

Appendix A – Acronyms and Definitions

303(d); refers to a section of the Clean Water Act that requires states to submit a list of impaired and threatened waters (i.e. the 303(d) list) to the EPA for approval every two years. For each water on the list, the state identifies the pollutant causing the impairment, when known, initiating a TMDL analysis.

ADOT – Arizona Department of Transportation

CDOT – Colorado Department of Transportation

CDPHE – Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment; state agency that dictates water quality management requirements via the issuance of MS4 permits to achieve reduction of pollutants in the stormwater discharges from CDOT's MS4 area.

CDPS – Colorado Discharge Permit System; the system under which individual MS4 permits are issued by the CDPHE to allow discharge of runoff to surface waters. CDOT's MS4 permit number COS000005 is issued under the CDPS.

CEC – Cation Exchange Capacity; the total capacity of a soil to hold exchangeable cations. CEC influences the soil's ability to hold onto essential nutrients and provides a buffer against soil acidification.

CGS – Colorado Geologic Survey; a state government agency within the Colorado School of Mines whose science-driven mission is to help reduce the impact of geologic hazards on the citizens of Colorado.

CLOMR – Conditional Letter of Map Revision; FEMA's comment on a proposed project that would, upon construction, affect the hydrologic or hydraulic characteristics of a flooding source and thus result in the modification of the existing regulatory floodway, the effective Base Flood Elevations (BFEs), or the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA).

CM – control measure; this term replaces the term “best management practice” (BMP) as the preferred term to refer to permanent facilities that are intended to treat water quality in perpetuity once construction is complete.

CRS – Colorado Revised Statute

CWA – Clean Water Act; a federal law implemented in 1972 and administered by the CDPHE in the form of MS4 permits.

CWCB – Colorado Water Conservation Board; a state agency that provides policy direction on water issues. The CWCB's responsibilities are wide-ranging, but include protecting Colorado's streams and lakes, watershed protection, and stream restoration.

CWQCA – Colorado Water Quality Control Act; an act adopted in 1966, creating authority to establish water quality standards consistent with the Federal Clean Water Act. The CWQCA is the analog of the federal CWA but includes special provisions to assure that water quality control efforts in Colorado are refined to meet the specific needs of Colorado's waterways.

CWQD – Colorado Water Quality Division; the division within the CDPHE that is tasked with administering water quality control programs to protect waters of the state through delegated authority by both the CWQCA and the federal CWA. The CWQD provides education, compliance assistance, permits, inspections and enforcement to promote prevention, control and abatement of water pollution.

DDM – Drainage Design Manual; the CDOT-authored document that provides guidance and detailed design criteria for multiple aspects of drainage design including PWQ CMs.

DSRT – Division of Science, Research & Technology; a division of the NJDEP that is responsible for certifying final pollutant removal rates for all manufactured treatment devices.

DTD – Division of Transportation Development; a CDOT division that includes the Applied Research and Innovation Branch whose mission is to save Colorado citizens' money, time, and lives while preserving the environment and quality of life through the research, development and deployment of innovative products, materials, and methods in transportation.

DWR – Colorado Division of Water Resources; also known as the Office of the State Engineer, the DWR administers water rights and oversees dam safety, among many other services in Colorado.

EA – Environmental Assessment; a document prepared under NEPA to provide sufficient evidence and analysis to determine whether a proposed agency action would require preparation of an environmental impact statement or a finding of no significant impact.

EDB – Extended Detention Basin; a facility that provides temporary storage of stormwater runoff. It has an outlet structure that detains and attenuates inflows and promotes the settlement of pollutants.

EIS – Environmental Impact Statement; a document prepared under NEPA to describe the effects of proposed activities on the environment.

EPA – Environmental Protection Agency; Federal agency in charge of implementing the federal Clean Water Act. In Colorado EPA has delegated the implementation of the CWA to CDPHE. Ultimately, EPA is the overreaching governing agency of the MS4.

EURV – Excess Urban Runoff Volume; the difference in runoff volume between the developed condition and the undeveloped (i.e., natural) condition.

HSG – Hydrologic Soil Group; one of four soil classifications created by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) based on a soil's runoff potential. The four HSGs are A, B, C and D. Type A soils generally have the smallest runoff potential and Type D the greatest.

