 20 times the logarithm to the base 10 of the ratio of the pressure of the sound measured to the reference pressure, which is 20 micropascals (20 micronewtons per square meter).

**Decibel, A-weighted (dBA).** The "A-weighted" scale for measuring sound in decibels; weights or reduces the effects of low and high frequencies in order to stimulate human hearing. Every increase of 10 dBA doubles the perceived loudness though the noise is actually ten times more intense.

**Dedication.** The commitment by an owner or developer of private land for public use, and the acceptance of land for such use by the governmental agency having jurisdiction over the public function for which it will be used. Dedications for roads, parks, school sites, or other public uses often are required by the city as conditions of approval on a development.

**Density.** The number of people or dwelling units in a given area, typically expressed in dwelling/housing units or people per acre.

**Developer.** An individual who, or business which, prepares raw land for the construction of buildings or builds or causes to be built physical building space for use primarily by others, and in which the preparation of the land or the creation of the building space is in itself a business and is not incidental to another business or activity.

**Development.** The extension, construction, or change in density or intensity of land uses. Development activities include but are not limited to: subdivision of land; construction or alteration of structures, roads, utilities, and other facilities; installation of septic systems; grading; deposit of refuse, debris, or fill materials; and clearing of natural vegetation cover (with the exception of agricultural activities). Routine repair and maintenance activities are not considered as "development."

**Discretionary review.** A decision requiring the exercise of judgement, deliberation or decision on the part of the decision-making authority (Planning Commission, for example) in the process of approving or disapproving a particular activity.

**Displacement.** The removal of long-term businesses or residents due to significant increases in rental prices, commonly seen as a result of gentrification. *Also see Gentrification.*

**Disadvantaged Community.** Low-income areas disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other hazards, as defined by the California Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool (CalEnviroScreen) developed by the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA).

## E

**Easement.** A right given by the owner of land to another party for specific limited use of that land. An easement may be acquired by a government through dedication when the purchase of an entire interest in the property may be too expensive or unnecessary; usually needed for utilities or shared parking.

**Endangered Species, California.** A native species or sub-species of a bird, mammal, fish, amphibian, reptile, or plant, which is in serious danger of becoming extinct throughout all or a significant portion of its range, due to one or more factors, including loss in habitat, change in habitat, over-exploitation, predation, competition, or disease. The status is determined by the State Department of Fish and Game together with the State Fish and Game Commission.

**Endangered Species, Federal.** A species which is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range, other than the species of the Class Insect determined to constitute a pest whose protection under the provisions of the 1973 Endangered Species Act, as amended, would present an overwhelming and overriding risk to humans. The status is determined by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Department of the Interior.

**Energy Audit.** An assessment of the energy needs and efficiency of a building or buildings.

**Entryway.** Ingress and egress to and from a structure.

**Environment.** The physical conditions which exist within the area which will be affected by a proposed project, including land, air, water, minerals, flora, fauna, noise, and objects of historic or aesthetic significance.

**Environmental Impact Report (EIR).** A document used to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of a project, evaluate reasonable alternatives to the project, and identify mitigation measures necessary to minimize the impacts. The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires that the agency with primary responsibility over the approval of a project (the lead agency) evaluate the project's potential impacts in an Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

**Environmental Justice.** The fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. Fair treatment means that no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, governmental, and commercial operations or policies.

**Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas.** As defined by the California Coastal act, these are areas containing plants or animals in their habitats that are rare or valuable due to their specific role in the ecosystem, and are likely a potential for disturbance due to human activities.

**Environmentally Sensitive Lands.** Open space lands that are constrained or prohibited from development including beaches, lagoons, wetlands, other permanent water bodies, riparian and other habitats and steep slopes.

**Erosion.** The process by which material is removed from the earth's surface (including weathering, dissolution, abrasion, and transportation), most commonly by wind or water.

## F

**Fault.** A fracture in the earth's crust forming a boundary between rock masses that have shifted. An active fault is a fault that has moved recently and which is likely to again. An inactive fault is a fault that shows no evidence of movement in recent geologic time and little potential for movement.

**Findings.** A conclusion reached after an examination; a statement or document containing an authoritative decision or conclusion.

