General Plan Glossary

~~Public Review~~Revised Draft - ~~February~~ Summer 2026

GENERAL PLAN GLOSSARY

TERMS

Active transportation: Any human-powered mode of transportation, such as walking or bicycling.

Ag Pass: A program that allows commercial agricultural operations to continue essential activities, such as tending to livestock or crops, during evacuation orders.

Agricultural Activities: The tilling of soil, the raising of crops, horticulture, silviculture, viticulture, aviculture, aquaculture, apiculture, livestock grazing, the raising of small animals and poultry, domestic livestock farming, dairying, and animal husbandry.

Agritourism: A combination of agriculture and tourism that can involve visits to working farms and ranches to observe and learn about farming practices and purchase locally grown products, as well as more elaborate activities such as farm stays, farm-to-table meals enjoyed in the crops, and other activities.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA): A landmark civil rights law enacted in 1990 that prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in all areas of public life, including all public and private places open to the general public. The Act's mandates for accessibility, including to facilities, services, programs, and activities, are of particular relevance to the Lake County Genal Plan.

Arterials (principal or minor): Roadways that primarily link cities and towns within and outside the state. Arterial roadways typically have two or more lanes and allow the highest speeds of any roadway functional class.

Astrotourism: A form of tourism focused on the experience of the night sky and celestial events, such as stargazing, viewing meteor showers, or experiencing eclipses in areas with minimal light pollution.

Bike Lane (Class II Bike Facility): On-street facilities that use striping, stencils, and signage to denote preferential or exclusive use by bicyclists. Bike lanes are contiguous with motor vehicle travel lanes and should provide a minimum standard width of five feet for comfortable riding.

Bike Route (Class III Bike Facility): A route for bicyclists designated by signs or optional pavement markings where bicyclists travel on the shoulder or share a lane with motorists. Bike routes are typically used on low-speed and low-volume streets to connect bike lanes or paths along corridors that do not have enough space for dedicated Class I or II facilities.

California's Climate Change Assessments: Studies mandated by State law to occur at least every five years and provide the scientific foundation for understanding climate-related vulnerability throughout California. The Fourth Climate Change Assessment (2018) produced more than 50 reports covering topics such as extreme heat, wildfires, sea level rise, and sector-specific impacts. California's Fifth Climate Change Assessment is currently underway, led by the Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation, with findings expected by mid-2026.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA): Legislation and corresponding procedural components established in 1970 by the State of California to require environmental review for projects anticipated to result in adverse impacts to the environment. (see "Environmental Impact Report")

California Heat Action Plan: A statewide Plan that outlines the State's all-of-government approach to reducing the health, economic, cultural, ecological, and social impacts of higher temperatures and heat waves.

California Legal Advisory Routes: Roadways that allow California Legal trucks but provide additional travel advisories for trucks that exceed posted lengths due to roadway turning radii.

California Legal Routes: Roadways that allow California Legal trucks, which include truck tractors with total lengths of up to 65 feet (truck and semitrailer combined) or double trailers of up to 75 feet.

California Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA): Statewide legislation passed in 2014 that establishes a framework to protect groundwater resources over the long-term. For identified high- and medium-priority groundwater basins, SGMA requires local agencies to form groundwater sustainability agencies that are responsible for preparing and implementing groundwater sustainability plans to bring groundwater basins into sustainable yield and avoid undesirable results for groundwater users.

Collectors (major or minor): Roadways that provide access between low-speed/low-volume local streets and high-speed/high-volume arterials. As their name implies, minor collectors collect traffic from the local streets and distribute it to the arterial system or to the smaller urban areas that they directly serve. Major collectors provide circulation between neighborhoods.

Commercial Accessory Residential Use: The secondary use of a property as a residential dwelling unit or units in addition to the primary commercial use of the property.

Community Growth Boundary (CGB): Regulatory boundaries in Lake County that define areas where residential and commercial development may occur by dividing land to be developed at higher densities (one or more dwelling units per acre) from land to be protected for conservation or developed at lower densities (one dwelling unit per five or more acres). Land beyond the boundary of the CGB is preserved for uses such as agriculture, forestry, open space, greenbelts, and conservation.

Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL): CNEL is a measure of noise levels used to measure noise impacts. It characterizes average sound levels over a 24-hour period, with weighting factors included for evening and nighttime sound levels. It is often used interchangeably with Day/Night Average Sound Level (Ldn).

Complete Streets: An approach to planning, designing, building, operating, and maintaining streets that enables safe access for all people who need to use them, including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and transit riders of all ages and abilities.

Critical facilities: Any facility whose continued functioning is necessary to maintain public health and safety following a disaster, and where damage or failure could pose hazards to life and property well beyond their immediate vicinity.

Day/Night Average Sound Level (Ldn): Ldn is a measure of the a~~A~~verage sound exposure over a 24-hour period. Ldn values are calculated from hourly Leq values (see Equivalent Sound Level) with the Leq values for the nighttime period (10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.) decreased by 10 dB to reflect the greater disturbance potential from nighttime noises.

Defensible space: The buffer between a structure and the surrounding area. Adequate defensible space acts as a barrier to slow or halt the progress of fire that would otherwise engulf a property. Defensible space is the first line of defense for structures against wildfire.[1]

Direct use: Systems using underground "low-temperature" geothermal fluid or steam for various direct applications, such as heating homes and other buildings, greenhouses, or swimming pools.

Directional drilling: A technique used to access geothermal resources by drilling in a non-vertical direction, which minimizes surface disruption.

Ecologically sensitive resource areas: Areas containing unique, representative, and/or sensitive habitats, communities, or ecological processes.

Environmental Impact Report (EIR): A study required pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act that assesses all the environmental characteristics of an area, determines what effects or impacts will result if the area is altered or disturbed by a proposed action, and identifies alternatives or other measures to avoid or reduce those impacts. (see "California Environmental Quality Act")

Environmental justice: The fair treatment and meaningful involvement of people of all races, cultures, incomes, and national origins with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

Equity: The condition in which each individual or group is allocated the resources needed to reach an equal outcome.

Equity Priority Area: Areas in unincorporated Lake County where residents suffer most from economic, health, and environmental burdens. Equity Priority Areas are the County's equivalent of "disadvantaged communities" under Senate Bill 1000, which requires the identification of disadvantaged communities to address their needs in the Environmental Justice Element.

Equity Priority Population: Community members with characteristics often associated with being vulnerable to environmental justice, health, and safety challenges. These Equity Priority Populations include older adults, individuals with disabilities, farmworkers and other outdoor workers, non-English speakers, and low-income individuals and households. Groups identified as having characteristics that contribute to vulnerability and/or the likelihood of being underserved in a variety of areas, including environmental justice, equity, health, and safety. Lake County has identified eight Equity Priority Populations:

[1] CAL FIRE, 2023, "Defensible Space," https://www.fire.ca.gov/dspace.

1. Older adults
2. Individuals with disabilities
3. Farmworkers and other outdoor workers
4. Non-English speakers
5. People of color and immigrant communities
6. Tribal communities
7. Low-income individuals and households
8. Unhoused people

Evapotranspiration: The combined process of water evaporation from soil/surfaces and transpiration from plants, effectively reducing stormwater runoff volume.

Exposure: The presence of people; infrastructure; natural systems; and economic, cultural, and social resources in areas that are subject to harm.

Extreme Cold Event: A period where air temperature ranks near the lower ends of the range of historical measurements.[2]

Extreme Heat: A period where air temperature ranks near the upper ends of the range of historical measurements.

Extreme Weather Event: Occurrences of unusually severe weather or climate conditions that can cause devastating impacts on communities and agricultural and natural ecosystems.[3]

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

Farmland of Statewide Importance: Similar to Prime Farmland but with minor shortcomings, such as greater slopes or less ability to store soil moisture.

Fire Hazard Severity Zone: An area of significant fire hazard based on fuels, terrain, weather, and other relevant hazards.

Flood, 100-Year: A flood that has a 1 percent likelihood (a 1 in 100 chance) in any given year of occurring and is recognized as a standard for acceptable risk. Also known as the "base flood."

Flood, 500-Year: A flood that has a 0.2 percent likelihood (a 1 in 500 chance) of occurring in any given year.

