

# Glossary of Terms

## **Regulatory Terms:**

**BMP** – Best Management Practice, these include structural (ponds), ESD, and alternative practices.

**EPA** – United States Environmental Protection Agency

**ESD** - Environmental Site Design (aka Low Impact Development / LID), comprehensive strategy for maintaining predevelopment runoff characteristics by integrating site design, natural hydrology, and smaller controls to capture and treat runoff at the source, like micro-bioretenion.

**Impervious Surface** - Surfaces that prevent stormwater from infiltrating to below the ground, includes rooftops, pavement, and gravel

**ISRP** – Impervious Surface Restoration Plan; can also mean MS4 WIP or implementation plan for qualitative controls. For the current MS4 permit, the ISR requirement is 20% of the City’s total impervious area that has not already been treated or restored to the MEP.

**MDE** – Maryland Department of Environment

**MEP** – Maximum Extent Practicable

**MS4** – Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System

**NPDES** – National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

**Nutrients** – Total phosphorus and total nitrogen

**Runoff** - The portion of water during a storm that runs over the land instead of evaporating or being soaked through the ground surface.

**Qualitative Control** – A system of practices that reduces or eliminates pollutants that might otherwise be carried by surface runoff. Design parameters include water quality volume and recharge volume. Water quality volume can be converted into equivalent acreage of ISR.

**Quantitative Control** - A system of practices that controls the increased volume and rate of surface runoff caused by man-made changes to the land. Design parameters include channel protection volume and flood protection volumes.

**TMDL** – Total Maximum Daily Load, the maximum amount of a pollutant a water body can receive and still meet water quality standards; “pollution diet”. Developed when a substance exceeds water quality standards.

**Watershed**- An area of land that drains down slope to the lowest point, discharging to a river or other body of water

**WIP** – Watershed Implementation Plan; document that sets the way an agency will meet the regulatory requirements.

**WQA** – Water Quality Analysis, developed when supplemental data indicates the water body is meeting water quality standards for that substance

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## Fiscal Terms

**Annual escalation** - The practice of adjusting current values to account for future increases. Annual escalation can account for increases in value of labor and materials.

**Appropriation** - Authorization from the legislation to spend money from a specific funding source for the purposes allowed by law. Appropriations specify both the amount and funding source. Appropriations must be approved before a contract mechanism can be approved.

**Budget** - Plan or authorization for revenues and expenditures within a fixed period of time.

**CIP** - Capital improvement plan. A project must cost more than \$250,000 and be associated with a specific asset which will depreciate over time.

**Debt service** - Portion of capital expenditures which is paid using mechanisms to extend the payment over a specified period of time. Debt service mechanisms include bonds and loans, which include costs for administration and interest.

**Encumbrance** - Commitment of money to meet an obligation for goods and services. Once a contract or agreements is approved, the money is encumbered into the budget to secure those funds.

**Expenditure** - The amount of money that is actually spent.

**FAP** - Financial Assurance Plan; state required 5-year projection of funding and expenses related to the MS4 permit.

**Fiscal year** - July 1 to June 30  
**Grant** - an amount of money given by an entity for a specific purpose, with no obligation of repayment. Grants can also be known as a gift. Grant agreements include matching commitments, either by cash or by in-kind services.

**Loan** - A debt service mechanism in which the City receives money from an exterior source with a commitment to repay both the principal and interest within a specific time frame.

**Paygo** - Portion of capital expenditures which is paid directly when the expenditure is incurred.

**Reserve** - Amount of revenue held to demonstrate ability to repay a debt service mechanism or to hedge against an unforeseen economic downturn.

**Revenue** - Cash received from exterior sources to supply specific funds.

**Revenue bond** - An official document authorized by the City to complete CIP projects using an debt service, with a specific enterprise fund used as collateral.

**SRLF** - State revolving loan fund

**WPRP Fund** – Watershed Protection and Restoration Program Fund; also known as the Stormwater Utility in the City.