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GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Aquifer parameters. A term for the measured characteristics of an aquifer that quantify an aquifer's potential to transport and store water. These parameters are established using various aquifer testing, measuring, and monitoring methods.

Air drilling. A drilling technique where gases, typically compressed air or nitrogen, are used to cool the drill bit and lift cuttings out of the borehole instead of the more conventional use of liquids.

Airlift pump. A pump used for raising water from a well, consisting of a pipe which surrounds another of smaller diameter. Compressed air is injected into the smaller pipe, causing water to rise up the larger pipe.

Airshed. A geographic and political boundary for air quality standards.

Aquifer. An underground rock formation composed of such materials as sand, soil, or gravel, that can store groundwater and supply it to wells and springs. In aquifers, groundwater occurs in sufficient quantities to be used for drinking water, irrigation, and other purposes (ADEQ 2008).

Bentonite seal. The use of bentonite, an expandable clay, to form an impermeable layer above the sand filter pack of a monitoring well.

Borehole. Any long or deep drill-hole, often associated with a diamond drill.

Casing. A pipe that is assembled and inserted into a recently drilled section of a borehole and typically cemented into place.

Constant-rate pumping test. A test used to predict the hydraulic characteristics of an aquifer and to determine the size of the pump that is to be placed in the well. During the test, pumping levels are held constant and the progressive drawdown with time is recorded. The relation between drawdown and time is a function of the aquifer permeability.

Decibel. Unit that measures the intensity or loudness of sound.

Deflection. The drilling of an exploration hole at a predetermined angle from an existing trunk hole. Multiple deflections result in the intersection of the hydrologic study area at multiple points from the single trunk hole.

Diamond drilling. Drilling method using a diamond bit on a hollow steel rod that is driven into rock using high-speed rotary motion. This process yields a cylindrical core sample for geologic analysis.

Directional drilling. The use of specialized drill bits to advance curved boreholes in a controlled arc for installation of horizontal wells.

Downthrown. The side of a fault that appears to have moved downward compared with the opposite side of the fault.

Drill cuttings. Any material removed from a borehole while drilling a well or exploration hole.

Drill rig. A machine that creates <u>boreholes</u> and/or shafts to sample sub-surface mineral deposits, to test rock, soil and groundwater physical properties, and to install tunnels or wells.

Drilling mud. A <u>drilling fluid</u> used to drill boreholes. The mud cleans and cools the drill bit during drilling.

Formation water. Water that occurs naturally within the pores of <u>rock</u>. Water from fluids introduced to a <u>formation</u> through drilling or other interference does not constitute <u>formation</u>

Geologic unit. A volume of rock of identifiable origin and age range that is defined by the distinctive and dominant, easily mapped features that characterize it. Units must be mapable and distinct from one another.

Geophysical logging. Making a detailed record (a well log) of the <u>geo</u>logic formations penetrated by a borehole.

Hydraulic conductivity. A property of soil or rock that describes the ease with which water can move through pore spaces or fractures. Conductivity depends on the intrinsic permeability of the material and on the degree of saturation.

Hydraulic gradient. Change in head per unit of distance measured in the direction of the steepest change.

Inert material. Material which is passively resistant to any change, particularly a material which is relatively unaffected by the action of <u>heat</u> or water.

Ore deposit. Rocks containing minerals that may be profitable to extract.

Packer. A device lowered into a borehole which automatically swells or can be made to swell at the correct time to produce a water tight joint against the side of the borehole or casing.

 PM_{10} . Particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter less than or equal to 10 micrometers.

Recovery analysis. The measurement of how long it takes for the water level in a pumped well to return to the original pre-pumped elevation of the water table. Measurements including the amount of water

pumped, how long it took and how far the water table moves are used to calculate common aquifer parameters such as storage, connectivity of fractures and flow characteristics.

Reverse circulation. A drilling method in which the sample is brought to the surface inside the drill rods, thereby reducing contamination.

Rotary drilling. A drilling method using a rotary drill rig. Open hole drilling does not result in the production of core, rather the material in the hole is ground up in the drilling process and brought to the surface with air or water pressure.

Specific capacity. The rate of discharge of water from a well divided by the drawdown of the water level within the well.

Storage coefficient. The volume of water released from storage in a <u>confined aquifer</u>. It is the product of the <u>specific storage</u> and the aquifer thickness.

Submersible pump. A centrifugal pump which may be driven by electricity or compressed air and may be totally submerged in water.

Track hoe. A tracked excavator consisting of an articulated arm, bucket and <u>cab</u> mounted on a <u>pivot</u> atop an undercarriage with <u>tracks</u>.

Transducer. An electrical device that converts one type of <u>energy</u> or physical attribute to another for purposes including measurement or information transfer.

Transmissivity. The amount of water that can flow horizontally through the entire saturated thickness of the aquifer under a hydraulic gradient of 1 meter/meter.

Trunk hole. A large (6- to 8-inch) diameter cased borehole which is drilled and completed prior to the initiation of exploration core drilling. Core drilling commences from the bottom of this trunk hole.

Understory. The layer formed by grasses, shrubs, and small trees under the canopy of larger trees and plants.

Vibrating wire piezometer. An instrument designed to measure the water within the pores of rock. The measure of pore water provides quantitative data on the magnitude and distribution of pore pressure. The piezometer is installed in a borehole and readings are obtained with a portable data logger.

Water bar. A ditch or hump on a road that diverts surface *water* off the road surface to avoid or minimize soil erosion.

Water level gradient. The slope of the <u>water table</u> or <u>aquifer</u>. The gradient influences the direction and rate of <u>groundwater</u> flow.

Wellhead. The area immediately surrounding the top of a well, or the top of the well casing.