LOMR – Letter of Map Revision; FEMA's modification to an effective Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), or Flood Boundary and Floodway Map (FBFM), or both.

Mitigation Pool – In order to meet the requirements of the MS4 permit, CDOT contributes \$6.5 million annually to the PWQ Mitigation Pool. Funding is to construct PWQ CMs that will treat runoff from CDOT MS4 area.

MnDOT – Minnesota Department of Transportation

MPC – Mitigation Pool Committee; the MPC is a committee that evaluates projects' proposed PWQ CMs to determine if funding from the Mitigation Pool can be allocated to them. The MPC also may grant variances for CMs that require them.

MS4 – Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System; a conveyance or system of conveyances that is owned by a state, city, town, village, or other public entity that discharges to waters of the U.S.; designed or used to collect or convey stormwater (e.g., storm drains, pipes, ditches); not a combined sewer; and not part of a sewage treatment plant, or publicly owned treatment works.

NDRD – New Development Redevelopment; NDRD refers to CDOT’s program to treat water quality using PWQ CMs. Also known as the NDRD Interim Program, this program is the precursor to the PWQ Program.

NEPA – National Environmental Policy Act; a US environmental law that promotes the enhancement of the environment enacted on January 1, 1970.

NJCAT – New Jersey Corporation for Advanced Technology; the entity that verifies CM pollutant removal rates and maintains a database of verified CMs.

NJDEP – New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

PLD – Porous Landscape Detention; a low lying vegetated area underlain by a sand bed with an underdrain pipe. The underdrain gradually dewateres the sand bed to a nearby channel, swale, or storm sewer.

PWQ – Permanent Water Quality; a general acronym. It is also a designation for CMs that are intended to be in service indefinitely as opposed to facilities that are intended to treat water quality during construction.

PWQ Program – one of the seven programs required by CDOT’s MS4 permit, which requires CDOT to reduce the discharge of pollutants to the MS4 area that come from new development and redevelopment (NDRD). The PWQ Program requirements are outlined in the PWQ Program Guidance.

RPEM – Regional Planning and Environmental Manager; the CDOT employee responsible for managing environmental and planning staff and projects for a Region. The RPEM signs the 128 form and is responsible for ensuring environmental clearances are met on projects.

RWPCM – Region Water Pollution Control Manager; a CDOT position originally created as a result of a notice of violation from the CDPHE. The main intent of the position is to perform audits on CDOT construction sites.

SAP – CDOT’s database system into which all PWQ CMs must be entered.

SWMP – Stormwater Management Plan; a document that delineates how erosion and sediment control will be handled during construction.

TMDL – Total Maximum Daily Load; the maximum amount of a pollutant allowed to enter a waterbody so that the waterbody will meet and continue to meet water quality standards for that particular pollutant. A TMDL determines a pollutant reduction target and allocates load reductions necessary to the source(s) of the pollutant.

TSS – Total Suspended Solids; the dry-weight of particles that can be trapped by a glass fiber filter. It is a common parameter used to assess water quality. It is listed as a conventional pollutant in the Clean Water Act.

UDFCD – Urban Drainage and Flood Control District; a cooperative district covering 1608 square miles of the Denver Metropolitan area, including parts of the 6 surrounding counties, and all or parts of 33 incorporated cities and towns with a total population of approximately 2.8 million people. Their purpose is to assist local governments within the Denver metropolitan area with drainage and flood control challenges. The UDFCD maintains a criteria manual that is widely considered to be an industry standard nationwide.

USACE – United States Army Corps of Engineers; the federal agency responsible for administering and enforcing Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. The USACE issues 404 permits.

WQCC – Water Quality Control Commission; the administrative agency responsible for developing specific water quality policy in Colorado, in a manner that implements the broader policies set forth by the CWQCA. The WQCC adopts water quality classifications and standards to protect beneficial uses of waters of the state, as well as various regulations aimed at achieving compliance with those classifications and standards.

WQCV – Water Quality Capture Volume; the volume of water equal to the runoff from a drainage basin during the 80th percentile runoff event.

WSDOT – Washington State Department of Transportation