



COMMON ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

These are common acronyms and abbreviations used by Earth Forensics in relevant projects involving environmental topics.

REGULATORY AGENCIES

ATSDR – Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
CalEPA – California Environmental Protection Agency
CEQ – Council on Environmental Quality
CDC – Centers for Disease Control
DTSC – Department of Toxic Substance Control
ITRC – Interstate Technology and Regulatory Council
LARWQCB – Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board
SFBRWQCB – San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board
SWRCB – State Water Resources Control Board
USEPA or **EPA** – United States Environmental Protection Agency

ACTS/STANDARDS

AWQC – Ambient Water Quality Criteria
CHSSLs – California Human Health Screening Levels
CWA – Clean Water Act (aka FW PAC)
ESIs – Environmental Screening Levels
FWPAC – Federal Water Pollution Control Act
HHRA – Human Health Risk Assessment
MCL – Maximum Contamination Levels
NEPA – National Environmental Policy Act
NIPDWSs – National Interim Primary Drinking Water Standards
OEHHA – California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment
PRG – Preliminary Remediation Goals
RCRA – Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
SDWA – Safe Drinking Water Act
SPDES – State Pollutant Discharge Elimination
SWDA – Solid Waste Disposal Act
VISLs – Vapor Intrusion Screening Levels

GROUNDWATER MONITORING

BGS – Below Ground Surface
DNAPL – Dense Non-aqueous Phase Layer
DTW – Depth to Water
GW – Groundwater
GWE – Groundwater Elevation
LNAPL – Light Non-aqueous Phase Liquid
MSL – Mean Sea Level
TOC – Top of Casing

LABORATORY ANALYSIS

BTEX – Benzene, Toluene, Ethylbenzene and Xylenes
MTBE – Methyl *tert*-butyl ether
ND – Non-Detectable
PQL – Practical Quantitation Limit
PCE – Perchloroethylene (Tetrachloroethylene)
QC – Quality Control
SVOC – Semi-Volatile Organic Compounds
TCE – Trichloroethylene
TPH – Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons
TPHg – Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons-gasoline
TPHd – Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons-diesel
VOC – Volatile Organic Compounds

OTHER COMMONLY USED TERMS

ESA – Environmental site assessment
FS – Feasibility Study
HWM – Hazardous Waste Management
NOD – Notice of Deficiencies
NOI – Notice of Intent
NOV – Notice of Violations
O&M – Operation and Maintenance
RA – Remedial Action
SV – Soil Vapor
SVE – Soil Vapor Extraction
SW – Surface Water or Solid Waste
TSD – Treatment, Storage and Disposal Facility
UST – Underground Storage Tank

UNITS

ac-ft – acre-foot or acre-feet
ft – feet
“Hg – inches of mercury (under vacuum)
in – inches
mg/kg – milligrams per kilogram
mg/L – milligrams per Liter
ppb – parts per billion
ppbv – parts per billion by volume
ppm – parts per million
ppmv – parts per million by volume
scfm – standard cubic feet per minute
yd³ – cubic yards
µg – microgram
µg/kg – micro grams per kilogram
µg/L – micrograms per Liter
µg/m³ – micrograms per cubic meter

The **Earth Forensics** team is comprised of geoscientists and professional educators hired by public entities and private industry around the globe to investigate, identify, and implement solutions to geologic, hydrologic and environmental concerns. Earth Forensics specializes in outside-the-box thinking and applying advanced technology to resolve matters involving water resource protection and development, soil and groundwater contamination, flood and landslide assessment, coastal erosion and stabilization, and impact resolution of global climate change. Contact us to learn how can we help you.

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