

# Appendix L

## Glossary and Acronyms

# GLOSSARY

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| AOC                            | Great Lakes Area of Concern designated by the International Joint Commission.   |
| Benthos                        | Organisms that live on a lake or river bottom.  |
| Bioaccumulation                | The increasing concentration of chemical substances through successive levels of the food chain.  |
| Body contact recreation        | Term used to define state water quality standards for bacterial contamination, to protect the health of people who participate in water recreation activities such as swimming (full-body contact) or fishing and boating (partial-body contact).   |
| BMP                            | Best Management Practices   |
| Buffer strips                  | Protective strips of land surrounding bodies of water which can trap and hold pollutants contained in runoff.   |
| CMOM Standards                 | Capacity, management, operation, and maintenance standards for SSO management (see SSO)   |
| Combined sewer overflow or CSO | Describes a discharge into a body of water, usually the result of a heavy rain or snowmelt that exceeds the capacity of the combined storm and sanitary system. Untreated CSOs are a major source of microorganisms that threaten public health.  |
| Conservation easement          | Land set aside for conservation purposes.   |
| Detention pond                 | Ponds created to detain water from running off.   |
| EPA                            | The United States Environmental Protection Agency   |
| Eutrophic                      | Describes a body of water which has an excess of aquatic growth.  |
| Eutrophication                 | Naturally, the slow evolutionary process of aging of freshwater lakes leading to an increase in productivity and a decrease in depth. Accelerated lake aging due to man's activities (i.e., cultural eutrophication) describes artificial increases in productivity due to the addition of nutrients usually phosphorus, and increased sedimentation due to soil erosion. |

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| IDEP                       | Illicit Discharge Elimination Program  |
| IJC                        | International Joint Commission   |
| Illicit connections        | Connections of sanitary sewer to the storm sewer system.   |
| Impairment or impaired use | The degradation or destruction of a productive use of a water body (e.g., boating, fishing, fish and wildlife habitat or drinking water supply). |
| Impoundment                | A body of water confined by a dam, dike, floodgate, or other barrier.  |
| Limnology                  | The study of the physical, chemical, meteorological, and biological aspects of fresh water.  |
| Log jam                    | A cluster of logs in the river.  |
| Macroinvertebrate          | An animal without a backbone large enough to be seen without magnification.  |
| MDEQ                       | Michigan Department of Environmental Quality   |
| MDNR                       | Michigan Department of Natural Resources   |
| MDOT                       | Michigan Department of Transportation  |
| Microcystis                | Nuisance blue-green algal blooms.  |
| MML                        | Michigan Municipal League  |
| NAFSMA                     | National Association of Flood and Storm Water Management Agencies  |
| NOAA                       | National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  |
| Non-point source pollution | Pollution entering water bodies that is diffused, e.g., surface runoff from agriculture or urbanized areas.                                      |
| NPDES                      | National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System  |
| Nutrient loadings          | The addition of nitrogen or phosphorus to a body of water.   |
| On-site disposal system    | Usually a septic tank with a drain field.  |

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| PCB                            | Polychlorinated biphenyl, a class of persistent toxic organic compounds manufactured for use in a wide variety of industrial and product applications related to its fire retardant and electrolytic properties. Severely restricted in Michigan in 1977 due to environmental contamination problems related to its use. |
| PEP                            | Public Education Plan  |
| Point source pollution         | Pollution from concentrated, well defined sources such as wastewater treatment system pipes or storm water pipes.  |
| Phosphorus limited             | The condition where the amount of phosphorus determines the productivity of the lake.  |
| RAP                            | Remedial Action Plan   |
| Riparian                       | Term used when relating to a river bank.   |
| RPO                            | Rouge Program Office   |
| RRAC                           | Rouge River Advisory Council   |
| Sanitary sewer overflow or SSO | Describes an unlawful, untreated sewage discharge into a water body from a sewer system designed to transport only sanitary waste.   |
| Sedimentation                  | The deposition of eroded soil and sand particles in the bottom of water bodies. Alteration of natural landscapes to support residential, commercial, and industrial activity can increase erosion and flows that increase the rate of sedimentation.   |
| SEMCOG                         | Southeast Michigan Council of Governments  |
| SRF                            | State Revolving Fund   |
| SWAG                           | Stormwater Advisory Group  |
| SWPPI                          | Stormwater Pollution Prevention Initiative   |
| Treatment plant bypass         | When a sewage treatment plant directs excess sewage that it cannot handle due to high-flow conditions into a nearby river.   |
| Wetland                        | An area that is regularly saturated by surface water or groundwater and is characterized by a prevalence of vegetation that is adapted for life in saturated soil conditions.  |