

## Glossary and Bibliography

The glossary explains the technical terms used in the City of Carpinteria Coastal Land Use Plan and General Plan plus common planning terms. Definitions are informed by several sources, including the California Governor’s Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (LCI) and the American Planning Association’s *Glossary of Zoning, Development, and Planning Terms*.

### GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU):** A secondary housing unit located on the same lot as a primary residence, providing complete, independent living facilities for one or more persons. These units, often referred to as granny flats or in-law units, can be detached (separate from the primary house) or attached (part of the main house). They must include permanent provisions for living, sleeping, eating, cooking, and sanitation.⌘

**Acre-foot:** The amount of water needed to cover an acre one foot deep (approximately 325,900 gallons). An acre-foot can support the annual indoor and outdoor needs of between one and two households per year, and on average, three acre-feet are needed to irrigate one acre of farmland.

**Active fault:** A fault that has experienced movement within the last 11,000 years.

**Commented [TL1]:** Definition added from the Safety Element.

**Active transportation:** The transport of people (or goods), through non-motorized means, based around human physical activity. Examples of active transportation include walking, bicycling, and roller skating.

**Agriculture (AG) Land Use:** A land use designation that identifies areas appropriate for continued agricultural production.

**Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA):** A federal civil rights law that prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities in everyday activities. The ADA guarantees that people with disabilities have the same opportunities as everyone else to enjoy employment opportunities, purchase goods and services, and participate in state and local government programs.

**Affordable Housing:** Housing capable of being purchased or rented by a household with very low, low, or moderate income, based on a household’s ability to make monthly payments necessary to obtain housing. Housing is considered affordable when a household pays less than 30 percent of its gross monthly income (GMI) for housing including utilities.

**A-weighted Decibel (dBA):** The “A-weighted” scale for measuring sound in decibels; weighs or reduces the effects of low and high frequencies to simulate human hearing. Every increase of 10 dBA doubles the perceived loudness though the noise is ten times more intense.

**Bicycle Share Programs:** A shared transportation service where bicycles are available for shared use by individuals at a low cost.

**Bluff edge:** Defined under the California Code of Regulations, Title 14, § 13577(h)(2), as the line of intersection between the steeply sloping bluff face and the flat or more gently sloping bluff top. In cases where the top edge of the cliff is rounded away from the face of the cliff as a result of erosional processes related to the presence of the cliff face, the bluff edge is the point nearest the cliff beyond which the downward gradient of the surface increases more or less continuously until it reaches the general gradient of the cliff.

**Commented [TL2]:** Definition revised per Coastal Commission staff recommendation.

**Buffer Zone:** An area of land separating two distinct land uses which acts to soften or mitigate the effects of one land use on the other.

**Commented [TL3]:** Definition added per Coastal Commission staff recommendation.

**Building coverage:** The relationship between the ground floor area of enclosed buildings and the net area of the site, expressed in a percent form.

**California Coastal Act:** Legislation, passed in 1976, that established the California Coastal Commission as a permanent agency with broad authority to regulate coastal development. The Act guides how the land along the coast of California is developed or protected from development. It emphasizes the importance of the public being able to access the coast, and the preservation of sensitive coastal and marine habitats and biodiversity. The Coastal Act requires local governments located within the Coastal Zone to prepare a Local Coastal Program to carry out the policies of the Coastal Act at the local level. This program creates a shared responsibility between the state, local governments, and partner agencies to enhance public coastal access, protect coastal resources, and regulate future development within the Coastal Zone.

**California Department of Transportation:** Also known as Caltrans, the California Department of Transportation is an executive department of the State of California that manages the State's highway and freeway lanes, provides inter-city rail services, permits more than 400 public-use airports and special-use hospital heliports, and works with local transportation agencies.

**California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA):** A State law requiring State and local agencies to regulate activities with consideration for environmental protection. If a proposed activity has the potential for a significant adverse environmental impact, an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must be prepared and certified as to its adequacy before taking action on the proposed project. General Plans require the preparation of a "program EIR."

**California Government Code:** A part of the California Codes, which are 29 legal codes enacted by the California State Legislature and together form the general statutory law of California.

**California Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (LCI):** A branch of the Office of the Governor, created by statute in 1970 (and renamed in 2024), which serves the Governor and his Cabinet as staff for long-range planning and research, and constitutes the comprehensive state planning agency.

**Commented [TL4]:** Definition added per Coastal Commission staff recommendation.

**Climate change:** Any significant change in measures of climate (such as temperature, precipitation, or wind) lasting for an extended period (decades or longer). Climate change may result from: natural factors, such as changes in the sun’s intensity or slow changes in the earth’s orbit around the sun; natural processes within the climate system (such as changes in ocean circulation); and human activities that change the atmosphere’s composition (such as burning fossil fuels) and the land surface (such as deforestation, reforestation, urbanization or desertification).

**Coastal access:** The ability of the public to reach, use, or view coastal areas, including, but not limited to, the shoreline, coastal waters, coastal recreation areas, inland public recreation areas or public trails, and other significant coastal resource areas such as open space and habitats for various purposes. Coastal access includes all such public access areas within the coastal zone and is not limited to shoreline locations.

