

VII. Glossary

Governance Policies of the Board

Glossary of Terms

“CEO interpretation” and “BAO interpretation”

It is the Chief Executive Officer’s (CEO’s) or a Board Appointed Officer’s (BAO’s) interpretation of Board’s policies (Ends and Executive Limitations) intended to clarify direction to staff. Board policies in Policy Governance are set at the detail level at which the Board is willing to accept any “reasonable interpretation” of its policy statements. If the Board knows that it is not willing to accept certain interpretations of its current policy, it must proceed to a further level of detail.

“climate change adaptation”

Actions taken by the District to reduce the vulnerability to the District’s mission from actual or expected changes in climate and its impact on the natural environment, e.g., sea level rise.

“climate change mitigation”

Actions taken by the District to reduce, eliminate, or offset greenhouse gas emissions from District operations.

“creation”

Action taken by the District to develop a specific habitat at a site where the habitat did not previously exist, resulting in a gain in habitat area.

“Community Rating System” or “CRS”

A voluntary program under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) that discounts premiums to reward actions that meet the three CRS goals which are: (1) reduce flood damage to insurable property; (2) strengthen and support the insurance aspects of the NFIP; and (3) encourage a comprehensive approach to floodplain management.

“Community Rating System Community” or “CRS Community”

A city, village, town, county, township, parish, borough, Indian tribe or authorized tribal organization, Alaska Native village or authorized native organization, or other local government with the statutory authority to enact floodplain regulations and participate in the National Flood Insurance Program.

“customer”

An actual or potential user of the District’s products, programs, or services. Customers include the end users of the District’s products, programs, or services as well as others who are immediate purchasers or users, such as distributors, agents, or organizations that process the District’s products, programs, or services as a component of theirs.

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“disadvantaged community”

Disadvantaged community is an area whose residents are disproportionately impacted from a combination of economic, health, and environmental burdens, such as poverty, high unemployment, environmental pollution, the presence of hazardous waste, or environmental degradation. These communities often are comprised of people who have suffered historical discrimination based on race, color, national origin, tribe, culture, income, immigration status, or English language proficiency.

For the purposes of Valley Water policies, projects, services, and programs, disadvantaged communities include any of the following:

- Low-income households (Household incomes below 80 percent of the Area Median Income (AMI) in Santa Clara County), as of 2020 AMI for average household of three is \$100,950, however AMI is updated annually;
- Low-income census tracts (Census tracts where aggregated household incomes are less than 80 percent of the Area Median Income for Santa Clara County), as of 2020 AMI for average household of three is \$100,950, however AMI is updated annually;
- An area defined by California Environmental Protection Agency (pursuant to Section 39711 of the California Health and Safety Code), using the CalEnviroScreen tool, which was developed to determine communities most burdened by environmental, socioeconomic and health factors.

“environmental enhancement”

Action taken by the District that benefits the environment, is NOT mitigation, and is undertaken voluntarily. Enhancement actions may include environmental restoration, rehabilitation, preservation or creation. In instances where enhancements are located in the same vicinity as a mitigation project, actions must exceed required compliance to compensate for environmental impacts to be considered environmental enhancements.

“graywater”

Graywater is water from showers, bath tubs, washing machines, and bathroom sinks. It is water that contains some soap and detergents but is clean enough to water plants. Water from toilets or wash water from diapers is never considered graywater. Kitchen sink water is not considered graywater in California.

“integrated and balanced”

An integrated and balanced approach 1) takes into account work undertaken to achieve one goal will seek to preserve and protect the ability to achieve other goals; and 2) seeks opportunities and synergies that will enhance achievement of all goals.

“independent environmental enhancements”

Actions that could be designed and implemented as a stand-alone project.

“mitigation”

Action taken by the District to fulfill CEQA/NEPA, permit requirements and court mandated mitigation to avoid, minimize, rectify or reduce adverse environmental impacts, or compensate for the impact(s) by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments.

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“natural flood protection”

A multiple-objective approach to providing environmental quality, community benefit and protection from creek flooding in a cost effective manner through integrated planning and management that considers the physical, hydrologic and ecologic functions and processes of streams within the community setting.

“preservation”

Action taken by the District to protect an ecosystem or habitat area for compatible uses by removing a threat to that ecosystem or habitat, including regulatory actions and the purchase of land and easements.

“public engagement”

Approaches taken by the District to seek out and facilitate the participation of those potentially affected by or interested in actions taken by the District. Public engagement is achieved through a spectrum of involvement, which can be to inform, consult, involve, or collaborate with the public to promote sustainable decisions that recognize and communicate the needs and interests of all participants, including decision makers.

“purified water”

Treated recycled municipal wastewater that has passed through an advanced treatment plant (purification facilities), and has been verified through monitoring to be suitable for augmenting drinking water supplies.

“recycled water” (Reclaimed Water, Recycled Municipal Water, Water Recycling)

Wastewater that has been treated to a level that allows for its reuse for a beneficial purpose.

“rehabilitation”

Action taken by the District to assist in improving disturbed and degraded environments through the reparation of ecosystem processes` and productivity. Rehabilitation does not necessarily reestablish the pre-disturbance condition, but strives to establish stable landscapes that support the natural ecosystem mosaic.

“restoration”

Action taken by the District, to the extent practicable, toward the re-establishment of an ecosystem’s pre-disturbance structure, function, and value, where it has been degraded, damaged, or otherwise destroyed.

“stewardship”

To entrust the careful and responsible management of the environment and natural resources to one's care for the benefit of the greater community.