**Fire Hazard.** Any condition or action which may increase the potential of fire to a greater degree than that customarily recognized as normal by official agencies responsible for fire prevention or suppression, or which may obstruct, delay, hinder or interfere with the operations of the fire agency or the egress of occupants in the event of fire.

**Fire Protection Services.** Services designed to protecting life and/or property through such operations which may be necessary to extinguish or control any fire, perform any rescue operation, investigate suspected or reported fires, gas leaks, or other hazardous conditions or situation.

**Fixed base operator (FBO).** Privately-owned commercial businesses that are allowed to operate on airport grounds in order to provide services to the airport.

**Flood Hazard Zone.** The relatively level land area on either side of the banks of a stream that is subject to flooding under a 100-year or a 500-year flood.

**Floodplain.** An area adjacent to a lake, stream, ocean or other body of water lying outside the ordinary banks of the water body and periodically inundated by flood flows. Often referred to as the area likely to be inundated by the 100-year flood.

**Floodway.** A river channel and adjacent land area within a floodplain needed to carry a 100-year frequency flood without increasing the water surface elevation more than 1 foot at any point. The boundary of the 100-year floodway shall be determined using data contained on the city's National Flood Insurance Maps.

**Floor Area Ratio (FAR).** The ratio between gross floor area of structures on a site and gross site area. Thus, a building with a floor area (excluding building area devoted to parking) of 100,000 square feet on a 50,000 square-foot lot will have a FAR of 2.0.

**Frequency.** The composition or spectrum of the sound. Frequency is a measure of the pressure fluctuations per second.

## G

**Gateway.** An entrance corridor that heralds the approach of a new landscape and defines the arrival point as a destination.

**General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC).** The General Plan Advisory Committee served in an advisory role to the Planning Commission and City Council on matters related to the General Plan update process.

**General Plan Horizon.** The time period that is addressed by the goals and policies in the General Plan and recommended update threshold (e.g., 2040).

**Gentrification.** A process of neighborhood change that includes economic change in a historically disinvested neighborhood by means of real estate investment and new higher-income residents moving in, as well as demographic change, not only in terms of income level, but also in terms of changes in the education level or racial make-up of residents. *Also see Displacement.*

**Goods Movement.** The transportation of for-sale products from the location of their manufacture or harvest to their final retail destination.

**Greywater.** Untreated household wastewater that comes from bathtubs, showers, bathroom washbasins, clothes washing machines, and even kitchen sinks, and which is re-used for non-potable water applications such as sub-surface irrigation and toilet flushing. It is a form of water recycling without an intermediate treatment process.

**Green Building.** A Green Building generally refers to one that is environmentally friendly in terms of energy consumption, or the waste it produces during its entire life-cycle. A Green Building will have less significant impact on the environment compared to a regular building. Green buildings may be scored by rating systems, such as the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating system developed by the U.S. Green Building Council, Green Globes from GBI, and other locally developed rating systems.

**Green infrastructure.** The use of vegetation, soils, and other elements and practices to restore some of the natural processes required to manage water. *Also see Low Impact Design.*

**Greenhouse Gases or Green House Gas Emissions.** Gases in the atmosphere that absorb and emit radiation within the thermal infrared range. This process is the fundamental cause of the greenhouse effect. Carbon dioxide, methane, and ozone are examples of greenhouse gases.

**Greenway.** An open space connector linking parks, nature preserves, cultural features, or historic sites to each other and with populated areas in order to improve environmental quality and provide for outdoor recreation.

**Groundwater.** Water under the earth's surface, often confined to aquifers capable of supplying wells and springs.

**Groundwater Recharge.** A hydrologic process where water moves downward from surface water to groundwater. Recharge is the primary method through which water enters aquifers.

## H

**Habitat.** The natural environmental of a plant or animal.

**Hazardous Material.** A material or form of energy that could cause injury or illness to persons, livestock, or the natural environment. Some examples from everyday life include, gasoline, fertilizers, detergents, used cooking oil, mineral spirits, batteries, and paint.

