

10. Glossary

100-Year Flood

A shorthand expression for a flood that has a 1 in 100 chance of being exceeded in any given year. This may also be expressed as the 1% annual chance of exceedence flood, or “1% annual chance flood” for short. Similarly, a **200-year flood** has a 1 in 200 (or 0.5%) chance of being exceeded in any given year.

Active Fault

An earthquake fault which has exhibited surface displacement within the past 11,000± years.

Airport Land Use Commission

The Calaveras County Airport Land Use Commission.

Ambient Noise

The distinctive acoustical characteristics of a given space consisting of all noise sources audible at that location. In many cases, the term ambient is used to describe an existing or pre-project condition such as the setting in an environmental noise study.

Archaeological Resource

See “historical resource,” “unique archaeological resource,” and “tribal cultural resource.”

Average Daily Traffic

The number of vehicles, actual, estimated, or projected traveling a road segment per day.

A-Weighting

A frequency-response adjustment of a sound level meter that conditions the output signal to approximate human response

Benefit Basin

A discrete geographical area consisting of properties reasonably served by road or other infrastructure improvements for which a fee program is established. Benefit basins are established in accordance with the provisions of Government Code §66000 et seq.

Biological Resource

All vertebrate and invertebrate animal species and all plants and the habitats occupied by these species.

Building Intensity

The concentration of use (i.e., the amount of physical development that will be allowed on a particular site) expressed as dwelling units per acre for residential uses and **Floor Area Ratio** for commercial and industrial uses. The standards define *the most intensive use* that will be allowed under each designation. Building intensity is not synonymous with **population density**.

Calaveras Council of Governments (CCOG)

The Regional Transportation Planning Agency established under a Joint Powers Agreement between Calaveras County and the City of Angels Camp to act as the lead planning and administrative agency for the transportation projects and programs in Calaveras County. CCOG is intended to identify funding sources, assist member agencies in obtaining funding, and ensure member agencies' compliance with State and Federal requirements and to administer various funding sources.

Clustered Development/Clustering

Development in which a number of dwelling units are placed in closer proximity than usual, or are attached, with the purpose of retaining an open-space area.

Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL)

The 24-hour average noise level with noise occurring during evening hours (7-10 p.m.) weighted by a factor of three and nighttime hours weighted by a factor of 10 prior to averaging.

Commercial Timber Species

Species found in Group A and those in Group B that are found on lands where the species in Group A are now growing naturally or have grown naturally in the recorded past in the Southern Forest District (which includes Calaveras County).

Group A	Group B
Coulter Pine (<i>Pinus coulteri</i>)	White Alder (<i>Alnus rhombifolia</i>)
Jeffrey Pine (<i>Pinus jeffreyi</i>)	Cottonwood (<i>Populus fremontii</i>)
Ponderosa Pine (<i>Pinus ponderosa</i>)	Eucalyptus (<i>Eucalyptus sp.</i>)
Sugar Pine (<i>Pinus lambertiana</i>)	Pacific Madrone (<i>Arbutus menziesii</i>)
Lodgepole Pine (<i>Pinus contorta</i>)	California Black Oak (<i>Quercus kelloggii</i>)
Monterey Pine (<i>Pinus radiata</i>)	Tanoak (<i>Lithocarpus densiflorus</i>)
Western White Pine (<i>Pinus monticola</i>)	
Douglas-Fir (<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>)	
California Red Fir (<i>Abies magnifica</i>)	
White Fir (<i>Abies concolor</i>)	
Incense Cedar (<i>Libocedrus decurrens</i>)	
Coast Redwood (<i>Sequoia sempervirens</i>)	
Sierra Redwood (<i>Sequoiadendron giganteum</i>)	
Mountain Hemlock (<i>Tsuga mertensiana</i>)	

Critical Facility

See Essential Public Facility.

Critical Habitat

Areas formally designated as “critical habitat” by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration [(NOAA) also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)] pursuant to the federal Endangered Species Act.

Cultural Resource

See “historical resource,” “unique archaeological resource,” and “tribal cultural resource.”