[2] NOAA, 2020, "What is an "extreme event? Is there evidence that global warming has caused or contributed to any particular extreme event?," https://www.climate.gov/news-features/climate-qa/what-extreme-event-there-evidence-global-warming-has-caused-or-contributed.
[3] U.S. Department of Agriculture, 2023, "Extreme Weather," https://www.climatehubs.usda.gov/content/extreme- weather.

Food desert: Areas where people have limited access to a variety of healthy and affordable food.[4]

Grazing Land: Vegetation suited for the grazing of livestock.

Green infrastructure: Stormwater infrastructure that uses or mimics natural processes for the infiltration, evapotranspiration, or use of stormwater, with the goal of protecting water quality and associated aquatic habitat.

Healthy food: Foods containing fruits, vegetables, whole grains, lean proteins, and/or healthy fats and limited amounts of saturated fat, sodium, or added sugar.

Hazard mitigation: Sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and their property from hazards and their effects.

Hazardous material, hazardous waste: A substance or waste that, because of its physical, chemical, or other characteristics, may pose a risk of endangering human health or safety or of degrading the environment. This does not include hazardous household waste, universal waste, or electronic waste, as they do not contain the quantity, concentration, and/or types of products significant enough to pose a substantial risk to human health and safety or to the environment.

High-temperature geothermal resources: Geothermal activity below the earth's surface that can be used for electrical power generation and where temperatures are above 300 degrees Fahrenheit.

Historic: What makes something historic is typically related to the age of the property, relatively high degree of physical integrity, and the significance of the property.[5]

Historical resource: A resource listed in the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) or determined to be eligible for listing in the CRHR by the State Historical Resources Commission, a resource included in a local register of Historical Resources, or identified as significant in a Historical Resource survey meeting the requirements of Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 5024.1(g), or any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript that a lead agency determines to be historically significant or significant in the architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political, military, or cultural annals of California.

Infiltration: In the context of stormwater management, the process of water on the ground soaking into soil.

Lake County Operational Area Emergency Coordinators Forum: A working group of representatives from cities, County departments, State agencies, special districts, utilities, and disaster response organizations that coordinate emergency response efforts, preparedness, training, and disaster recovery activities. (See "Operational Area")

[4] Dutko, Paula, Michele Ver Ploeg, and Tracey Farrigan, 2012, "Characteristics and Influential Factors of Food Deserts," ERR-140, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service.
[5] Georgia Department of Community Affairs, "What Makes a Property Historic?," https://www.dca.ga.gov/sites/default/files/whatmakesapropertyhistoric_0_0.pdf.

Lake Transit: The transit system in Lake County, operated by Lake Transit Authority.

Land use: The occupation or use of an area of land for any human activity or purpose.

Land use designation: One particular category in a classification series of appropriate use of properties established by the General Plan Land Use Element.

Liquefaction: A process by which water-saturated granular soils transform from a solid to a liquid state during strong ground shaking.

Local Responsibility Area (LRA): An area where local agencies (e.g., city and county fire departments) are primarily responsible for fire protection and emergency response. (See "State Responsibility Area")

Local roads and streets: Provide traffic movement within neighborhoods and are generally low-speed, low-volume roads.

Low-impact development: Development systems and practices that use or mimic natural processes for the infiltration, evapotranspiration, or use of stormwater, with the goal of protecting water quality and associated aquatic habitat.

Low-temperature geothermal resources: Heat (less than 300 degrees Fahrenheit) that is extracted from geothermal fluid for direct use, such as space heating and refrigeration.

Mitigation: Modification to avoid, reduce, minimize, or eliminate a negative impact. There are various types of mitigation, including environmental impact mitigation, hazard mitigation, GHG emissions mitigation, and more.

Noise Contours: Lines superimposed on a map that indicate various levels of average noise exposure as measured on the same scale~~Connecting points of equal noise exposure, typically 45, 55, 65 Ldn (see Day/Night Average Sound Level).~~

Noise-sensitive receptor: A location where people reside or where the presence of unwanted sound could adversely affect the use of land, such as residences, schools, and hospitals.

Non-point source pollution: Pollution originating from multiple, dispersed sources, like agricultural runoff or urban stormwater, which is therefore more difficult to identify and control.

Operational Area: Defined by the California Emergency Services Act as an intermediate level of the state emergency services organization consisting of a county and all political subdivisions within the county area. (See "Lake County Operational Area Emergency Coordinators Forum")

Point source pollution: Pollution characterized by a single, identifiable source, such as a factory.