**Commented [TL5]:** Definition revised per Coastal Commission staff recommendation.

**Coastal Bluff:** An escarpment or steep face of rock, decomposed rock, or soil that is near or adjacent to the ocean and is caused by erosion, earthquake faults, or folding of the land mass. A coastal bluff is 10 feet or more in height, and the toe is subject to marine erosion (or was subject to erosion within the last 200 years).

**Commented [TL6]:** Definition added per Coastal Commission staff recommendation.

**California Coastal Commission:** An independent, quasi-judicial state agency that serves as the State of California’s coastal zone planning and management agency, responsible for regulating development in the coastal zone.

**Coastal Development Permit:** A permit required pursuant to the certified Local Coastal Program or subdivision (a) of Section 30600 of the Coastal Act for development within the Coastal Zone.

**Commented [TL7]:** Definition revised per Coastal Commission staff recommendation.

**Coastal flooding:** A hazard occurring when water inundates or covers normally dry coastal land as a result of high or rising tides or storm surges.

**Coastal hazards:** Hazards along the shoreline to the ocean that are created by winds, waves, currents, tides, storms, water, and geologic instability. Coastal hazards include beach erosion, coastal bluff erosion, coastal bluff slope failure, landslide, coastal flooding, and wave impacts.

**Commented [TL8]:** Definition revised per Coastal Commission staff recommendation.

**Coastal Land Use Plan (CLUP):** The relevant portion of a local agency general plan or coastal element that details the type, location, and intensity of land use, applicable resource protection and development policies, and, where necessary, implementation actions.

**Coastal recreation:** Recreational activities and services hosted in the coastal zone, which may involve travel away from one’s place of residence and focus on the coastal environment.

**Coastal resources:** Any resource which is afforded protection under the policies of Chapter 3 of the Coastal Act, California Public Resources Code Section 30200 et seq., including, but not limited to, public access facilities and opportunities, water quality, wetlands, biological resources, cultural resources, and agricultural lands.

**Commented [TL9]:** Definition revised per Coastal Commission staff recommendation.

**Coastal Zone:** A legislatively defined geographic region that establishes the area regulated under the California Coastal Act, encompassing both land and water areas along the length of the California coastline from the Oregon border to the Mexico border.

**Commercial:** A general land use classification that permits facilities for the buying and selling of commodities and services.

**Community character:** The image of a community or area as defined by factors such as built environment, natural features and open space elements, type of housing, architectural style, infrastructure, and the type and quality of public facilities and services.

**Community Design Subarea:** These represent unique areas of the City identified as having characteristics requiring preservation and enhancement. In the City, they include the: Beach Neighborhood (Subarea 1); Downtown and Old Town (Subarea 2); Downtown Core District (Subarea 2a); Northcentral and Northwest Neighborhoods (Subarea 3); Northeast (Subarea 4); Concha Loma Neighborhood (Subarea 5); and Carpinteria Bluffs (Subarea 6).

**Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL):** A 24-hour energy equivalent level derived from a variety of single-noise events, with weighting factors of 5 and 10 dBA applied to the evening (7 PM to 10 PM) and nighttime (10 PM to 7 AM) periods, respectively, to allow for the greater sensitivity to noise during these hours.

**Corridors:** Linear pathways that connect places and allow for the movement of people, goods, or wildlife; often centered around transportation infrastructure such as streets, highways, and public transit, but can also center around historic sites, habitats, rivers, or other natural features. In the City, corridors represent a passage that both separates and connects neighborhoods and districts.

**Cultural and Tribal Resources:** Cultural resources are the tangible or intangible remains or traces left by prehistoric or historic peoples and typically include prehistoric and historic archaeological sites and the historic built environment, such as buildings or structures, or traditional cultural places or landscapes. They include three subcategories: 1) historic resources; 2) archaeological resources; and 3) tribal cultural resources.

**Decibel (dB):** A unit used to express the relative intensity of a sound as it is heard by the human ear.

**Defensible space:** Refers to the area around the perimeter of a structure where wildfire prevention or protection practices are implemented to provide defense from an approaching wildfire or to minimize the spread of a structure fire to wildlands or surrounding areas.

**Density:** The number of housing units in a specific area of land. Residential density, for example, is usually measured by dwelling units per acre (du/ac).

**Development:** On land, in or under water, the placement or erection of any solid material or structure; discharge or disposal of any dredged material or of any gaseous, liquid, solid or thermal waste; grading, removing, dredging, mining or extraction of any materials; change in the density

or intensity of use of land, including, but not limited to, subdivision pursuant to the Subdivision Map Act (commencing with Section 66410 of the Government Code) and any other division of land, including lot splits, except where the land division is brought about in connection with the purchase of such land by a public agency for public recreational use; change in the intensity of use of water, or access thereto; construction, reconstruction, demolition, or alteration of the size of any structure, including any facility of any private, public, or municipal utility; and the removal or harvesting of major vegetation other than for agricultural purposes, kelp harvesting, and timber operations which are in accordance with a timber harvesting plan submitted pursuant to the provisions of the Z'berg-Nejedly Forest Practice Act of 1973 (commencing with Section 4511).

**Disadvantaged Community:** Area with concentrations of low-income households, high unemployment, low levels of homeownership, high rent burden, sensitive populations, low levels of educational attainment, or populations disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other hazards that can lead to negative public health effects, exposure, or environmental degradation. However, there is no universal definition of disadvantaged communities, and thresholds vary depending on context.

