



APPENDIX G

Glossary of Terms

Doyle Drive Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Report
and Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation

APPENDIX G

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Action

An “action,” a federal term, is the construction or reconstruction, including associated activities, of a transportation facility. For the purposes of this Handbook, the terms “project”, “proposal” and “action” are used interchangeably unless otherwise specified. An action may be categorized as a “categorical exclusion” or a “major federal action.”

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP)

An independent federal agency that provides a forum for influencing federal policy, programs, and activities as they affect historic and archaeological resources in communities and on public lands nationwide.

Area of Potential Effect

A term used in Section 106 to describe the area in which historic resources may be affected by a federal undertaking.

Aquifer

A water-bearing stratum of permeable rock, sand, or gravel.

Aquitard

A layer of rock having low permeability that stores groundwater but delays its flow.

Area A

The area of the Presidio that is coastal and managed by the National Park Service.

Area B

The area of the Presidio that is non-coastal and managed by the Presidio Trust.

Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG)

A regional planning agency working to solve problems within the Bay area, such as land use, housing, environmental quality, and economic development.

Attainment area

An area that meets air quality standards.

Attenuation

The reduction of noise.

Auxiliary lane

A traffic lane downstream of an entrance ramp to accommodate merging traffic, a lane upstream of an exit ramp to accommodate diverging traffic, or a lane between two closely spaced interchanges to accommodate weaving traffic.

Bedrock

Solid rock that underlies all soil, sand, clay, gravel, and loose material on the earth's surface.

Beneficial use

A use of a natural water resource that enhances the social, economic, and environmental well-being of the user. Twenty-one beneficial uses are defined for the waters of California, ranging from municipal and domestic supply to fisheries and wildlife habitat.

California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG)

The state agency that manages California's wildlife and plant resources.

California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)

Responsible for planning, designing, building, operating, and maintaining California's state highway system.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

A California law that requires state, local, and other agencies to evaluate the environmental implications of their actions.

Candidate species

Any species of fish, wildlife, or plant which has been determined to be candidates for listing under Section 4 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (amended).

Cast-In-Drilled Hole (CIDH)

A re-enforced concrete pile that is cast in a pre-drilled hole or casing.

Categorical exclusion

“Categorical exclusion,” under NEPA, covers various categories of actions which do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment and are exempt from the requirement to prepare an Environmental Assessment or an Environmental Impact Statement. This replaces the federal term “non-major action.” The federal term refers to the action as a whole having no significant impact on the environment. It does not refer to categories of project types.

Categorical Exemption

“Categorical Exemption” (CE) means an exemption from CEQA for a class of projects that have been determined by the Secretary of the Resources Agency not to have a significant effect on the quality of the environment. Article 19 of the CEQA Guidelines describes and gives examples for each class of categorical exemption. There are several exceptions which preclude a project from being considered a Categorical Exemption under CEQA: projects located on a site included on a list of designated hazardous waste sites (the Cortese List); projects that may result in damage to scenic resources on officially designated state scenic highways; or projects that may cause substantial adverse | change to a historic resource.

Clean Water Act

A federal law that regulates the discharge of pollutants into waters of the United States.

Column

A supporting pillar.

Contaminant source

A facility that treats, stores, or disposes of hazardous waste, uses hazardous substances, or stores petroleum products on site.

Cooperating Agency

“Cooperating Agency,” under NEPA, means any agency other than the lead agency which has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact involved in a proposal for any action significantly affecting the human environment. Under CEQA, the term “responsible agency” is used.

Criteria air pollutant

A pollutant that has standards that have been established to meet specific public health and welfare criteria.

Cultural resources

Archaeological and historic resources eligible for or listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Cultural resources include buildings, sites, districts, structures, or objects having historical, architectural, archaeological, cultural, or scientific importance.

Cumulative impact

The impact on the environment that results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions.

dBA

A sound level in decibels, measured with a sound level meter having metering characteristics and frequency weighting specified in American National Standard Specifications for sound level meters (ANSI S1.4-1971). It is common to refer to numerical units of an A-weighted sound level as “dBA.”

