Definitions

ADVERSE IMPACT means any modifications, alterations or effects on a feature or characteristic of water or floodprone lands, including their quality, quantity, hydrodynamics, surface area, species composition, living resources, aesthetics or usefulness for human or natural uses that are or potentially may be harmful or injurious to human health, welfare, safety or property, to biological productivity, diversity or stability or that may unreasonably interfere with the enjoyment of life or property, including outdoor recreation. The term includes secondary and cumulative, as well as direct impacts.

ATMOSPHERIC DEPOSITION refers to the transfer of any material, through wet or dry media, from the Earth's atmosphere to its surface by normal atmospheric processes. Traditional deposition products are rain, snow, ice, etc. Atmospheric deposition includes materials such as volcanic ash, pollutants from industrial smoke stacks and automobile emissions, aerially applied pesticides, or any material that may become airborne and later settle to the Earth's surface.

ATTENUATION is the use of increased stormwater storage to limit the quantity of stormwater flow so as to reduce downstream impacts.

BASE FLOOD the flood having a one percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year, which is statistically equivalent to a once-in-one hundred years (i.e., the 100-year) flood.

BASIN MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN (BMAP) approach used in the TMDL (see TMDL) program that relies on local, regional, and state interests to identify management actions to restore water quality in a basin.

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICE (BMPs) as stated in FAC 62-621.300(4)(a), means schedules of activities, prohibitions of practices, maintenance procedures, and other management practices to prevent or reduce the pollution of surface waters. BMPs also include treatment requirements, operating procedures, and practices to control site runoff, spillage or leaks, sludge or waste disposal, or drainage from raw material storage.

DESIGN STORM is a given rainfall event, defined by duration and return frequency, such as the 25-year frequency 24-hour duration storm, the runoff from which is the amount of flow that forms the basis for which a given stormwater management system or structure is designed to manage. Design storms vary in total precipitation by region.

DETENTION the temporary storage of stormwater runoff to limit the rate of discharge into receiving water bodies.

DEVELOPER means any person who engages in development either as the owner or as the agent of an owner of property.

DEVELOPMENT means any material manmade change to improved or unimproved real estate, including but not limited to buildings or other structures, mining dredging, filling,

grading, paving, excavation or drilling operations. For the purposes of this chapter, development shall include the following activities or uses:

1. a reconstruction, alteration of the size, or change in the external appearance of a structure on land;
2. A change in the intensity of use of land, such as an increase in the number of dwelling units in a structure or on land or an increase in the number of businesses, manufacturing establishments, offices, or dwelling units in a structure or on land;
3. Alternation of a shore or bank of a seacoast, river, stream, lake, pong or canal, including any coastal construction as defined in Chapter 161.021, F. S.;
4. Commencement of drilling, except to obtain soil samples, mining or excavation on a parcel of land;
5. Demolition of a structure;
6. Clearing of land as an adjunct of construction; and
7. Deposit of refuse, solid or liquid waste, or fill on a parcel of land.

DRAINAGE BASIN also known as a watershed, is the area defined by topographic boundaries which contributes stormwater to a drainage system including marine, estuarine and/or fresh receiving waters, and all areas artificially added to the basin through a storm sewer system.

DRAINAGE DETENTION STRUCTURE a structure that collects and temporarily stores stormwater for the purpose of treatment through physical, chemical, or biological processes, or for the attenuation of flow rates, with subsequent gradual release of the stormwater. Technically, the structure only limits the flow of water; it is the pond, lake, or vault that stores the water.

DRAINAGE FACILITIES a system of man-made structures designed to collect, convey, hold, divert, or discharge stormwater, and includes storm sewers, canals, detention facilities and retention facilities.

DRAINAGE RETENTION STRUCTURES a structure designed to collect and prevent the release of a given volume of stormwater by complete on-site storage with no means of discharge except by evaporation or percolation into the soil.

DREDGING excavation, by any means, in surface waters or wetlands. Excavation also means the excavation, or creation, of a water body that is, or is to be, connected to surface waters or wetlands, directly or via an excavated water body or series of water bodies.

DRIPLINE means the imaginary, perpendicular line that extends downward from the outermost tips of the tree branches to the ground.