**District:** (1) An area of a city or county that has a unique character identifiable as different from surrounding areas because of distinctive architecture, streets, geographic features, culture, landmarks, activities, or land uses. (2) A portion of the territory of a city or county within which uniform zoning regulations and requirements apply; a zone.

**Downtown:** The main or central commercial part of the City, which supports a mix of activities and businesses in support of a vibrant community economy.

**Downtown Core:** The area of the City of Carpinteria including portions of Linden Avenue (the hub of civic and commercial activity for the city, featuring storefronts and a mix of commercial uses, that provides a main street connecting the town to the beach) and Carpinteria Avenue (has historically served as a highway defining the northern edge of the city). The Downtown Core District is designated as Subarea 2.a in the Community Design Element.

**Environmental Justice:** The fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. See California Government Code section 65040.12(e).

**Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area (ESHA):** Any area in which plant or animal life or their habitats are either rare or especially valuable because of their special nature or role in an ecosystem and which could be easily disturbed or degraded by human activities and developments.

**Equivalent sound level ( $L_{eq}$ ):** The sound level corresponding to a steady-state sound level containing the same total energy as a time-varying signal over a given sample period.  $L_{eq}$  is typically computed over 1-, 8-, and 24-hour sample periods.

**Farmland of Local Importance:** Land of importance to the local agricultural economy as determined by each county's board of supervisors and a local advisory committee.

**Farmland of Statewide Importance:** Farmland similar to Prime Farmland but with minor shortcomings, such as greater slopes or less ability to store soil moisture. To be classified as Farmland of Statewide Importance, the land must have been used for irrigated agricultural production at some time during the four years prior to the California Department of Conservation, Department of Land Resource Protection Farmland Mapping & Monitoring Program mapping date.

**Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ):** Geographic areas designated by CALFIRE based on the likelihood and potential intensity of wildfire hazards. The zones—classified as Moderate, High, or Very High—help guide building codes, defensible space requirements, and fire prevention efforts.

**Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM):** For each community, the official map on which the Federal Insurance Administration has delineated areas of special flood hazard and the risk premium zones applicable to that community.

**Flood Hazard Zones:** Designated Special Flood Hazard Areas (SHFAs) defined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and published on a community's FIRM. The designated flood hazard zones include Zone A, B, C, D, V, and X. The FEMA flood hazard zones present in Carpinteria include:

Zone A, AE: SFHA subject to a 1% annual chance (i.e., once every 100 years) of flooding.

Zone VE: Coastal high hazard areas subject to 1% annual chance of flooding and wave effects of 3 feet or greater.

Zone X (shaded): Areas subject to a 0.2% annual chance (i.e., once every 500 years) of flooding.

Zone C, X (unshaded): Areas of minimal flood hazard.

**Floor Area Ratio (FAR):** The gross floor area permitted on a site divided by the total net area of the site, expressed in decimals to one or two places. For example, on a site with 10,000 net square feet of land area, a Floor Area Ratio of 1.0 will allow a maximum of 10,000 gross square feet of building floor area to be built. On the same site, an FAR of 1.5 would allow 15,000 square feet of floor area; an FAR of 2.0 would allow 20,000 square feet; and an FAR of 0.5 would allow only 5,000 square feet. Also commonly used in zoning, FARs typically are applied on a parcel-by-parcel basis as opposed to an average FAR for an entire land use or zoning district.

**Fluvial flooding:** A rise, usually brief, in the water level of a stream or water body to a peak from which the water level recedes at a slower rate. Is caused by high levels of precipitation that causes a river, creek, or stream to exceed its capacity.

**Commented [TL10]:** Definition added from Safety Element.

**Freeway:** A high-speed, high-capacity, limited-access transportation facility serving regional and county-wide travel. Such roads are free of tolls, as contrasted with “turnpikes” or other “toll roads” in Southern California. Freeways generally are used for long trips between major land use generators. Major streets cross freeways at different grade levels.

**Frontage:** The area where private parcels and the public right-of-way meet.

**General Commercial (GC) Land Use:** A land use designation that is characterized by a combination of retail stores, office uses, service establishments, and wholesale businesses along transportation corridors, including Linden Avenue, Carpinteria Avenue, Casitas Pass Road, and western portions of Via Real. This land use designation includes a variety of commercial intensities and supports a variety of offices, retail businesses, specialty shops, offices, and entertainment uses. Residential-only uses or mixed-use development can also be permitted depending on the zoning district. Residential/mixed-use zoning would support the jobs/housing balance and encourage affordable housing development. The City encourages this area to be pedestrian-oriented.

**General Plan:** A compendium of a city’s or a county’s policies regarding its long-term development, in the form of maps and accompanying text. The General Plan is a legal document required of each local agency by the State of California Government Code Section 65301 and adopted by the City Council or Board of Supervisors.

**General Plan Update Committee (GPUC):** The City’s ad-hoc committee established to advise on the Coastal Land Use Plan / General Plan Update. The GPUC is made up of two City Council members and two Planning Commissioners with the goal of “steering” the CLUP/GP update project in the right direction from the perspective of the project’s decision-makers.

