

TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

Aqueduct – Man-made canal or pipeline used to transport water

Aquifer – An underground geologic formation of rock, soil, or sediment that is naturally saturated with water; an aquifer stores groundwater

Bond – A promise to repay money borrowed, plus interest, over a specific period of time

Bond Issue – A means of raising large amounts of money for major projects by selling bonds

Chlorination – The treatment of a substance, such as drinking water, with chlorine in order to kill disease-causing organisms

Confined Aquifer – An aquifer that is bound above and below by dense layers of rock and contains water under pressure

Conjunctive Use – Storing imported water in a local aquifer, in conjunction with groundwater, for later retrieval and use

Desalination – The process of removing salt from seawater or brackish water

Floodplain – Area formed by fine sediments spreading out in the drainage basin on either side of the channel of a river as a result of the river's fluctuating water volume and velocity

Groundwater – Water that has percolated into natural, underground aquifers; water in the ground, not water puddle on the ground

Groundwater Recharge or Replenishment – Pumping or percolating storm water runoff or imported water into an aquifer to replenish its supplies

Hydroelectric Plant – A power plant that produces electricity from the power of rushing water turning turbine-generators

Hydrology – The scientific study of the behavior of water in the atmosphere, on Earth's surface and underground

Irrigation – Supplying water to agriculture by artificial means, such as pumping water onto crops in an area where rainfall is insufficient

Recharge – Replenishing an aquifer with stormwater or imported water

Reclaimed Water – Wastewater that has been cleaned so that it can be reused for most purposes except drinking

Source Water – The supply of water for a water utility. Source water is usually treated before distribution to consumers, but some groundwaters are of such a quality that they can be distributed untreated.

Surface Runoff – Water flowing along the ground into rivers, lakes, and oceans

Surface Water – All water, fresh and salty, on the Earth's surface

Unconfined Aquifer – An aquifer that discharges and recharges with an upper surface that is the water table