

Section 3 Acronyms and Definitions

3.1 Acronyms

APMP means Advanced Protection Management Program.

ASTM means ASTM International (a.k.a. American Society for Testing and Materials), a not for profit, non-governmental organization that develops and publishes technical standards and procedures for testing and classification of materials.

BOD means Biochemical Oxygen Demand.

CBC means California Building Code.

CPC means California Plumbing Code.

CTD means Combined Treatment and Dispersal System.

EPA means the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

FOG means Fats, Oil, and Grease.

IAPMO means the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials.

LAMP means Local Area Management Program.

NAWT means National Association of Wastewater Technicians.

NSF means NSF International (a.k.a. National Sanitation Foundation), a not for profit, non-governmental organization that develops health and safety standards and performs product certification.

OWTS means Onsite Wastewater Treatment System(s).

RCE means a California Registered Civil Engineer.

REHS means a California Registered Environmental Health Specialist.

RWQCB means the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

STEG means Septic Tank Effluent Gravity.

STEP means Septic Tank Effluent Pump.

SWRCB means the State Water Resources Control Board.

TMDL means Total Maximum Daily Load.

TSS means Total Suspended Solids.

USDA means the U.S. Department of Agricultural.

WT means Waterless Toilet.

3.2 Definitions

Absorption Area means the area(s) of the OWTS dispersal system where wastewater is distributed subsurface for the purposes of final treatment and dispersal. Absorption area is also known as leachfield, drain field or dispersal area.

Accessory Structure means a residential structure not greater than 3,000 square feet in floor area, and not over two stories in height, the use of which is customarily accessory to and incidental to that of the dwelling(s) and which is located on the same lot.

Addition means an increase in living area square footage to the primary residential dwelling or commercial structure and/or any and all accessory structure(s) either through an expansion of the footprint of the dwelling(s) or structure(s), a second floor addition, a basement addition or the conversion of non-habitable space to habitable or living area use. For the purpose of this OWTS Manual, a new residential accessory structure will be considered an "Addition" to the primary residential dwelling.

Adjusting Valves are a device(s) used in OWTS to distribute wastewater in a balanced or even flow.

Administrative Authority. See Permit Authority.

Advanced Treatment Unit means an approved measure that utilizes special designs and/or additional technology to treat the effluent to a much higher level than a conventional system. An approved Advanced Treatment Measure shall reduce BOD and TSS to less than 30 milligrams per liter and provide at least 50 percent total nitrogen removal, as verified by an approved independent testing laboratory. Also see Pretreatment.

At-grade system means an OWTS dispersal system with a discharge point located at the preconstruction grade (ground surface elevation). The discharge from an at-grade system is always subsurface.

Bedrock means the rock, usually solid, that underlies soil or other unconsolidated, surficial material.

Bedroom means any living space in a dwelling unit or accessory structure which is 70 square feet or greater in size and which is located along an exterior wall, but not including the following: hall, bathroom, kitchen, living room (maximum of one per dwelling unit), family room (maximum of one per dwelling unit), laundry room, closet/dressing room, opening off of a bedroom. (Permit Sonoma Policy and Procedure Number 1-4-1, *Definition of Bedroom*).

Bulk Density is the mass of dry soil per unit bulk volume, expressed in grams per cubic centimeter. The bulk volume is determined before drying to a constant weight at a temperature of 105 degrees.

Cesspool is an excavation in the ground receiving domestic wastewater designed to retain the organic matter and solids while allowing the liquids to seep into the soil. Cesspools differ from seepage pits because cesspool systems do not have septic tanks. The term cesspool does not include pit-privies or out-houses.

Clay means mineral soil particles less than 0.002 millimeters in diameter. As a texture, clay is identified in the USDA Soils Classification Triangle as a soil material that is 40 percent or more clay, less than 45 percent sand, and less than 40 percent silt.

Clothes Washer Graywater System is a graywater system utilizing only a single domestic clothes washing machine in a one or two family dwelling that does not include a cross-connected potable water connection or a pump and does not affect other building, plumbing, electrical, or mechanical

components including structural features, egress, fire-life safety, sanitation, potable water supply piping, or accessibility.

Coarse Fragments is rock or mineral particles greater than 2.0 millimeters in diameter.

Cobbles means rock fragments 76 millimeters or larger using the USDA soils classification systems.

Community System means an OWTS that accepts wastewater from buildings or structures on two or more parcels or an OWTS shared by buildings or structures under separate ownership whether or not they are on the same Parcel. A community OWTS may be either privately or publicly owned or operated.

Complex Graywater System is a residential graywater system that discharges over 250 gallons per day.