**Goal:** A goal is a general direction-setter. It is an ideal future end related to public health, safety, or general welfare. A goal is a general expression of community values and, therefore, may be abstract. Consequently, a goal is generally not quantifiable or time-dependent. A goal typically consists of many objectives.

**Greenhouse gas emissions:** Emission of any gas that absorbs infrared radiation in the atmosphere. Types of greenhouse gases include water vapor, carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O), chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs), ozone (O<sub>3</sub>), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), and sulfur hexafluoride (SF<sub>6</sub>).

**Gross Floor Area:** The floor area within the inside perimeter of the exterior walls of the building under consideration, exclusive of vent shafts and courts, without deduction for corridors, stairways, closets, the thickness of interior walls, columns, or other features. The floor area of a building, or portion thereof, not provided with surrounding exterior walls shall be the usable area under the horizontal projection of the roof or floor above. The gross floor area shall not include shafts with no openings or interior courts.

**Hazardous material:** Any substance that, because of its quantity, concentration, or physical or chemical characteristics, poses a significant present or potential hazard to human health and

## GLOSSARY AND BIBLIOGRAPHY

safety or the environment if released into the workplace or the environment. The term includes, but is not limited to, hazardous substances and hazardous wastes.

**Hertz:** The unit of frequency in the International System of Units (SI); defined as one event or cycle per second.

**Hydric:** Refers to soil that formed under conditions of saturation, flooding, or ponding long enough during the growing season to develop anaerobic conditions in the upper part.

**Hydrophytic:** Refers to plants or vegetation that are adapted to grow in water or in soil that is permanently or periodically saturated with water.

**Implementation Action:** An implementation action refers to a one-time action or an ongoing program that carries out a General Plan/Coastal Land Use Plan policy. Implementation actions are activities that are primarily administrative functions for the City to implement to address a goal, such as the development of an ordinance or the creation of a planning program.

**Inactive Fault:** A fault that was only active more than 11,000 years ago.

**Commented [TL11]:** Definition added from Safety Element.

**Job/Housing Ratio/Balance:** Jobs/housing balance is a planning tool that local governments can use to inform local land use plans and regulations. A balance between jobs and housing is achieved when there is a roughly equal number of jobs and housing units (or households) in a jurisdiction. Jobs/housing balance is expressed as a ratio that relates the measure of employment and a measure of housing in a given area. A jobs surplus indicates that employees are drawn from outside the City, and additional local housing units could improve the jobs/housing balance. A jobs deficit indicates that local workers are leaving the City to commute to jobs in the region, and additional local jobs and economic development could improve the jobs/housing balance. In the City, the jobs/housing balance is assessed using two measurements: a) the jobs-to-housing ratio and b) the jobs-to-employed residents ratio. A job/housing ratio nearing the actual average number of workers per household indicates there is adequate housing to support local employment in the City. A jobs/employed residents ratio nearing 1.0 indicates that there is adequate housing to support local employment in the City.

**Joint Use Agreement:** An agreement between two or more entities, such as a city, county, school district, nonprofit, or private organization, to share capital, operating costs, and responsibilities for a facility. Examples include recreational spaces, meeting facilities, libraries, parking lots, and community centers.

**Land Use Buildout:** An estimate of the total amount of development that may be built under the CLUP/GP, considering applicable land use policies and regulations (e.g., zoning) and constraints (e.g., environmental resources, public service capacity to serve).

**Landscaping:** Planting—including trees, shrubs, and ground covers—designed, selected, installed, and maintained to enhance a site or roadway permanently.

**Last mile options:** Refers to the methods of transportation between public transit and the traveler's actual destination.

**Legal Nonconforming Structure:** A structure that was established according to the applicable zoning and building laws of the time but does not meet current regulations. The structure is permitted to remain so long as the existing use continues in a manner consistent with the regulations for nonconforming uses.

**Light pollution:** The presence of artificial light that negatively alters the natural patterns of light and dark in ecosystems. Artificial light which causes a detrimental effect on the environment, astronomical research, enjoyment of the night sky or causes undesirable glare or light trespass.

**Commented [TL12]:** Definition revised per Coastal Commission staff recommendation.

**Liquefaction:** The transformation of loose water-saturated sediments (such as sand or silt) from a solid into a liquid state, resulting in loss of soil stability. A type of ground failure that can occur during an earthquake.

**Local Coastal Program (LCP):** The City's land use plans, zoning ordinances, zoning district maps, and other implementing actions, which when taken together, meet the requirements of, and implement the provisions and policies of the Coastal Act at the local level.

**Local Connector:** A minor road that connects local roads and streets with arterials. Collectors provide less mobility than arterials at lower speeds and for shorter distances. They balance mobility with land access. The posted speed limit on collectors is usually between 35 and 55 mi/h.

**Local Roadway Safety Plan (LRSP):** A safety planning process that uses a systematic data-driven analysis to proactively address local roadway safety needs, evaluating input from multiple key stakeholders.

**Local Street:** Local streets not shown on the General Plan Circulation Plan, Map, or Diagram, whose primary intended purpose is to provide access to fronting properties.

**Low-Density Residential (LDR) Land Use:** A land use designation that supports low-density, detached single-family residences in neighborhood settings.