**Hazardous Waste.** Waste that requires special handling to avoid illness or injury to persons or damage to property. Includes, but is not limited to, inorganic mineral acids of sulfur, fluorine, chlorine, nitrogen, chromium, phosphorous, selenium and arsenic and their common salts; lead, nickel, and mercury and their inorganic salts or metallo-organic derivatives; coal, tar acids such as phenol and cresols and their salts; and all radioactive materials.

**Health Equity.** Attainment of the highest level of health for all people, including full and equal access for all people to opportunities that enable them to lead healthy lives.

**Health Inequities.** Differences in health "that are a result of systemic, avoidable and unjust social and economic policies and practices that create barriers to opportunity." These are distinct from health disparities, which are "differences in health status among distinct segments of the population including differences that occur by gender, race or ethnicity, education or income, disability, or living in various geographic localities."

**Health in All Policies (HiAP).** An approach to governance that integrates and articulates health considerations and impacts into policymaking across sectors to improve the health of all communities and people.

**Heat Island.** See "Urban Heat Island."

**High-Quality Transit Corridor (HQTC).** A corridor with fixed route bus service with service intervals no longer than 15 hours during peak commute hours.

**Historic Landmark.** An individual structure or group of structures on a single lot, a site, an area, a district, or combination thereof, having a special historical, architectural, cultural, or aesthetic value.

**Historic Resource.** A historic building or site that is noteworthy for its significance in local, state, national, its architecture or design, or its works of art, memorabilia, or artifacts.

**Historic Structure.** A structure deemed to be historically significant based on its visual quality, design, history, association, context, and/or integrity.

**Household.** All people, related or unrelated, who occupy a housing or dwelling unit.

## I

**Impervious Surface.** Any material that reduces or prevents absorption of water into land.

**Implementation.** Actions, procedures, programs, or techniques that carry out policies.

**Infill.** The development of new housing or other buildings on scattered vacant or underutilized lots in a predominantly developed area or on new building parcels created by permitted lot splits.

**Infrastructure.** Permanent utility installations, including roads, water supply lines, sewage collection pipes, and power and communications lines.

**Insurance Service Office.** An organization that collects statistical data, promulgates rating information, develops standard policy forms, and files information with state regulators on behalf of insurance companies that purchase its services.

**Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS).** A set of tools that facilitates a connected, integrated transportation system.

**Intensity.** Measured as the amount of floor space in a given area. Also see *Floor Area Ratio*.

## J

**Joint Use Agreement.** A formal agreement between two separate government entities--often a school and a city or county--setting forth the terms and conditions for shared use of public property or facilities.

**Jobs/housing ratio.** Jobs divided by housing units. More precisely, jobs/employed residents' ratio is the number of jobs located within a city divided by the total number of residents of the city who are employed, whether within the city limits or elsewhere. A ratio of 1.0 indicates a balance (that is, the number of in- and out-commuters is equal); a ratio of less than 1.0 indicates lower jobs availability relative to the city's available workforce, while a ratio greater than 1.0 indicates a jobs surplus.

## K

## L

**Layered Network Approach.** An approach to transportation planning that designates modal emphasis by street to create a complete streets network.

**LED Lighting.** Lighting from light-emitting diode (LED) lamps, which have longer lifespans and greater electrical efficiency than incandescent lamps.

**LEED.** The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System™ is the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction, and operation of high performance green buildings.

**Level of Service (LOS).** A qualitative measure of roadway operating conditions that reflects drivers' perceived comfort and convenience.

**Linear Park.** A park that is substantially longer than it is wide.

**Liquefaction.** A sudden large decrease in the shearing resistance of cohesion less soil, caused by a collapse of the structure by shock or strain, and associated with a sudden but temporary increase of the pore fluid pressure.

**Livable (or Living) Streets.** Refers to the concept that streets can be designed to facilitate active, social public space by improving the public realm, incorporating slower vehicle speeds, creating more green space, and improving pedestrian, bicyclist, and other non-vehicle user safety.

**Local Responsibility Area (LRA).** An area of in which the local government is legally responsible for providing fire protection.

**Low Impact Development (LID).** A land planning and engineering design approach to manage stormwater runoff that emphasizes conservation and use of on-site natural features to protect water quality. *Also see Green Infrastructure.*

## M

**Master Plan.** A plan that supplements and provides more detail to the General Plan and the Land Use Element as it applies to a portion of land in the city.