Conditioned Space is any area, room or space in a building being heated exceeding 10 BTUs per hour-ft² or cooled exceeding 5 Btu/hr.-ft² directly or indirectly by any equipment or passive design feature for the comfort of occupants or for other reasons such as preserving temperature-sensitive goods.

Cumulative Effects are the persistent and/or increasing effects of individual OWTS resulting from the density of such discharges in relation to the assimilative capacity of the ground environment. Examples include salt or nitrate additions to groundwater, nutrient enrichment of surface water, and hydraulic interference with groundwater and between adjacent systems.

Cut Bank is a man-made excavation of the natural terrain in excess of 3 feet. Cuts supported by retaining walls or similar structures shall be included within this definition, as shall steep natural ground surfaces where a sharp break in the ground slope is discernible.

Dispersal System means a leachfield, seepage pit, mound, at-grade, subsurface drip field, evapotranspiration and infiltration bed, bottomless sand filter, sand fill trench, or other type of system for final wastewater treatment and subsurface discharge.

Domestic Wastewater means wastewater with a measured strength less than high-strength wastewater and is the type of wastewater normally discharged from, or similar to, that discharged from plumbing fixtures, appliances and other household devices including, but not limited to toilets, bathtubs, showers, laundry facilities, dishwashing facilities, and garbage disposals. Domestic wastewater may include wastewater from commercial building such as office buildings, retail stores, and some restaurants, or from industrial facilities where the domestic wastewater is segregated from the industrial wastewater. Domestic wastewater may include incidental RV holding tank dumping but does not include wastewater consisting of a significant portion of RV holding tank wastewater such as at RV dump stations. Domestic wastewater does not include wastewater from industrial processes.

Downslope Property Line is a property line down-gradient from the proposed OWTS.

Drain field or Leachfield is a system of rock-filled trenches or beds or infiltration chambers that distribute treated sewage effluent for absorption into the soil.

Dual Drain Field is an effluent dispersal system consisting of two primary drain fields, each designed at 75 percent of total design flow, connected by an accessible diversion valve and intended for alternating use on an annual or semiannual basis.

Effective Drain Field Depth is the depth of drain rock below the bottom of the drain field pipe.

Effluent means sewage, water, or other liquid, partially or completely treated or in its natural state, flowing out of a septic tank, aerobic treatment unit, dispersal system, or other OWTS component.

Expansion Area. See Reserve Replacement Area.

Field Clearance is a site visit required when Permit Sonoma's file information is not sufficient to show that the proposed work will not adversely impact the OWTS. A field clearance is more often needed when an older OWTS predates Permit Sonoma's record keeping system. In addition, when there is a lack of information on file for the OWTS, a site visit is necessary to verify that an approved OWTS exists on the property.

Findings Report is an analysis of the OWTS which includes review of Permit Sonoma septic file information and a visual inspection of an existing OWTS and/or well for the purpose of providing potential buyers or interested parties with information regarding a particular septic system or well. A Findings Report may be prepared by Permit Sonoma staff, an RCE, or an REHS.

French Drain. See Intercept Drain.

Graywater means untreated wastewater that has not been contaminated by any toilet discharge, has not been affected by infectious, contaminated, or unhealthy bodily wastes, and does not present a threat from contamination by unhealthful processing, manufacturing, or operating wastes. "Graywater" includes, but is not limited to, wastewater from bathtubs, showers, bathroom washbasins, clothes washing machines, and laundry tubes, but does not include wastewater from kitchen sinks or dishwashers.

Graywater System is a system designed to collect graywater and transport it out of the structure for distribution in an irrigation or dispersal field. A graywater system may include tanks, valves, filters, pumps or other appurtenances along with piping and receiving landscape.

Groundwater is water located beneath the ground surface in soil pore spaces or in the fractures of lithologic formations. Groundwater may be present only seasonally (perched). A unit of rock or unconsolidated deposit is called an aquifer when it can yield a usable quantity of water.

Hardpan is an irreversibly hardened soil layer caused by the cementation of soil particles. The cementing agent may be silica, calcium carbonate, iron or organic matter.

Health Officer refers to the Sonoma County Health Officer or his/her designated representatives, for purposes of implementation of these standards; the Director of Permit Sonoma is the delegated representative.

High Strength Wastewater means wastewater having a 30-day average concentration of BOD greater than 300 milligrams per liter or of TSS greater than 330 milligrams per liter or a FOG concentration greater than 100 milligrams per liter prior to the septic tank or other OWTS treatment component.