**Low Impact Development (LID):** A management approach and set of practices that can reduce runoff and pollutant loadings by managing runoff as close to its source(s) as possible; including overall site design approaches and individual small-scale stormwater management practices that promote the use of natural systems for infiltration, evapotranspiration and the harvesting and use of rainwater.

**Low-income:** Area where household income is 50% to 80% of the local area median income (AMI). May also be used to mean an area where household income is 0% to 80% of the AMI.

**Commented [TL13]:** Definition revised per Coastal Commission staff recommendation.

**Major Redevelopment:** A development proposal reaches the threshold of being major redevelopment if it meets criteria a or b below. The entire structure subject to major

**Commented [TL14]:** Description of major redevelopment moved from policy to Glossary and Bibliography, and definition revised per Coastal Commission staff recommendation.

## GLOSSARY AND BIBLIOGRAPHY

redevelopment meeting this definition must be brought into conformance with all coastal resource protection policies that would apply to that structure if it were entirely new development.

- a. Development, including, but not limited to, (1) additions to an existing structure, (2) exterior and/or interior renovations, and/or (3) demolition or replacement of an existing home or other principal structure, or portions thereof, which results in either:
  1. Replacement (including demolition, renovation, reinforcement, or other type of alteration) of 50% or more of any major structural component, including exterior walls, floor, roof structure or foundation, as calculated by linear feet, surface area, volume, or weight, or a 50% increase in gross floor area. Alterations are not additive between individual major structural components; or
  2. Replacement (including demolition, renovation, reinforcement, or other type of alteration) of less than 50% of a major structural component where the proposed replacement would result in cumulative alterations exceeding 50% or more of that major structural component, taking into consideration previous replacement work undertaken on or after January 1, 1977; or an alteration that constitutes less than 50% increase in floor area where the proposed alteration would result in a cumulative addition of 50% or greater of the floor area, taking into consideration previous additions undertaken on or after January 1, 1977.
- b. Development that consists of any alteration of a structure, where the market value of proposed work equals or exceeds 50 percent of the market value of the structure before the start of construction, based on the documented construction bid costs and either an appraisal by a professional property appraiser or County assessor data, if it is based on current market values.

**Medium-Density Residential (MDR) Land Use:** A land use designation that allows for a broad range of residential densities and housing types, including detached or attached (duplex) single-family and attached multi-family residences. Land uses typically include single-family homes, mobile homes, apartments, townhouses, and condominiums.

**Mesophytic:** Refers to terrestrial plants that are neither adapted to particularly dry nor particularly wet environments.

**Micromobility:** Refers to any small human- or electric-powered transportation device, including bicycles, scooters, electric-assist bicycles (e-bikes), electric scooters (e-scooters), and other small, lightweight, wheeled conveyances.

**Moderate-income:** Area where household income is 80% to 120% of the local area median income (AMI).

**Multi-Family Housing (Multi-Family Residential):** A type of housing that has several residential units on a site, such as condominiums and apartments.

**Commented [TL15]:** Definition revised per Coastal Commission staff recommendation.

**Multi-Modal Circulation:** A transport system that offers users diverse transport options that are effectively integrated, to provide a high degree of accessibility even for non-drivers.

**Mutual Aid Agreement:** A contracted agreement between two fire departments and/or districts to automatically provide aid when a call for service is dispatched.

**National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP):** A federal program that authorizes the sale of federally subsidized flood insurance in communities where such flood insurance is not available privately.

**Native plant communities:** Groups of native plants that interact with each other to support specific habitat types within a larger ecosystem. Native vegetation consists of vegetation that is indigenous to Santa Barbara County. Native vegetation includes, but is not limited to: coastal sage scrub, chaparral, coastal bluff, perennial grassland, California annual grassland, riparian and alluvial scrub habitats, California native oak woodland (also individual oak trees), endangered and rare plant species as designated by the California Native Plant Society, and other plants of special interest such as endemics. Native vegetation does not include ruderal vegetation, invasive plant species, or invasive watch list plant species. In addition, native vegetation does not include ornamental, landscape, or crop vegetation, including sod and lawn grasses and actively managed fallow farmland.

**Commented [TL16]:** Definition revised per Coastal Commission staff recommendation.

**Natural resources:** Any biological, mineral, or aesthetic assets afforded by nature without human intervention that can be used for some form of benefit, whether material (economic) or immaterial.

**Neighborhood:** A planning area commonly identified as such in a community's planning documents and by the individuals residing and working within the neighborhood. Documentation may include a map prepared for planning purposes showing the names and boundaries of neighborhoods. Though neighborhoods are not legal designations, they are among the most commonly recognized and understood land use designations.

**Non-subjective/objective standards:** Design and planning rules that are quantifiable, verifiable, and known by all parties before a project is submitted. They involve no personal or subjective judgement. They aim to make the development review process more predictable and efficient, especially for affordable housing projects.

**Objective:** An objective is a specified end, condition, or state that is an intermediate step toward attaining a goal. An objective may pertain to one particular aspect of a goal or it may be one of several successive steps toward goal achievement. An objective provides the context and intent for implementing policies, but alone, is not effectively implementable.

**Open Space:** Any parcel or area of land or water that is essentially unimproved and devoted to an open space use for (1) the preservation of natural resources, (2) the managed production of resources, (3) outdoor recreation, or (4) public health and safety.