EPHEMERAL POND a pond that periodically does not hold any standing water.

ESTUARY a semi-enclosed, naturally existing coastal body of water which has a free connection with the open sea and within which seawater is measurably diluted with fresh water derived from riverine systems. Estuaries are valued as biologically productive ecosystems that serve as critical habitat for juvenile fish and shellfish, and breeding and nesting areas for shore birds.

EUTROPHICATION the process by which a waterbody becomes rich in dissolved nutrients through natural or man-made processes causing excessive plant and algae growth and low dissolved oxygen concentrations. As waterbodies become more eutrophic, they tend to become shallower and warmer, and undergo significant biological changes eventually transforming into marsh type systems. This process can be accelerated by human influence, namely, the influx of excess nutrient pollution from sources such as fertilizer, animal waste, septic systems and sewage treatment effluent, and phosphate containing detergents.

EXCAVATED STORAGE AREA approximate areas indicated in the Surface Water Management Program that require structural modifications (e.g., excavation) to artificially provide storage for temporarily detaining stormwater runoff during flooding events.

FILLING the deposition, by any means, of materials in surface waters or wetlands.

FLOODPLAIN the lateral extent of inundation by an event of given statistical frequency, such as 25-year floodplain, or 100-year floodplain, as designated in the County Surface Water Management Program.

FLOODWAY the channel of a river or other watercourse and the adjacent land areas that must be reserved in order to discharge the 25-year flood, or the 100-year flood (base flood), as stipulated, without cumulatively increasing the water surface elevation more than one-tenth of a foot on the applicable property. A floodway is the area needed for the conveyance of flow, not for the storage of a volume of water.

FREEBOARD extra height added to the baseflood elevation as a margin of safety, to account for waves, debris, miscalculations, and the variations between statistical projections and local conditions.

HABITAT a specific set of physical conditions that are required by a single species, a group of species, or a large community. In wildlife management, the major components of habitat are considered to be food, water, cover, and living space.

HYDROPERIOD the duration of inundation in a wetland.

ILLICIT DISCHARGE means any discharge that is not composed entirely of stormwater except discharges identified as authorized exceptions pursuant to section 58-244(c) of the Pinellas County Code.

IMPERVIOUS land surfaces that do not allow, or minimally allow, the penetration of water; examples are buildings, rooftops, non-porous concrete and asphalt pavements, and some fine grained soils such as clays.

INFILTRATION RATE The rate at which water penetrates the surface of the soil at any given instant, usually expressed in inches per hour. The rate can be limited by the infiltration capacity of the soil or the rate at which water is applied at the surface.

ISOLATED WETLAND any wetland without a direct hydrologic connection by standing or flowing surface water at seasonal high water level to a lake, stream, estuary, or marine waters.

LITTORAL ZONE means the shallow zone along the perimeter of a water body.

MAJOR DRAINAGE PROJECT means any project that is included in the Surface Water Management Program.

MAJOR DRAINAGE SYSTEM means a system of natural or manmade drainageways such as streams, ditches or canals that collect stormwater runoff from watersheds identified by name or number in the Surface Water Management Program.

MASTER DRAINAGE PLAN a technical document that demonstrates how water moves through a system. Analysis includes surveys of existing drainage features, structures, and hydrological modeling of the system. The plan will typically include a list of proposed projects to eliminate flooding, scouring, erosion, and other drainage problems along with cost estimates for implementation. Pinellas County completed its Master Drainage Plan in the early 1980's, analyzing each of the 52 identified drainage basins.

MUNICIPAL SEPARATE STORM SEWER (MS4) as stated in FAC 62-624.200(8) means the system of conveyances owned or operated by the county used for collecting, storing, and transporting stormwater. Such conveyances may include but are not limited to roads with stormwater systems, storm drains, catch basins, curbs, gutters, ditches, constructed channels, or ponds.

NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES) PERMIT means the permit issued pursuant to provisions of Section 402 of the Clean Water Act, as amended by the Water Quality Act of 1987, establishing a national program for controlling municipal stormwater discharges to waters of the United States.

NATURAL DRAINAGE FEATURES the naturally occurring features of an area that accommodates the flow of stormwater, such as streams, rivers, lakes, and wetlands.