Day-Night Average Sound Level (Ldn)

Similar to CNEL, but without evening weighting.

Decibel, dB

A unit of measurement describing the amplitude of sound based on air pressure.

Density Transfer

See Transfer of Development Rights.

Ephemeral Stream/Drainage

A drainage that exists only during and for a short time after precipitation in channels located above the ground water table.

Equivalent Sound Level (L_{eq})

Equivalent or energy-averaged sound level.

Essential Public Facility

Important facilities used in an emergency, including, but not limited to, hospitals and health care facilities, emergency shelters, fire stations, emergency command centers, and emergency communications facilities.

Family

One or more persons living together in a dwelling unit, with common access to and common use of all facilities.

Fault

A fracture or zone of closely associated fractures along which rocks on one side have been displaced with respect to those on the other side. A break in the ground's surface and associated deformation resulting from the movement of a fault is known as a surface rupture or fault rupture.

Fire Code

The International Fire Code, also known as the "California Fire Code (current edition) as published by the International Code Council and as adopted and amended by the California Building Standards Commission in the California Building Standards Code, Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations" and adopted pursuant to Calaveras County Code Section 15.04.050(F).

Fire Plan

For the purposes of the General Plan, references to the "Fire Plan" are to CAL FIRE's, *Strategic Fire Plan, Tuolumne/Calaveras Unit* (2011, and as may be amended).

Flood Hazard Zone

An area subject to flooding that is delineated as either a special hazard area or an area of moderate hazard on an official flood insurance rate map issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The identification of a flood hazard zone does not imply that areas outside the flood hazard zones, or uses permitted within the flood hazard zones, will be free from flooding or flood damage. [CA Government Code 65007(d)]

Flooding

A rise in the level of a water body or the rapid accumulation of runoff, including related mudslides and land subsidence, resulting in the temporary inundation of land that is usually dry. Riverine flooding, mud flows, lake flooding, alluvial fan flooding, flash flooding, and fluvial stream flooding are among the many forms that flooding takes.

Floor-Area-Ratio

The ratio of building floor area to the total site area.

Geothermal Resource

As defined in Public Resources Code (PRC) 6903. Low-temperature geothermal resources areas defined in PRC 3703.1.

Geothermal Resource Area

As defined in PRC 3702.

Hazardous Material

An injurious substance, including, but not limited to: pesticides, herbicides, toxic metals and chemicals, liquefied natural gas, explosives, and volatile chemicals. For the purpose of the General Plan Safety Element, a hazardous material is defined as a substance or combination of substances which, because of quantity, concentration, physical, chemical or infectious characteristics, may cause or contribute to an increase in mortality or an increase in serious irreversible or incapacitating reversible illness, or pose a present or potential hazard to human life, property or the environment.

High Occupancy Structure

Structures capable of being occupied by a large number of persons at any one time. Examples include: schools, theaters, health care facilities, hotels, apartments and large stores.

Historical Resource

As defined in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15064.5(a) [California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3],

Hourly L_{eq}

See Equivalent Sound Level (L_{eq}).

Important Archaeological Resource

See "Unique Archaeological Resource".

Impulsive Noise

Sound of short duration, usually less than one second, with an abrupt onset and rapid decay.

Incompatible Land Use (Mining)

Land uses inherently incompatible with mining and/or that require public or private investment in structures, land improvements, landscaping and other uses that may prevent mining because of the greater economic value of the land and its improvements. Examples of such uses may include, but shall not be limited to, high density residential, low density residential with high unit value, public facilities, geographically limited but impact intensive industrial, and commercial.

Intermittent Stream/Drainage

A stream or drainage identified as a dotted blue line on the United States Geological Survey (USGS) topographical maps. Alternatively, a stream that normally flows in the spring or summer but eventually stops flowing in normal precipitation years. When not flowing, water may remain in isolated pools or surface water may be absent. Classification may be based on USGS topographical maps or on sound evidence regarding flows and/or vegetation.

 L_{dn}

See "Day-Night Average Sound Level."