**Open Space/Recreation (OSR) Land Use:** A land use designation that is for recreational areas (passive or active), including City parks, beaches, golf courses, and related uses. It also identifies open space areas for long-term protection and public use.

**Ordinance:** A law or regulation set forth and adopted by a governmental authority, usually a city or county.

**Paleontological resources:** Any fossilized remains, traces, or imprints of organisms, preserved in or on the Earth's crust, that are of paleontological interest and provide information about the history of life on Earth.

**Parcel:** A lot, or contiguous group of lots, in single ownership or under single control, usually considered a unit for purposes of development.

**Park-And-Ride-facility:** A parking building and/or parking lot (and associated facilities, including any cycle parking) provided primarily for the patrons of a nearby public transport service to assist their modal transfer to the public transport service.

**Personal vehicles:** Motor vehicles not owned by the Government and used by an individual or their immediate family for the primary purpose of providing personal transportation.

**Planned Unit Development (PUD):** The PUD land use category is intended for areas where careful analysis and creative planning are required before development due to the sensitive nature of the location. The PUD land use designation is assigned to large, undeveloped, or underutilized parcels that are intended primarily for residential use but would also be appropriate for recreation, limited commercial uses, and open space. Specific Plans are required for any development project on a site with PUD land use designations. The PUD designation ensures comprehensive planning by requiring that the entire parcel be planned and developed as a unit under the guidance of a specific plan to provide housing and commercial uses while managing and protecting sensitive resources. Density and/or intensity are determined through the specific plan process; the use of flexible and innovative design concepts is encouraged.

**Planning Area:** All territory within the boundaries of a city as well as any land outside its boundaries that the planning agency determines bears a relation to its planning. The Planning Area is the land area addressed by the General Plan.

**Planning Area Boundary:** Typically, coincides with the Sphere of Influence which encompasses land both within the city Limits and potentially annexable land.

**Policy:** A policy is a specific statement that guides decision-making. It indicates a commitment of the City to a particular course of action, response, or decision. A policy is based on and helps implement a coastal land use plan/general plan's vision.

**Population density:** Typically, the number of people per square mile of land area.

**Prime Agricultural Land:** Lands defined in paragraph (1), (2), (3), or (4) of subdivision (c) of [Section 51201 of the Government Code](#).

**Prime Farmland:** Farmland with the best combination of physical and chemical features able to sustain long-term agricultural production. This land has the soil quality, growing season, and moisture supply needed to produce sustained high yields. To be classified as Prime Farmland, the land must have been used for irrigated agricultural production at some time during the four years before the California Department of Conservation's Farmland Mapping & Monitoring Program mapping date.

**Public Facility:** All facilities that are publicly owned, or that are owned by a nonprofit and open to the general public. These include police, fire, school, library, water, sewer, utility, and other municipal services.

**Public Facility (PF) Land Use:** A land use designation that is intended for public service facilities, including police, fire, school, library, water, sewer, utility, and other municipal services. Other compatible land uses include community or senior centers, churches, or other public-serving uses.

**Public Safety Power Shut-Off (PSPS):** A practice that electricity providers may use to preemptively shut off power in high fire-risk areas to reduce fire risk during extreme and potentially dangerous weather conditions.

**Public transit:** a system of transport for passengers by group travel systems available for use by the general public unlike private transport, typically managed on a schedule, operated on established routes, and that may charge a posted fee for each trip.

**Public viewshed:** A geographical area containing views of scenic areas such as the coast, ocean, waterways, beaches, wetlands, mountains, and parklands, as viewed from public viewpoints including public roadways, trails, beaches, and parks.

**Commented [TL17]:** Definition revised per Coastal Commission staff recommendation.

**Research and Development Industrial (RDI) Land Use:** A land use designation that supports business offices, headquarters, research and development, technical/start-up flex spaces, and light industrial uses in well-designed buildings with attractively landscaped areas. These land uses typically create employment centers. To support economic vitality and the job/housing balance, the RDI designation also allows for residential-only uses or mixed residential/industrial uses depending on the underlying zone. The intent of the residential and/or mixed-use development in this category is to support industrial uses while encouraging the rehabilitation of important existing housing stock, producing affordable housing, developing live-work communities, and maintaining an appropriate balance between jobs and housing.

**Residential:** Land designated in the city or county general plan and zoning ordinance for buildings consisting only of dwelling units. May be improved, vacant, or unimproved land.

**Response time:** For emergency services, the length of time that a service unit takes to arrive at the scene following a call for service.

**Riparian habitats:** A zone of transitional habitat between terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems dependent on the existence of perennial, intermittent, or ephemeral surface or subsurface water. The riparian vegetation community is located in an area adjacent to a natural watercourse, such as a perennial or intermittent stream, lake or other body of fresh water, where related vegetation and associated animal species live or are located.

**Commented [TL18]:** Definition revised per Coastal Commission staff recommendation.

**Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG):** An independent public regional planning agency established in 1966 that aims to find solutions for sustainable transportation, housing, and an equitable quality of life across Santa Barbara County.

**Scenic resources:** Features that characterize an area by giving it a special visual identity or which present unique vistas or landscapes, including but not limited to beach and ocean, coastline, mountains, canyons, and other unique natural features or areas.