NITROGEN/NITROGEN LOADING a source of nutrients for the growth of plants and algae. Nitrogen enters surface and groundwaters from many sources including but not limited to the decomposition of organic wastes in sewage treatment, animal waste, sediment, and fertilizer runoff. The accumulation (or loading) of nitrogen in water bodies accelerates the eutrophication process (see eutrophication).

NON-POINT SOURCE POLLUTION means diffuse runoff without a single point of origin that flows over the surface of the ground by stormwater and is then introduced to surface or ground waters. Non-point sources include, but are not limited to, atmospheric deposition and runoff, or leaching from agricultural lands, urban areas, unvegetated lands, onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems, roadways, golf courses, lawns and construction sites.

NUTRIENT SENSITIVE WATERSHED a drainage basin (see drainage basin) that shows advanced eutrophication (see eutrophication) and is adversely impacted (see adverse impact) by nutrient pollution.

OUTFALL the location where stormwater flows out of a given system. The ultimate outfall of a system is usually a receiving water.

OUTSTANDING FLORIDA WATERS waters designated by the Florida Environmental Regulation Commission as worthy of special protection because of their natural attributes (17-302.200(16)F.A.C.).

PERMEABILITY the quality of the soil that enables water or air to move downward through the profile. The rate at which a saturated soil transmits water is accepted as a measure of this quality. The rate can be impacted by compaction and

PERVIOUS allowing penetration of water. A decrease in pervious surface can result in an increase in the rate and volume of stormwater runoff.

PHOSPHORUS a source of nutrients for the growth of plants and algae. Phosphorus enters surface and groundwaters from the decomposition of organic wastes in sewage treatment, animal waste and fertilizer runoff and the discharge of phosphate containing detergents. The accumulation of phosphates in water bodies accelerates the eutrophication process (see eutrophication).

POINT SOURCE POLLUTION any source of water pollution that constitutes a discernable, confined, and discrete conveyance, including but not limited to any pipe, ditch, channel, tunnel, conduit, well, discrete fissure, container, rolling stock, concentrated animal feeding operation, or vessel or other floating craft, from which pollutants are, or may be discharged. This term does not include return flows from irrigated agriculture.

RECEIVING WATERS OF THE COUNTY means surface waters of the County including, but not limited to, open channels, ponds, streams, creeks, lakes, swamps, wetlands located in Pinellas County unincorporated jurisdiction, as well as marine waters extending three leagues, or nine miles, from the coastline.

RETENTION the prevention of direct discharge of storm runoff into receiving waters; included as examples are systems that discharge through percolation, exfiltration, and evaporation processes and which generally have residence times less than 3 days. (See Drainage Detention Structure)

RETROFIT enhancements to an existing structure.

SALINITY the relative concentration of salts, usually sodium chloride, in a given water. It is usually expressed in terms of the number of part per million of chlorides (Cl^-). Generally, the concentration of mineral salts dissolved in water. Salinity may be expressed in terms of a concentration or as electrical conductivity. When describing salinity influenced by seawater, salinity often refers to the concentration of chlorides in the water.

SEPARATE STORM SYSTEM or "MS4" as stated in FAC 62-624.200(8) means the system of conveyances owned or operated by the County used for collecting, storing, and transporting stormwater. Such conveyances may include, but are not limited to, roads with stormwater systems, storm drains, catch basins, curbs, gutters, ditches, constructed channels or ponds.

SITE PLAN means a graphically drawn plan view of a site that shows all proposed or existing manmade improvements and which includes buildings, parking areas, utility lines, drives, roads, topographic changes, and natural features.

SPORTS TURF means non-agricultural land planted exclusively for golf courses, parks and athletic fields.

STORM DRAIN/INLET a conduit that collects and transports runoff.