Landslide

A general term for a falling, sliding, or flowing mass of soil, rocks, water, and debris. Includes mudslides, debris flows, and debris torrents.

Level of Service (LOS)

A qualitative measure of traffic operating conditions whereby a letter grade, from A (the best) to F (the worst), is assigned. These grades represent the perspective of drivers and are an indication of the comfort and convenience associated with driving. In general, LOS A represents free-flow conditions with no congestion, and LOS F represents long delays and a facility that is operating at or near its functional capacity.

Mineral

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 §2005). Gold, sand, gravel, clay, crushed stone, limestone, diatomite, salt, borate, potash, etc., are examples of minerals.

National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)

The official federal list of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture as authorized by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. Sec. 470 et seq.).

Noise Contour

Lines drawn about a noise source indicating equal levels of noise exposure. CNEL and Ldn are the metrics used to describe the noise level and to establish land use planning criteria for noise.

Noise Sensitive Land Use

Land uses sensitive to excess noise, including residential land uses, libraries, museums, places of worship, convalescent homes and facilities, child-care facilities (in residential homes), educational facilities, and hospitals. Transient lodging establishments considered noise sensitive land uses include: hotels, motels and homeless shelters; but exclude bed and breakfast establishments located in rural areas, campgrounds or at guest ranches. Noise Sensitive Land Uses may include certain types of passive recreational parks and open space. Noise Sensitive Land Uses are the same as Sensitive Noise Receptors.

Non-Transportation Noise Source

Land uses that generate noise from a defined space, location, or point (i.e., the noise source does not move from location to location such as along a roadway) including, but not limited to: industrial operations, pump stations, trucking operations, tire shops, auto maintenance shops, metal fabricating shops, shopping centers, drive-up windows, car washes, loading docks, public works projects, batch plants, bottling and canning plants, recycling centers, electric generating stations, race tracks, landfills, mining or sand and gravel operations, and athletic fields. Also known as Fixed or Stationary Noise Source.

Perennial Stream/Drainage

A stream or drainage identified as a solid blue line on the United States Geological Survey (USGS) topographical maps. Alternatively, a stream that carries water year-round, or nearly year-round, in normal precipitation years as evidenced by the USGS topographical maps or on sound evidence regarding flows and/or vegetation.

Population Density

The number(s) of people in a given area and not the dwelling units per acre. Quantifiable standards of population density are provided for each land use category of the General Plan expressed as the relationship between the number of dwellings per acre and the number of residents per dwelling (as defined for the average number of persons per household by the California Department of Finance).

Potentially Active Fault

An earthquake fault which shows evidence of surface displacement during the last 2 million years.

Reclamation

The combined process of land treatment that minimizes water degradation, air pollution, damage to aquatic or wildlife habitat, flooding, erosion, and other adverse effects from surface mining operations, including adverse surface effects incidental to underground mines, so that mined lands are reclaimed to a usable condition which is readily adaptable for alternate land uses and create no danger to public health or safety. The process may extend to affected lands surrounding mined lands, and may require backfilling, grading, re-soiling, revegetation, soil compaction, stabilization, or other measures (Public Resources Code 2733).

Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)

A document required to be prepared by CCOG every five years that includes financially-constrained lists of transportation projects. The RTP is a 20-year blueprint that serves as a master plan for regional air, highway, public transit, bicycle, pedestrian, and other transportation improvement projects.

Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley

As defined in Government Code Section 65007(h).

Scour Critical Bridge

A bridge with a foundation element that has been determined to be unstable for an observed or evaluated scour condition. Bridges for which the foundation details are not known are conservatively treated as if they are Scour Critical. Bridge scour is the removal of streambed material caused by swiftly moving water from around bridge abutments or piers. Scour can become so deep that streambed material is removed from beneath the abutment or pier footings (known as undermining), compromising the integrity and stability of the bridge structure. Bridge scour is the most common causes of bridge failure. Bridges are determined to be scour critical when they are at risk of failure due to bridge scour based on bridge inspection data obtained from field observations made during bridge safety inspections conducted by a certified bridge safety inspector.