**Maker Use Area.** Area that promotes light industrial or manufacturing with the intention of making locally produced goods.

**Median.** An area in the approximate center of a city street or state highway that is used to separate the directional flow of traffic, may contain left-turn lanes, and is demarcated by curb and guttering, having painted or thermally applied stripes or other means of distinguishing it from the portion of the roadway used for through traffic.

**Microgrid.** A local energy grid with control capability, which means it can disconnect from the traditional grid and operate autonomously

**Mills Act.** An economic incentive program in California for the restoration and preservation of qualified historic buildings by private property owners.

**Minerals.** Any naturally occurring chemical element or compound, or groups of elements and compounds, formed from inorganic processes and organic substances, including, but not limited to, coal, peat, and bituminous

rock, but excluding geothermal resources, natural gas, and petroleum (Public Resources Code Section 2005).

**Mitigation Measures.** Action taken to avoid, minimize, or eliminate environmental impacts. Mitigation includes: avoiding the impact altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of an action; minimizing impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation; rectifying the impact by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected environment; reducing or eliminating the impact over time by preservation and maintenance during the life of the action; and compensating for the impact by repairing or providing substitute resources or environments.

**Mitigation.** A specific action taken to reduce environmental impacts. Mitigation measures are required as a component of an environmental impact report (EIR) if significant measures are identified.

**Mixed Use.** A development project which includes two or more land use such as residential and commercial, or commercial and professional office.

**Mode (transportation).** Each form of transportation is a mode: public transit, bicycling, walking, and driving.

**Multi Use Trails.** A path that can be used by both walkers and cyclists, as well as equestrians in certain circumstances.

## N

**Natural Resources.** Plant and animal habitat; nature preserves; beaches and bluffs; wetland and riparian areas; canyons and hillsides; and water features such as lagoons and streams.

**Nitrogen Oxides (NOx).** Chemical compounds containing nitrogen and oxygen; react with volatile organic compounds, in the presence of heat and sunlight to form ozone. They are also a major precursor to acid rain.

**Noise Attenuation.** Reduction of the level of a noise source using a substance, material, or surface.

**Noise Contours.** Lines indicating equal levels of noise exposure. CNEL and Ldn are the metrics used to describe annoyance due to noise and to establish land use planning criteria for noise.

**Nonattainment Levels.** Areas where air pollution levels persistently exceed the National or California Ambient Air Quality Standards.

**Nonrenewable Resource.** A resource of economic value that cannot be readily replaced by natural means on a level equal to its consumption.

**Noise Sensitive Land Uses.** Land uses that are particularly affected by excessive noise, including residences, motels, hotels, public meeting rooms, schools, churches, libraries, hospital, parks, recreation areas, etc.

## O

**Open Space.** Any area of land or water that is devoted to an open space use and designated on the city's Land Use Map as open space, or dedicated in fee title or easement for open space purposes. The open space may be in its natural state or modified.

**Ozone (O<sub>3</sub>).** A compound consisting of three oxygen atoms that is the primary constituent of smog. It is formed through chemical reactions in the atmosphere involving volatile organic compounds, nitrogen oxides, and sunlight. Surface level ozone can initiate damage to the lungs as well as to trees, crops, and materials. There is a natural layer of ozone in the upper atmosphere, which shields the earth from harmful ultraviolet radiation.

## P

**Particulate Matter (PM-10 and PM-2.5).** Particulate matter in the atmosphere results from many kinds of dust- and fume-producing industrial and agricultural operations, fuel combustion, and atmospheric photochemical reactions. PM-10 and PM-2.5 consist of particulate matter that is 10 microns or less in diameter and 2.5 microns or less in diameter, respectively. PM-10 and PM-2.5 represent fractions of particulate matter that can be inhaled into the air passages and the lungs and can cause adverse health effects.

**Pedestrian Facilities.** Sidewalks, crosswalks, and trails that should enable people of all age groups and abilities to safely walk to their destinations.

**Pedestrian-oriented Development.** Development designed with an emphasis on the street sidewalk and on pedestrian access to the building, rather than an auto access and parking areas.