Holding Tank is a watertight receptacle used to collect and store wastewater prior to it being removed from a property by means of vacuum pumping and hauling. The use of holding tanks is authorized for limited circumstances, including, but not limited to, for the abatement of health hazards or for certain public use facilities.

Hydrometer Analysis is a test used to determine the grain size distribution of soils passing the number 200 sieve (ASTM D 7928-17).

Impaired water bodies means those surface water bodies or segments thereof that are identified on a list approved first by the SWRCB and then approved by the EPA pursuant to Section 303(d) of the Federal Clean Water Act.

Impermeable Soil Layer is any layer of soil having a percolation rate slower than 120 minutes per inch at the bottom of the proposed dispersal area or a Zone 4 Soil Texture according to Figure 7.4 which has a high shrink swell potential (Plasticity Index of greater than 20, ASTM D 4318-84).

Incompatible Use is any activity or land uses that would preclude or damage an area for future use as an effluent dispersal site, including the construction of buildings, roads, or other permanent structures and activities that may result in the permanent compaction or removal of existing soil.

Interior Remodel is improvement to the interior of the structure with no removal and/or replacement of the structure.

Intercept Drain is a trench filled with drain rock that is designed to intercept and divert ambient groundwater with surface discharge via piping to another location. Intercept drains are typically used to dewater areas upslope of a leachfield or a foundation and lower the water table. Intercept drains are also known as French drain or curtain drain.

Land Encumbrance means the land area that is eliminated from being utilized for septic dispersal areas. Examples of encumbrances are existing or proposed impervious surfaces such as structures, driveways, paved areas or other hard surfaces, as well as regulatory requirements or easements that eliminate land area for septic dispersal such as setbacks from creeks, rivers, riparian corridors, cut slopes, geological hazards, septic systems, wells, etc.

Leachfield. See Drain field.

Limiting Condition is the portion of the soil profile that because of percolation characteristics most restricts the successful operation of a drain field. A limiting condition would include but not be limited to impermeable soil, semi-permeable soil, expansive clay, fractured rock, consolidated rock, excessive rock content and perched or seasonal elevated groundwater conditions.

Linear Loading Rate is defined as the amount of effluent in gallons applied per day per linear foot of the system. The design linear loading rate is a function of the rate of effluent movement and the direction of movement away from the OWTS (horizontal, vertical or combination).

Living Area includes all areas of residential dwellings and residential accessory structures including bathrooms, kitchens, closets, utility rooms, hallways and any other area in a building that is designed for human use. New residential rooms above garages and/or other new residential accessory structures on the property will be considered living area. Areas such as unfinished attic space, unfinished basements, and garages are not considered living area. (Section 6: OWTS Requirements for Approval of Building Permits)

Local Agency means any subdivision of the state government that has responsibility for permitting the installation of and regulating OWTS within its jurisdiction boundaries; typically a county, city or special district.

Maintenance of a wastewater treatment system shall mean clearing of stoppages in pipes without removing, replacing, or rearranging the pipes or surrounding soils; repairing or replacing non-treatment components of a wastewater system; pumping liquid and solids from, or otherwise cleaning septic tanks and grease interceptors; cleaning sand filters; and cleaning pressure distribution system pumps and piping.

Modification is a remodel or addition of living area (potentially habitable or not) to an existing structure.

Monitoring Wells are installed to monitor groundwater. The construction of monitoring wells must meet California Well Standards and be installed under permit by the State of California or the designated enforcement agency. Monitoring wells are not to be confused with performance wells used to evaluate the efficacy of OWTS in the immediate area. See Performance Wells definition.

Mottling is a soil condition that results from oxidizing or reducing minerals due to soil moisture changes from saturated to unsaturated over time. Mottling is characterized by spots or blotches of different colors or shades of color (grays and reds) and size interspersed within the dominant color as described by the USDA soil classification system. The soil condition can be indicative of historic seasonal high groundwater level, but the lack of this condition may not demonstrate the absence of groundwater. Mottling in soils usually indicates poor aeration, periodic saturation, or poor drainage.

Mound System means an aboveground dispersal system (covered sand bed with effluent leachfield elevated above original ground surface inside) used to enhance soil treatment, dispersal, and absorption of effluent discharged from an OWTS treatment unit such as a septic tank. Mound systems have a subsurface discharge.

Occupancy is the classification of a structure as defined in the CBC, which is given based on the intended use and/or designed use of such structure. See CBC Chapter 3.

Office Clearance is a review of Permit Sonoma files and application documents in the office to determine that the proposed work will not impact the existing OWTS.

Operational Permit is a renewable and revocable permit to operate and maintain non-standard experimental or alternative OWTS.