Design speed

A speed selected to establish specific minimum geometric design elements for a particular section of highway.

Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR)

A draft report that analyzes potential environmental impacts of a proposed project in compliance with CEQA.

Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)

A draft report that analyzes potential environmental impacts of a proposed project in compliance with NEPA.

Environmental Document

“Environmental Document” means draft or final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or Environmental Impact Report (EIR), Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), Environmental Assessment (EA) or Negative Declaration (ND). A CE form is not considered an environmental document; it is rather the documentation that the project is exempt/excluded.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

An agency of the executive branch of the federal government charged with establishing and enforcing environmental regulations.

Equivalent Sound Level (Leq)

A measure of sound energy over a period of time, or a sound level which, in a stated period of time, would contain the same acoustical energy as the time-varying sound during the same period.

4(f) Resources

Resources protected by Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act. These include public park and recreation lands, wildlife and waterfowl refuges, and historic sites eligible or listed on the National Register.

Fatal flaw

An issue that would make an alternative infeasible.

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

The federal agency that coordinates highway transportation programs in cooperation with states and other partners. It provides federal financial assistance to the States to construct and improve the National Highway System, urban and rural roads, and bridges.

Federal Transit Administration (FTA)

The federal agency that provides financial and technical assistance to local transit systems. It also assists in the development of local and regional traffic reduction programs.

Floodplain

The part of the ground surface inundated with water on a recurring basis, usually associated with the one percent recurrence interval (100-year) flow.

FONSI

“Finding of No Significant Impact” means a document by a federal agency briefly presenting the reasons why an action, not otherwise categorically excluded, will not have a significant effect on the human environment and therefore does not require the preparation of an EIS. A FONSI is the federal equivalent of a Negative Declaration.

Franciscan Formation

Regional bedrock that is approximately 90 to 160 million years old. It is composed of sandstone and shale and is generally highly weathered.

General Plan

A document that contains policies used to implement the goals of a community.

General Management Plan Amendment (GMPA)

The primary planning document for the Presidio, prepared by the National Park Service.

Geometric design

The arrangement of the visible elements of a road, such as alignment, grade, sight distance, lane width, etc.

Geomorphic

Of the earth's surface configuration.

Geomorphic province

A topographic-geologic grouping of land based on landforms, rock types, and geologic structure.

Girder

A horizontal beam used as a main support for a structure.

Groundwater

Water beneath the earth's surface between saturated soil and rock that supplies wells and springs.

Haunched girder

An arched beam used between support piers.

High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV)

Vehicles occupied by two (sometimes three) or more persons such as carpools and buses.

High Occupancy Vehicle Lane (HOV Lane)

A system of exclusive lanes signed and striped for use by vehicles with multiple occupants (two or more or three or more persons). HOV lanes are designed on roadways to reduce traffic congestion, improve safety, reduce fuel consumption, and improve air quality.

Historic American Building Survey (HABS)

Founded by the National Park Service to document and archive significant historic architectural works.

Historic American Engineering Record (HAER)

Founded to document and archive significant engineering and industrial sites.

Hot spot

A location where air pollutant emissions from specific sources may expose individuals to elevated risks of adverse health effects.

Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS)

Information and communication technologies that are used to better manage and improve transportation.

Inundation

The act of covering with water.

Inversion

A layer of warm air over cooler air that traps air pollution below it.

Intactness

The visual integrity of the natural and man-built landscape.

Landscape unit

A geographically distinct portion of an area that has a particular visual character.

Lead Agency

“Lead Agency” means the public agency which has primary responsibility for carrying out or approving a project which may have a significant effect on the environment and preparing the environmental document.

Level of Service (LOS)

The operating level of an intersection or roadway segment can be described using the term Level of Service. Level of Service is a qualitative description of operation based on delay and maneuverability. It can range from “A” representing free flow conditions to “F” representing gridlock.

Liquefaction

The loss of strength that can occur in loose, saturated soil during or following seismic shaking. This condition can produce a number of ground effects, including lateral spreading, boils, ground lurching, and settlement of fill material.