Seiche (Pronounced “saysh”)

An earthquake-induced wave in a lake or reservoir typically occurring a few minutes to a few hours following an earthquake. Flooding may occur along shorelines as a result of water “sloshing” out of the lake or reservoir.

Sensitive Noise Receptor (Sensitive Receptor)

See Noise Sensitive Land Use.

Sound Exposure Level (SEL)

A rating, in decibels, of a discrete event, such as an aircraft flyover or train passing by, that compresses the total sound energy into a one-second event.

Special Status Species

Plant, fish or wildlife species meeting at least one of the following criteria:

- Listed per the California Endangered Species Act or federal Endangered Species Act as endangered, threatened or rare;
- Listed pursuant to the California Native Plant Protection Act,
- A candidate for listing pursuant to the California Endangered Species Act, federal Endangered Species Act or California Native Plant Protection Act;
- Proposed for listing as an endangered or threatened species pursuant to the California Endangered Species Act or federal Endangered Species Act;
- Listed as a special fish or animal pursuant to the California Natural Diversity Database
- Listed as a special plant pursuant to the California Natural Diversity Database
- Listed as a California Department of Fish and Wildlife Species of Special Concern
- Listed as a California Department of Fish and Wildlife Fully Protected Species
- A California Native Plant Society List 1A, List 1B or List 2 plant
- Protected pursuant to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act
- Protected pursuant to the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act

State Responsibility Area (SRA)

For the purposes of the Safety Element and per Public Resources Code Section 4102, state responsibility areas (SRAs) means areas of the state in which the financial responsibility of preventing and suppressing fires has been determined by the State Board of Forestry pursuant to Section 4125, to be primarily the responsibility of the state. Approximately 527,834 acres of Calaveras County's 663,000 acres are located within CAL FIRE'S Tuolumne-Calaveras Unit (TCU) State Responsibility Area (SRA).¹ The SRA for Calaveras County can be viewed at: http://bofdata.fire.ca.gov/sra_viewer/

Stationary Noise Source

See Non-Transportation Noise Sources.

¹ CAL FIRE, *Strategic Fire Plan, Tuolumne/Calaveras Unit* (2011), p. 9.

Surface Mining Operation

As defined in Public Resources Code Section 2735.

Timber

As defined in California Government Code Section 51104(e).

Timberland

Land supporting the production of timber, other than land owned by the federal government and land designated by the state Board of Forestry as experimental forest land, which is available for, and capable of, growing an average annual volume of wood fiber of at least 15 cubic feet per acre of a **commercial species** used to produce lumber and other forest products, including Christmas trees.

Timber Harvest Plan (THP)

The environmental review document prepared in conjunction with timber harvesting pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 4581 et seq. The THP process substitutes for the CEQA process in the timber harvest context.

Timber Operation

As defined in California Government Code Section 51115.5(c).

Timber Production Zone

An area which has been zoned pursuant to California Government Code Section 51112 or 51113 and is devoted to and used for growing and harvesting timber, or for growing and harvesting timber and compatible uses. Timberland Preserve Zone and Timberland Production Zones are equivalent.

Transfer of Development Rights (TDR)

The voluntary transfer (sale) of development rights (including, but not limited to, density) from one parcel in an area where land is intended for preservation or less-intensive development to another parcel or parcels intended for development, intensified development (i.e., development at a greater density than may be allowed by the zoning district), or infill.

Transportation Noise Source

For the purposes of the Noise Element, transportation noise sources are defined as traffic on public roadways, railroad line operations (should these become applicable) and aircraft in flight.

Tribal Cultural Resources

As defined in Public Resources Code Section 21074.

Unique Archaeological Resource

As defined in Public Resources Code Section 21083.2(g).

Very High Fire Severity Zone

As defined in California Government Code Sections 51177 and 51178. Areas in the state are designated as very high fire hazard severity zones based on fuel loading, slope, fire weather, and other relevant factors including areas where winds have been identified by the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection as a major cause of wildfire spread.