Prime Farmland: Farmland with the best combination of physical and chemical features to sustain long-term agricultural production based on soil quality and hydrological features.

Public safety power shutoff (PSPS) event: A preemptive measure taken by a utility provider to shut off electrical transmission to reduce the risk of fire caused by electric infrastructure during certain weather conditions.

Regenerative agriculture: Farming practices that focus on restoring and enhancing soil health and ecosystem functioning. This holistic approach to farming works to improve soil quality, increase biodiversity, enhance water retention, sequester carbon, and strengthen the health and vitality of farming systems. Common practices include minimizing soil disturbance, maintaining living root systems in soil, integrating livestock, maximizing crop diversity through rotations and cover crops, and reducing synthetic inputs.

Resilience: The ability of a social or ecological system to prepare for disturbances, to recover from shocks and stresses, and to adapt and grow following a disruptive experience.

Resilience center: A well-used community- serving facility with year-round programming that also provides local communities with shelter, water, and electricity during hazardous events or disasters.

Riparian area: Lands that occur along the edges of rivers, streams, lakes, and other water bodies. Examples include streambanks, riverbanks, and floodplains. Riparian areas are different from the surrounding uplands because their soils and vegetation are shaped by the presence of water.[6]

Rumsey Gauge: A measurement system used to determine the level of Clear Lake, with "Zero Rumsey" representing the natural low water level and a "full lake" defined as 7.56 feet above that. The gauge is on a pier at the Lake County Vector Control District.

Safety corridor: A roadway segment within an overall roadway network where the highest number of serious injury and fatality crashes occur.

Secondhand Smoke: The smoke from burning tobacco products, like cigarettes, cigars, hookahs, or pipes. Exposure occurs when people breathe in the smoke breathed out by people who smoke or smoke emitted from the burning tobacco products themselves. Secondhand smoke can seep through walls, vents, and plumbing.

Sensitive Receptors: Environmental, ecological, or human elements that could be adversely affected by development impacts like noise, land disturbance, and waste generation~~, etc~~. These receptors are identified during environmental impact assessments ~~(EIAs)~~ to ensure that project design, siting, and operations minimize potential harm.

Shared-use path (Class I Bike Facility): Also called bike paths, these facilities provide a fully separated, paved facility for the exclusive use of bicycles and pedestrians. Shared-use paths have minimal cross flow with motorists and are typically along landscaped corridors.

[6] National Park Service, 2023, "Riparian Zones: It's All About the Water," https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/nrca_glca_2021_riparian.htm.

Smart growth: Supports choice and opportunity by promoting efficient and sustainable land development, incorporates redevelopment patterns that optimize prior infrastructure investments, and consumes less land that is otherwise available for agriculture, open space, natural systems, and rural lifestyles.

Special Restriction Routes: Restrict certain trucks based on vehicle length or weight, cargo type, or number of axles.

Special-status species: Species that are considered sufficiently rare that they require special consideration and/or protection and should be, or have been, listed as rare, threatened, or endangered by the federal and/or State governments.[7]

Sphere of influence (SOI): The probable physical boundaries and service area of a municipality or special district, as determined by the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) of the county.

STAA Truck: A truck allowed to operate on the national network of highways due to the Surface Transportation Assistance Act (STAA) of 1982, which permits larger and heavier trucks to use certain federally aided highways, including the Interstate system and specific primary routes.

State Responsibility Area (SRA): Areas recognized by the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection as areas where Cal Fire is the primary emergency response agency responsible for fire suppression and prevention.

Sustainable: Meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Terminal Access Routes: Roadways that allow STAA trucks. which include semitrailers up to 53 feet long that meet several other conditions regarding distance between axles. (See "STAA trucks")

Thirdhand Smoke: The residual toxic chemical accumulation of secondhand smoke that becomes embedded in building materials, walls, furniture, carpets, ~~etc~~and other materials. Exposure occurs when the toxic particles re-emit from these contaminated surfaces into the air or can be absorbed through the skin by touching contaminated surfaces. (See "Secondhand Smoke")

Tribal Cultural Resources (TCRs): "Sites, features, places, cultural landscapes (geographically defined in terms of the size and scope), sacred places, and objects with cultural value to a California Native American tribe that are included or determined to be eligible for inclusion in the California Register; and/or included in a local register of historical resources; and/or a resource determined by the lead CEQA agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant."