Maintenance area

An area that had previously been designated a non-attainment area, but now meets applicable air quality standards.

Maximum Credible Earthquake (MCE)

The largest earthquake reasonably capable of occurring based on current geological knowledge.

Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC)

The transportation planning, coordinating, and financing agency for the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area. It functions both as the region's metropolitan transportation planning agency and as the region's metropolitan planning organization—state and federal designations, respectively.

Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918

Reflects agreements involving the United States, Great Britain (for Canada), Mexico, Japan, and the former Soviet Union to protect migratory bird populations.

Mitigation

Measures taken to minimize adverse environmental impacts. Mitigation could reduce the magnitude and extent of an impact from a level of significance to a level of insignificance.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

The United States' basic national charter for protection of the environment. It establishes policy, sets goals, and provides means for carrying out the policy.

National Historic Preservation Act of 1966

The primary federal law pertaining to protection of cultural resources, referred to as Section 106.

National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)

A permitting mechanism to require the implementation of controls designed to prevent harmful pollutants from being washed by storm water runoff into local water bodies.

National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)

A federal listing of historic resources protected under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

Non-attainment area

An area that does not meet air quality standards.

Noise Abatement Criteria (NAC)

Noise level standards above which noise reducing actions should be considered.

NPDES Permit

“National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit which is required for facilities and activities that discharge waste into surface waters from a confined pipe or channel.

Nonattainment Area

“Nonattainment Area” means any geographic region of the United States that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has designated as a nonattainment area for a transportation related pollutant(s) for which a National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) exists.

Nonpoint Source

A “nonpoint source” is a dispersed source of pollution that is not identifiable as to specific location, but may be identified as contributing to water quality degradation from a tributary drainage area, e.g. pesticide residues distributed over an agricultural area.

Notice of Availability

“Notice of Availability” means a formal public notice under NEPA announcing the availability of a completed EA, DEIS, or FEIS. Such notice is to be published in local newspapers. For EISs, publication of such notice in the Federal Register is also required.

Notice of Completion

The CEQA notice submitted to the State Clearinghouse when an EIR is completed. For Caltrans EIRs, the requirement for a Notice of Completion is satisfied by the cover sheet transmitting the EIR to the Clearinghouse.

Notice of Intent

“Notice of Intent” is a notice that an environmental impact statement will be prepared and considered. The Notice of Intent is published in the Federal Register by the lead federal agency. The CEQA equivalent of this notice is called the Notice of Preparation.

Pile

A rod or shaft-like linear member driven into the earth as a foundation or support for a structure.

Porter-Cologne Water Act of 1969

A California law that provides a framework for protecting the quality of waters in California for the use and enjoyment of the people of the state.

Presidio Trust Implementation Plan

The document developed by the Presidio Trust for the management of non-coastal areas transferred to the Trust from the National Park Service.

Probabilistic earthquake

An earthquake predicted based on earthquake return periods.

Project

CEQA (§21065) defines a “project” as an activity which may cause either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment, and which is any of the following:

- a) An activity directly undertaken by any public agency.
- b) An activity undertaken by a person which is supported, in whole or in part, throughout contracts, grants, subsidies, loans, or other forms of assistance from one or more public agencies.
- c) An activity that involves the issuance to a person of a lease, permit, license, certificate, or other entitlement for use by one or more public agencies.

Record of Decision (ROD)

The “Record of Decision” is a formal written statement, required under NEPA, wherein a federal lead agency must present the basis for its decision to approve a selected project alternative, summarize mitigation measures incorporated into the project an document any required Section 4(f) approval.

Responsible Agency

A “public agency, other than the lead agency which has responsibility for carrying out or approving a project” (PRC 21069). The CEQA Guidelines further explains the statutory definition by stating that a “responsible agency” includes “all public agencies other than the Lead Agency which have discretionary approval power over the project” (14 CCR 15381). State and local public agencies that have discretionary authority to issue permits, for example, fall into this category.