**Commented [TL19]:** Definition revised per Coastal Commission staff recommendation.

**Scenic Highway/Scenic Route:** A highway, road, drive, or street which, in addition to its transportation function, provides opportunities for the enjoyment of natural and man-made scenic resources and access or direct views to areas or scenes of exceptional beauty or historic or cultural interest. Scenic highways/scenic routes are those that are officially designated as part of the Caltrans State Scenic Highway Program, or individually recognized by local government agencies. The aesthetic values of scenic routes often are protected and enhanced by regulations governing the development of property or the placement of outdoor advertising. Until the mid-1980s, general plans in California were required to include a Scenic Highways element.

**Scenic Roadway Corridor:** The area outside a highway/s/roadway/s right-of-way that is generally visible to persons traveling on the highway.

**School Impact Fees:** Fees imposed on new developments to offset their impacts on area schools.

**Sea level rise:** An increase in sea levels due to climate change.

**Commented [TL20]:** Definition revised per Coastal Commission staff recommendation.

**Sensitive noise receptors:** Land uses that are considered more sensitive to ambient noise levels than others, due to the amount of noise exposure (in terms of both exposure duration and insulation from noise) and the types of activities typically involved; generally including residences, motels and hotels, schools, libraries, churches, hospitals, nursing homes, auditoriums, and parks and other outdoor recreation areas.

**Setback:** The horizontal distance between the property line and any structure.

**Shared Mobility:** Transportation services and resources that are shared among users, either concurrently or one after another.

**Shoreline/coastal erosion:** A process by which shoreline sediment is lost and which continuously reshapes the shoreline, resulting in potential risks to coastal resources and properties.

**Commented [TL21]:** Definition revised per Coastal Commission staff recommendation.

**Shrink-Swell Potential:** The extent to which certain clay minerals will expand when wet and retract when dry.

**Special Flood Hazard Area:** An area having special flood, mudflow, or flood-related erosion hazards and shown on a Flood Hazard Boundary Map (FHBM) or a Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM); the area where the National Flood Insurance Program's (NFIP's) floodplain management regulations must be enforced and the area where the mandatory purchase of flood insurance applies.

**Sphere of Influence:** A planning boundary outside of an agency's legal or jurisdictional boundary that identifies an agency's probable future boundaries based on land use needs, growth rates, available and future public services, and community land use goals. Jurisdictional boundaries, including Spheres of Influence, are governed by State law under the jurisdiction of the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO), which is established by the State for each county.

**Strategic Highway Safety Plan:** A major component and requirement of the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) (23 U.S.C. § 148); a statewide-coordinated safety plan that provides a comprehensive framework for reducing highway fatalities and serious injuries on all public roads.

**Streetscape:** The appearance or the design of the streets in a town or city.

**Subareas:** A bounded area with specific characteristics.

**Susceptibility to compaction:** The probability that soil becomes compacted when exposed to compaction risk; depends on soil properties and external factors like climate and soil use.

**Throughway:** A major road or highway.

**Total Dissolved Solids (TDS):** A measure of the dissolved combined content of all inorganic and organic substances present in a liquid in molecular, ionized, or micro-granular (colloidal sol) suspended form; often measured in parts per million (ppm).

**Transportation Corridor (TC) Land Use:** A land use designation that identifies limited access to State highways and the UPRR rail corridor. The character of these transportation corridors includes landscaping and overpass design that reflects positively on the character of the community.

**Tribal Cultural Resources:** Sites, features, places, cultural landscapes, sacred places, and objects with cultural value to a California Native American tribe.

**Tsunami:** A wave, commonly called a tidal wave, caused by an underwater seismic disturbance, such as sudden faulting, landslide, or volcanic activity.

**Unincorporated area:** Describing a region of land that is not governed by a local municipal corporation. (Of an unincorporated community): A settlement that is not governed by its own local municipal corporation but rather is administered as part of larger administrative divisions, such as a county.

**Unique Farmland:** Farmland not designated as prime or statewide importance farmland capable of supporting high value food and fiber crops. Unique farmland may contain lesser quality soils

**Commented [TL22]:** Definition revised per Coastal Commission staff recommendation.

## GLOSSARY AND BIBLIOGRAPHY

but is used for the production of the state's leading agricultural crops. This land is usually irrigated but may include non-irrigated orchards or vineyards as found in some climatic zones in California. To be classified as Unique Farmland, land must have been cropped at some time during the four years before the California Department of Conservation's Farmland Mapping & Monitoring Program mapping date.

**Urban fire:** Fire involving buildings or structures in cities or towns with the potential to spread to adjoining structures.

**Urban flooding:** The inundation of land or property in cities or other built environments, caused by precipitation that falls on impervious surfaces and overwhelms local stormwater drainage capacity.

**Urban/Rural Boundary:** A boundary line shown on a land use map that delineates areas intended for urban land use (e.g., residential, commercial, industrial, etc.), and areas designated for rural land uses, principally agriculture and low-density residential. Agriculture, open space, recreational activities, and related uses are also permitted and encouraged throughout the urban area. Limited commercial and coastal-dependent industrial uses may be permitted within rural areas as necessary.

**Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT):** A key measure of overall street and highway use referring to the total distance a vehicle travels over a specific period within a defined geographic area. Reducing VMT is often a major objective in efforts to reduce vehicular congestion and achieve regional air quality goals.

**Vibration:** An oscillation of the parts of a fluid or an elastic solid whose equilibrium has been disturbed, or of an electromagnetic wave.

**View Corridor:** a line of sight, often associated with streets or pedestrian walkways, that frames a public view of landmarks, prominent natural features, or other aesthetically significant elements.

**Visitor-Serving Commercial (VC) Land Use:** A land use designation that is intended to provide for visitor-serving commercial uses, including hotels, motels, restaurants, recreational facilities, service stations, and other retail businesses. These uses serve visitors to the City, as well as residents.

**Visual resources:** Resources, including the features of an area's landforms, vegetation, water surfaces, and cultural modifications (physical changes caused by human activities), that give a landscape its visually aesthetic qualities. Visual resources within the City include those of the Carpinteria Bluffs consisting of both long (e.g. mountain, foothill, ocean, horizon) and short (natural open space, beach, windrows, native grass lands, coastal scrub, coastal bluffs) range views, the Carpinteria Salt Marsh, the Pacific Ocean, and other natural open spaces.

**Water quality protection:** Actions and activities aimed at safeguarding, maintaining, or improving the quality and/or quantity of sources of drinking water and their contributing areas.

**Commented [TL23]:** Definition revised to include list of visual resources within the City based on policy from the Open Space & Conservation Element.

## GLOSSARY AND BIBLIOGRAPHY

**Watershed:** The total area above a given point on a watercourse that contributes water to its flow; the entire region drained by a waterway or watercourse which drains into a lake, or reservoir.

**Wetlands:** Lands that may be covered periodically or permanently with shallow water and include saltwater marshes, freshwater marshes, open or closed brackish water marshes, swamps, mudflats, and fens.

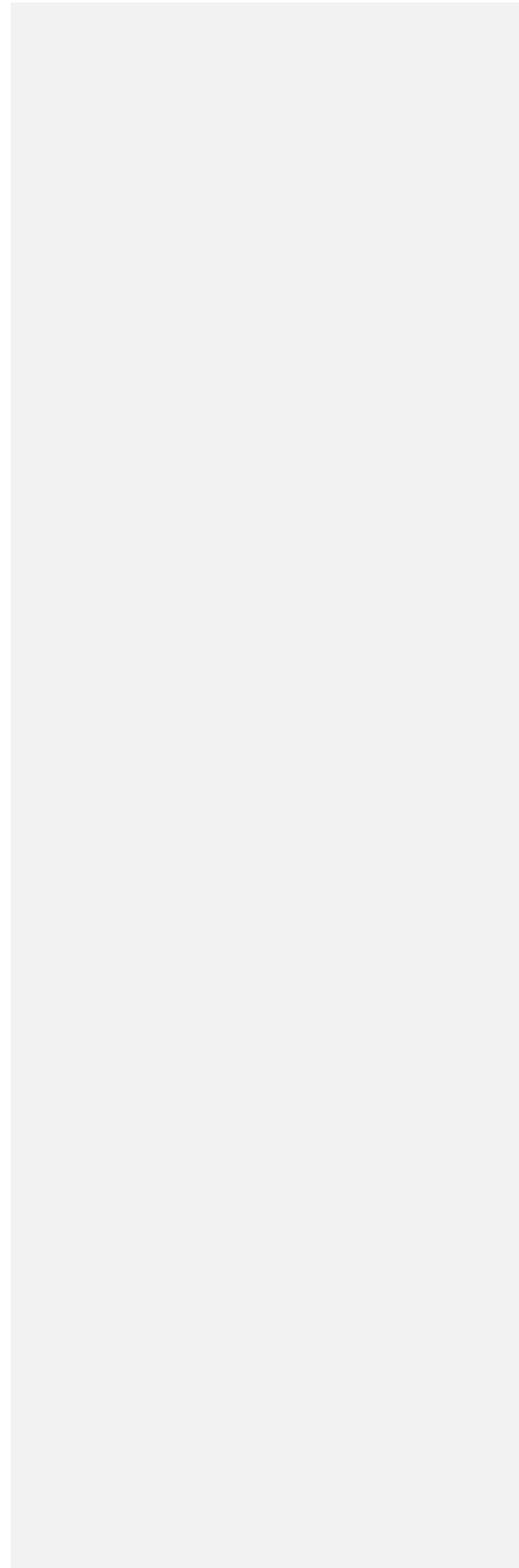
**Wildland Fire (Wildfire):** A fire occurring in a suburban or rural area that contains uncultivated lands, timber, range, watershed, brush, or grasslands. This includes areas where there is a mingling of developed and undeveloped lands.

**Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI):** The line, area, or zone where structures and other human development meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland or vegetative fuels.

**Xerophytic:** Refers to a species of plant that has adaptations to survive in an environment with little liquid water.

**Zoning Ordinance:** Title 14 – Zoning of the City of Carpinteria Municipal Code, which classifies and regulates the uses of land, buildings, and structures in the city and thus implements the coastal land use plan and the general plan of the city per the requirements of the applicable provisions of the Government Code and the Public Resources Code of the state.

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