STORMWATER means any surface runoff and drainage of water from land surfaces, including the surfaces of buildings and other hardened surfaces on the land, but does not include any industrial or commercial process water, sediment or contaminates introduced into water as a result of activities conducted on the site.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN (SMP) a guidance document that describes how various programs to manage stormwater runoff. A SMP is developed as a requirement of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program. Communities must demonstrate how SMPs address control measures for stormwater management to meet NPDES requirements. The purpose of the SMP is to provide for the orderly development of County drainage facilities, to alleviate flooding of existing buildings, and to protect future development against potential flood damage, and to improve and protect water quality.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM a system that is designed and constructed or implemented to control discharges which are necessitated by rainfall events, incorporating methods to collect, convey, store, absorb, inhibit, treat, use, or reuse water to prevent or reduce flooding, drainage, environmental degradation, and water pollution or otherwise affect the quantity and quality of discharges from the system.

STORMWATER POLLUTION PREVENTION PLAN (SWPPP) a plan required by and for which contents are specified in the State of Florida General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Industrial Activities, and the General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction Activities. The purpose of the plan is to help identify the sources of pollution that affect the quality of storm water discharges from a site and to describe and ensure the implementation of practices to reduce pollutants in storm water discharges.

SURFACE WATER a recognizable permanent body of water, including swamp or marsh areas, lakes, streams, creeks, estuarine, and marine waters contained within a discernable boundary or bank created naturally or artificially. Water from natural springs shall be classified as surface water when it exists from the spring onto the earth's surface.

SURFACE WATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM means the County's comprehensive surface water management program, which includes completed and planned Master Drainage Plan improvements, completed and planned Watershed Management Plans with their identified improvements, educational programs, etc., Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) designated floodplains and floodways as indicated on the latest edition of Flood Insurance Rate Maps for Pinellas County, as well as other capital plans and projects associated with surface water management in the County (e.g., Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL-see TMDL), Basin Management Action Plans (BMAPs-see BMAPs) and identified improvements, NPDES stormwater management plans, etc.)

SUSTAINABILITY A process by which governments, private and non-profit organizations, households and individuals make collaborative and individual efforts to achieve continuing economic prosperity while improving the state of the natural environment and providing a high quality of life for the entire community.

TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD (TMDL) the maximum amount of a pollutant that a water body can assimilate without causing exceedances of water quality standards. Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act (CWA) requires states to submit lists of surface waters that do not meet applicable water quality standards (impaired waters) after implementation of technology-based effluent limitations, and establish TMDLs for these waters. Regulatory actions may include issuance or revision of wastewater, stormwater, or environmental resource permits to include permit conditions consistent with the TMDL. These permit conditions may be numeric effluent limitations or, for technology-based programs, requirements to use a combination of structural and non-structural BMPs needed to achieve the necessary pollutant load reduction.

TOXICS/TOXIC CONTAMINANTS any chemical substance or mixture in a gaseous, liquid, or solid state, which substance or mixture causes a significant risk to safety or health.

URBAN TURF means non-agricultural land planted in closely mowed, managed grasses except golf courses, parks and athletic fields.

VEHICULAR USE AREA means and includes all areas used for the circulation, parking, or display of any and all types of vehicles, boats, or heavy construction equipments, whether self-propelled or not, and all land upon which vehicles traverse as a function of the primary use. This shall include, but is not limited to, activities of a drive-in nature.

WATERSHED the land area that contributes to the flow of water into a receiving body of water (see drainage basin).

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN a comprehensive guidance document to address stormwater (drainage and flooding), water quality, natural systems, and recreational and social issues within a drainage basin (watershed). A Master Drainage Plan is typically one component of a watershed plan. The plan will typically include a list of proposed projects to address watershed issues along with cost estimates for implementation.

WET DETENTION SYSTEM a water quality treatment system that utilizes a design water pool in association with water-tolerant vegetation to remove pollutants through settling, adsorption by soils and nutrient uptake by the vegetation. The bottom elevation of the pond must be at least one foot below the control elevation.

WETLANDS means those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface water or ground water at a frequency and a duration sufficient to support, and under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soils. Such wetland vegetative indicators shall be those species listed in the Florida Administrative Code. Wetlands include, but are not limited to, rivers, lakes, streams, springs, impoundments, swamps, hydric hammocks, marshes, bogs, sinkholes, estuaries, sloughs, cypress heads, mangrove forests, bayheads, bayous, bays, and open marine waters, whether on private or public lands and whether they are manmade or natural. Wetlands shall not include stormwater retention ponds.