San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB)

An agency with the California Environmental Protection Agency that is responsible for regulating pollutants to protect the water resources of the Bay Area.

Scoping

The process of determining the scope, focus and content of an EIS/EIR.

Significance – CEQA

CEQA defines a "Significant effect on the environment" as "a substantial, or potentially substantial, adverse change in any of the physical conditions within the area affected by the project, including land, air, water, minerals, flora, fauna, ambient noise, and objects of historic or aesthetic significance. An economic or social change by itself shall not be considered a significant effect on the environment. A social or economic change related to a physical change may be considered in determining whether the physical change is significant" (15382). CEQA requires that the lead agency identify each "significant effect on the environment" resulting from the project and avoid or mitigate it. The CEQA Guidelines include mandatory findings of significance for certain effects, thus requiring the preparation of an EIR.

Sole Source Aquifer

An aquifer upon which a community depends exclusively for its fresh water supply.

Special status species

Any species of fish, wildlife, or plant that is officially listed as rare, threatened, endangered, or candidate for rare, threatened, or endangered species listing under the state or federal Endangered Species Acts.

State Implementation Plan (SIP)

A plan for attaining national ambient air quality standards required by the Clean Air Act.

State Office of Historic Preservation (SHPO)

The state agency that assists private citizens, private institutions, local governments, and state and federal agencies in the identification, evaluation, protection, and enhancement of properties significant in California history and archaeology; also responsible for reviewing federal undertakings that affect cultural resources on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Strike-slip fault

An approximately vertical fault plane where the rock on one side of the fault slides horizontally past the other.

Storm Water Management Plan

A plan that identifies and describes Best Management Practices (BMPs) designed to control the discharge of pollutants and reduce potential impacts to surface water quality.

Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan

A plan to reduce the potential impacts of erosion and sedimentation from construction.

Substructure

The abutments, piers, or other constructions built to support the span or spans of a bridge or viaduct. The superstructure is supported by the substructure; the substructure is placed on the foundations.

Superstructure

The entire portion of the bridge or viaduct structure that primarily receives and supports highway or other traffic loads. It is supported by the substructure.

Surface runoff

Water that runs off streets and land and enters a body of water.

Traffic Management Plan (TMP)

A plan to manage traffic during construction of projects to reduce congestion.

Transportation Systems Management (TSM)

Changes to existing roadways and services, such as geometric and striping improvements and expanded transit service, to improve traffic operations.

Tsunamis

Seismically induced sea waves that are generated when large subsea earth or rock masses are displaced during earthquakes or very large landslides.

Type I project

A proposed federal or federal-aid highway project for the construction of a highway on a new location, or the physical alteration of an existing highway which significantly changes either the horizontal or vertical alignment, or increases the number of through-traffic lanes.

Unity

The visual coherence and compositional harmony of the viewshed.

Urban canyon

Areas where air pollutants are trapped between high buildings.

US Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE)

Federal agency with jurisdiction over waters of the United States.

US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

The federal agency responsible for maintaining environmental quality, including air quality, noise, and hazardous waste management.

US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

The federal agency that administers the federal Endangered Species Act and is involved in protection of fish and wildlife habitat, including wetland areas.

Viaduct

A series of spans or arches used to carry a road over a wide valley or over other roads.

Visual dominance

The contrast between a project and its setting, described in terms of vegetation, landform, and structural changes.

Visual image type

An area that exhibits a fairly homogeneous visual quality. Types that are present in the study area include urban residential, historical, light industrial, parks and open space.

Vividness

The visual power or memorability of landscape components as they combine in striking and distinctive visual patterns.

Watershed

The point of high ground dividing two different drainage systems.

Weaving

The crossing of traffic streams, moving in the same general direction, accomplished by merging and diverging.

Weaving section

A length of one-way roadway, designed to accommodate weaving, at one end of which two one-way roadways merge and at the other end of which they separate.

Wetlands

According to regulations of the US Army Corps of Engineers, wetlands are areas that are inundated or saturated by surface water or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, under normal conditions, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, and similar areas and are subject to protection under Executive Order 11990 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.