**Performance Standards.** Standards specifying attainment of a specified level or quality of performance (such as, for example, illumination or noise levels), or provision of a Growth Management facility (such as park land).

**Public Facilities.** Uses or structures that provide services to the public such as a library, city hall, fire station, police station, park, traffic signal or major street.

**Planning Area.** The total service area addressed by the General Plan, including land within the City limits and unincorporated land within the City's Sphere of Influence.

**Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS).** Intentional power shutoffs by the energy provider to reduce likelihood of accidentally starting a wildfire during extreme weather events.

## Q

## R

**Reclaimed Wastewater.** Water that is used more than once before it passes back into the natural water cycle by being treated to remove solids and impurities, and used in irrigation, to recharge groundwater aquifers, to meet commercial and industrial water needs, and for drinking.

**Renewable Energy.** Energy that is collected from resources which are naturally replenished on a human timescale, such as sunlight, wind, rain, tides, waves, and geothermal heat.

**Right-of-Way.** A continuous strip of land reserved for or actually occupied by a road, crosswalk, railroad, electric transmission lines, oil or gas pipeline, water line, sanitary storm sewer or other similar use.

**Riparian.** Characteristic vegetation along waterways, often described as "riparian corridors."

**Roadway.** A strip of land that is covered by a street, public thoroughfare or freeway used for vehicular transportation.

## S

**Safe Routes to School.** A national program started in 1997 to improve safety on walking and bicycling routes to school and to encourage children and families to travel between home and school using these modes.

**Seismic.** Caused by or subject to earthquakes or earth vibrations.

**Sensitive Receptors.** Persons or land uses that are most sensitive to negative effects of air or noise pollution. Persons who are sensitive receptors include children, the elderly, the acutely ill, and the chronically ill. The term “sensitive receptors” can also refer to the land use categories where these people live or spend a significant amount of time; such areas include residences, schools, playgrounds, child-care centers, hospitals, retirement homes, and convalescent homes.

**Significant Impact.** A beneficial or detrimental impact on the environment. May include, but is not limited to, significant changes in an area’s air, water, and land resources.

**Solid Waste.** General category that includes organic wastes, paper products, metals, glass, plastics, cloth, brick, rock, soil, leather, rubber, yard wastes, and wood.

**Sound Level.** The magnitude or loudness of sound. Sound levels are measured and expressed in decibels (dB).

**Special-Status Species.** Any species that is listed, or proposed for listing, as threatened or endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or National Marine Fisheries Service under the provisions of the Endangered Species Act. It also includes any species designated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a “candidate” or “species of concern” or species identified on California Native Plant Society’s Lists 1A, 1B, or 2, implying potential danger of extinction.

**Specific Plan.** A plan that provides detailed design and implementation tools for a specific portion of the area covered by a general plan. A specific plan may include all regulations, conditions, programs, and/or proposed legislation that may be necessary or convenient for the systematic implementation of any general plan element(s).

**The Sphere of Influence (SOI).** The City’s ultimate service area as established by the Local Agency Formation Commission of Napa County (LAFCO), and includes unincorporated land within Napa County.

**State Emergency Management System (SEMS).** A system that unifies all elements of California’s emergency management community into a single integrated system and standardizes key elements.

**State Responsibility Area (SRA).** An area of in which the state government is legally responsible for providing fire protection.

**State Water Project (SWP).** A water storage and delivery system of reservoirs, aqueducts, powerplants and pumping plants that provides water supplies for 25 million Californians and 750,000 acres of irrigated farmland.

**Stormwater Drainage.** Surplus surface water generated by rainfall that does not seep into the earth but flows overland to a watercourse.

**Stormwater Management.** A coordinated strategy to minimize the speed and volume of stormwater runoff, control water pollution, and maximize groundwater recharge.

**Streetscape.** A design term referring to all the elements that constitute the physical makeup of a street and that, as a group, define its character, including building frontage, street paving, street furniture, landscaping, including trees and other plantings, awnings and marquees, signs, and lighting.

**Subsidence.** Subsidence occurs when a large portion of land is displaced vertically, usually due to the withdrawal of groundwater, oil, or natural gas.

