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Environmental Definitions

AQMD	Air Quality Management District. Many states have authorities that formulate and institute policies to improve the air quality. The most famous of these is the SCAQMD in the Los Angeles area. This group has jurisdiction only over the Los Angeles area, but their policies tend to be applied by other areas in the US.
Fecal Coliform Bacteria	Bacteria that are associated with fecal material and indicates the presence of other waterborne bacteria and viruses.
BAT	Best Available Technology. Same as BMP.
BMP	Best Management Practice. This can be any means of correcting or minimizing a pollution problem. A BMP for Storm Water Runoff is classified as structural or non-structural. A structural BMP could be catch basin inserts, infiltration trenches and other devices that rely on gravitational settling of the pollution. A non-structural BMP could be citizen education, landscaping practices and sweeping and scrubbing. Structural BMPs attempt to deal with pollution immediately before it enters a waterway. Non-structural BMPs attempt to prevent the formation of pollution, or deal with non-point sources.
CAA	Clean Air Act. Federal legislation created by the EPA to deal with air quality issues.
CARB	California Air Resources Board. They are the technical branch of the Calif. state government that sponsors research and legislation to improve the air quality in the entire state of Calif. The CARB has the unique power to establish state environmental laws that are more stringent than the federal EPA.
Catch Basin	An inlet chamber usually built into the curb line of a street to collect surface runoff and direct it to a storm sewer system.
CWA	Clean Water Act. Federal legislation created by the EPA to deal with water quality issues.
In-Line BMP Devices	Devices that are typically installed in catch basins to trap pollutants from non-point sources. These devices require periodic maintenance to remove the trapped pollutants.

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GIS	Geographical Information System. A means of mapping a cities infrastructure using GPS technology. It is used as a component of the Phase II Stormwater Program to identify the location of catch basins and storm drains in a city.
Illicit Discharges	Illegal or improper disposal of anything but stormwater into a storm drain. Examples would be motor oil, household chemicals, and in severe cases, industrial waste.
Impervious Cover	Any surface that stormwater will not penetrate. Paved surfaces such as parking lots, driveways, and sidewalks are examples.
MEP	Maximum Extent Possible. This is a term to qualify a BMP. It realizes that no corrective tool can be 100% effective and requires whatever is the best for the situation at hand.
Micron	A measure of length (size). A micron is 1 millionth of a meter or 1/25,000 inch (.000039)
MS4	Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System. The system of storm drains in a municipality.
Non-Point Source	A non-point source of runoff pollution consists of contaminants whose source can't be identified but rather are washed from the land surface by stormwater runoff. Parking lots, streets, and yards are examples.
NPDES	National Pollution Discharge Elimination System. A Federal program to eliminate the discharge of pollutants into the waterways. A NPDES permit is required if a city or industrial site is a source of discharge into a waterway. The permit details the steps that will be taken to minimize the pollution discharge to permissible levels.
NURP	National Urban Runoff Program. This federal program was in place in the early '80s to identify the source, components and solutions of stormwater runoff.
Outfall	A location where effluent is discharged into receiving waters. It could also be termed a point source.

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PM10	Particles smaller than 10 microns. Usually used in reference to airborne dust particles. This is generally the result of dirt being ground up into small particles. An easy way to think of it is that it's basically "smoke". Typical road dirt generally contains less than 2% by weight of particles in this size range.
PM2.5	Particles smaller than 2.5 microns. This is generally airborne particles that are formed by combustion. It is not likely that sweepers can have any effect on particles this small.
Point Sources	A point source is a discernible, confined, and discrete conveyance of runoff pollution. Examples would be drain pipes, ditches, conduits, channels, etc.
Riparian Buffer	A vegetated strip of land adjacent to a waterway that helps "filter" pollutants that runoff from developed, impervious areas.
Rule 1186	The SCAQMD creates "rules" or requirements that are intended to reduce air pollution. Rule 1186 requires the use of street sweepers that pickup street dirt at better than 80% efficiency and don't create visible airborne dust. This rule does not apply to non-street applications or any area outside of the Los Angeles area. However, other cities use the measurement as a specification for sweeper purchases.
Sanitary Sewer	A system of pipes separate from the storm sewer system intended to carry wastewater from homes and businesses to a treatment facility.
Silt	Particles smaller than 70micron. 70 micron is the smallest "screen" measuring device commonly used to measure particle sizes. Usually a measure used in water pollution.
Ambient Air Quality Standard	A national target for acceptable concentrations of specific pollutants in the air. A primary standard is intended to directly protect pubic health. A secondary standard is intended to protect the publics' surroundings.

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Storm Sewer	A system of pipes, separate from the sanitary sewer, that carries only runoff from buildings and impervious surfaces to a stream or waterway. In some older systems, the Storm Sewer and Sanitary Sewer are combined. These tend to be overloaded in times of heavy rain and cause flooding of raw sewage contaminants.
SUSMP	Standard Urban Stormwater Mitigation Plan. A part of the Clean Water Act that is a component of the NPDES permitting process.
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board. Most states have these groups that are establish legislation and enforce it for all matters concerning surface and ground water.
SWUD	Stormwater Utility District. Many municipalities have separate utilities that deal only with stormwater issues.
TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Loading. This is a measure of the maximum allowed concentration of pollutants allowed at a point source. It can be a measure of any sort of pollutant from a specific chemical to pieces of litter.
TSS	Total Suspended Solids. A measure of the silt in water.
Watershed	All the land area that drains rainwater to a particular waterway. Sometimes called a basin.