[7] Sacramento County, 2023, "Special Status Species," https://planning.saccounty.gov/InterestedCitizens/Pages/ER_SpecialStatusSpecies.aspx.

Tribal Ecological Knowledge (TEK): A body of knowledge, beliefs, and practices passed down through generations that describes the relationships between living beings, including humans, and their environment. It is culturally infused, adaptive, and continuously evolving, reflecting long-term observations, experiences, and experimentation within a specific place and ecology over generations. TEK encompasses ecological, spiritual, and social dimensions, integrating human and animal relationships, plant physiology, landscape dynamics, and natural phenomena. Unlike Western scientific knowledge, TEK is often preserved through oral traditions, stories, ceremonies, arts, and practical activities.

Underutilized Parcel: A parcel with an assessed improvement value that is less than 20 percent of its assessed land value.

Unique archaeological resource: "An archaeological artifact, object, or site about which it can be clearly demonstrated that, without merely adding to the current body of knowledge, there is a high probability that it meets any of the following criteria: it contains information needed to answer important scientific research questions and there is a demonstrable public interest in that information; it has a special and particular quality such as being the oldest of its type or the best available example of its type; or it is directly associated with a scientifically recognized important prehistoric or historic event or person."

Unique Farmland: Farmland of lesser-quality soils used for the production of the state's leading agricultural crops.

Vacant Parcel: A parcel that contains no permanent buildings, structures, or major human-made improvements.

Vulnerability assessment: An analysis of how a changing climate may harm a community and which elements—people, buildings and structures, resources, and other assets—are most vulnerable to its effects based on an assessment of exposure, sensitivity, potential impact(s), and the community's adaptive capacity.

Vulnerability: The degree to which natural, built, and human systems are susceptible to harm from exposure to stresses associated with environmental and social change and from the absence of a capacity to adapt.

Water-related uses and facilities: Those whose primary purpose is to provide for public access to and use of the lake, such as fishing, boating, swimming, water skiing, viewing, and commercial uses that derive major economic benefits from their immediate proximity to the lake.

Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI): An area where buildings (e.g., housing) and infrastructure (e.g., cell towers and water supply facilities) mix with flammable wildland vegetation, allowing wildland fires to easily spread to buildings and structures. CAL FIRE defines the wildland-urban interface, in Chapter 49 of the California Fire Code, as a geographical area within a Fire Hazard Severity Zone in a State Responsibility Area or Local Responsibility Area. Development in these areas must meet the requirements of California Public Resources Code Section 4291, State Responsibility Area and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone Fire Safe Regulations, California Building Code Chapter 7A, and California Fire Code Chapter 49, among other State regulations for fire-resistant construction, defensible space, and vegetation management.

Acronyms and Abbreviations	Definition
ADA	Americans with Disability Act
ALUCP	Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
CALEPA	California Environmental Protection Agency
CAL FIRE	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
CalEnviroScreen	California Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool
CalRecycle	California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CGB	Community Growth Boundary
CGS	California Geological Survey
CNEL	Community Noise Equivalent Level
CRHR	California Register of Historical Resources
dB	decibels
dBA	A-weighted decibels
DUC	disadvantaged unincorporated communities
DWR	Department of Water Resources
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FAR	floor-area ratio
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
GHG	greenhouse gas
LAFCO	Local Agency Formation Commission
Ldn	Day/Night Average Sound Level
LOS	level of service
LRA	Local Responsibility Area
MJHMP	Multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan
mph	miles per hour
PRC	Public Resources Code
PSPS	Public Safety Power Shutoffs
RTP/SCS	Regional Transportation Plan / Sustainable Communities Strategy
SGMA	Sustainable Groundwater Management Act
SOI	sphere of influence
SRA	State Responsibility Area
STAA	Surface Transportation Assistance Act

Acronyms and Abbreviations	Definition
SWIS	Solid Waste Information System
TCR	Tribal Cultural Resources
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
USFS	U.S. Forestry Service
VMT	vehicle miles traveled
WTP	Wastewater Treatment Plant
WUI	Wildland-Urban Interface

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