**Surface Water.** Water found in rivers, streams, creeks, lakes and reservoirs.

**Sustainability.** Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

**Sustainable Transportation.** Methods of transportation that conserves resources or reduces GHG emissions, for example electric vehicles, public transportation, bicycling, walking, or other mobility options.

## T

**Title 24.** Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations contains the regulations that govern the construction of buildings in California.

**Threatened Species, California.** A species of animal or plant is endangered when its survival and reproduction in the wild are in immediate jeopardy from one or more

causes, including loss of habitat, change in habitat, over-exploitation, predation, competition, disease, or other factors; or when although not presently threatened with extinction, the species is existing in such small numbers that it may become endangered if its environment worsens. A species of animal or plant shall be presumed to be rare or endangered as it is listed in Sections 670.2 or 670.5, Title 14, California Code of Regulations; or Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations Sections 17.11 or 17.12 pursuant to the Federal Endangered Species Act as rare, threatened, or endangered.

**Threatened Species, Federal.** A species that is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

**Toxic Air Contaminant.** An air pollutant that may increase a person’s risk of developing cancer and/or other serious health effects. Toxic air contaminants include more than 700 chemical compounds that have been determined to have potential adverse health impacts.

**Transit Oriented Development (TOD).** A development or planning concept typified by the location of residential and commercial districts around a transit station or corridor with high quality service, good walkability, parking management and other design features that facilitate transit use and maximize overall accessibility.

**Transit Priority Area.** The ½ mile radius surrounding an existing or planned major transit stop or an existing stop along a High-Quality Transit Corridor (HQTC).

**Transit Village.** Area surrounding a transit station in which the neighborhood is planned, designed, and integrated so that residents, workers, shoppers, and others find it convenient and attractive to patronize transit and other choices in transportation.

**Transportation Demand Management (TDM).** Measures to improve the movement of persons and goods through better and more efficient utilization of existing transportation systems (e.g., streets and roads, freeways and bus systems) and measures to reduce the number of single-occupant vehicles utilized for commute purposes.

**U**

**Urban Heat Island.** A city, metropolitan area, or built area that is significantly warmer than its surrounding areas due to human activities, structures, and materials.

**Urban Forest.** A wooded area located in a city.

**Use.** The purpose for which a lot or structure is or may be leased, occupied, maintained, arranged, designed, intended, constructed, erected, moved, altered, and/or enlarged as per the City’s Zoning Ordinance and General Plan land use designation.

**Use Permit.** Permit required for the establishment of conditionally permitted uses or construction involving existing non-conforming parcels, structures, or uses, when required by the Zoning Code.

**V**

**Variation.** Change over time.

**Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT).** Measures how much automobile travel on roadways (measured in miles) is associated with a proposed land use by multiplying the number of automobile trips by the total distance vehicle travel between trip origin and destination.

**Vision Zero.** A multi-national road traffic safety project that aims to achieve a highway system with no fatalities or serious injuries in road traffic.

**W**

**Walkability.** A characteristic of an area in which destinations are in close proximity and well-connected by streets and paths that provide a good pedestrian environment.

**Water Conservation.** Any beneficial reduction in water loss, use, or waste. A water conservation measure is an action, behavioral change, device, technology, or improved design or process implemented to reduce water loss, use, or waste.

**Watershed.** The total area above a given point on a watercourse that contributes water to the flow of the watercourse; the entire region drained by a watercourse.

**Wayfinding.** The process by which people orient themselves in physical space and navigate from place to place.

**Wetlands.** Areas that are permanently wet or periodically covered with shallow water, such as saltwater and freshwater marshes, open or closed brackish marshes, swamps, mud flats, and fens.

**X**

**Y**

**Z**

**Zero Emissions Vehicles.** A vehicle that emits no tailpipe pollutants from the onboard source of power.

**Zero Net Energy.** A term that describes a building, community, or other system with zero net energy consumption, meaning the total amount of energy used by the system on an annual basis is roughly equal to the amount of renewable energy created on site.

**Zoning Ordinance.** The Zoning Ordinance establishes regulations that new development must be consistent with, such as height and density limits, specific uses permitted, setbacks, and design guidelines. The Zoning Ordinance is found within the Municipal Code and must be consistent with the General Plan.

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