Onsite Wastewater Treatment System(s) (OWTS) means individual dispersal systems, community collection and dispersal systems, and alternative collection and dispersal systems that use subsurface dispersal. The short form of the term may be singular or plural. OWTS do not include “graywater” systems pursuant to the Health and Safety Code Section 17922.12. Commonly referred to as septic system(s).

OWTS, Alternative means an approved non-standard OWTS that has demonstrated in the non-standard Experimental phase to function in such a manner as to protect water quality and preclude health hazards and nuisance conditions, and is capable of producing an equal to or greater quality wastewater effluent and improved performance of and siting for effluent dispersal than a standard OWTS.

OWTS, Code Compliant means a system that is in conformance with this OWTS Manual. A Code Complaint OWTS can be new or existing.

OWTS, Commercial means an OWTS that serves a facility or structure whose occupants are engaged in the buying or selling of goods or services or that serves a facility or structure which is a non-residential occupancy.

OWTS, Community System means an OWTS that accepts wastewater from buildings or structures on two or more parcels or an OWTS shared by buildings or structures under separate ownership whether or not they are on the same Parcel. A community OWTS may be either privately or publicly owned or operated.

OWTS, Experimental means a non-standard OWTS deemed conditionally acceptable by the RWQCB, subject to increased performance monitoring and evaluation, prior to acceptance as an approved non-standard Alternative OWTS.

OWTS, New means an OWTS proposed for construction in compliance with this OWTS Manual.

OWTS, Non-Conforming means an OWTS that has a septic tank and dispersal system and was in compliance with the septic laws, regulations or codes when constructed and which is not in compliance with this OWTS Manual. OWTS constructed prior to OWTS regulations may be considered Non-Conforming OWTS.

OWTS, Non-Standard means a type of OWTS that utilizes a method of wastewater treatment that may or may not include a conventional septic tank and/or method of wastewater dispersal other than a conventional drain field for the purpose of producing an equal to or greater quality wastewater effluent and improved performance of and siting for effluent dispersal than a standard OWTS. There are two types of non-standard systems. See Alternative OWTS and Experimental OWTS.

OWTS, Replacement means an OWTS that has its treatment capacity expanded, or its dispersal system replaced or added onto.

OWTS, Standard means a type of OWTS consisting of a septic tank for primary treatment of sewage, followed by a system of drain field trenches for subsurface dispersal of effluent into the soil. A standard OWTS may utilize gravity flow or a pump system to convey effluent from the septic tank to the drain field.

OWTS Application means an OWTS design application or an OWTS permit application filed with the Permit Authority to verify compliance with this OWTS Manual.

OWTS Failure means effluent is surfacing or sewage is backing up into plumbing fixtures.

OWTS Policy means the California State Water Resources Control Board Water Quality Control Policy for Siting, Design, Operation, and Maintenance of Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems.

Package Treatment Plant is a method of sewage treatment that includes flows greater than 1,500 gallons per day; wastewater used for Title 22 purposes and does not include process wastewater from agricultural sources, etc., unless there is a domestic component. A package treatment plant uses a process involving energy and mechanical, biological, chemical or physical treatment of the wastewater to reduce the BOD, suspended solids, Nitrogen, bacteria and other sewage constituents and which is of a degree of complexity that a certified wastewater treatment plant operator or approved OWTS Service Provider is required.

Percolation Test is a test conducted to determine the permeability or percolation quality of the soil in an area proposed for sewage dispersal.

Performance Wells are installed in and around an OWTS to monitor the performance of the system. Performance wells are a component of the OWTS with the design and construction meeting County standards.

Permit Authority is the state or local unit of government with the statutory or delegated authority to issue permits to build and operate OWTS.

Permit Sonoma means the Sonoma County Permit and Resource Management Department.

Pressure Dosing is the uniform application of wastewater under pressure. Wastewater is applied under pressure uniformly on an intermittent basis in the dispersal field through the use of a sump and pump.

Pretreatment is an NSF listed and or certified and County approved Advanced Treatment Unit that provides pretreatment of wastewater to reduce 5-day BOD, TSS, nitrogen, and/or the total and fecal coliform content to improve the wastewater quality prior to dispersal.

Public Water System is a water system regulated by the California Department of Public Health or a Local Primacy Agency pursuant to Part 12, Chapter 4, California Safe Drinking Water Act, Section 116275 (h) of the California Health and Safety Code.

Public Water Well is a groundwater well serving a public water system. A spring which is not subject to the California Surface Water Treatment Rule (SWTR), CCR, Title 22, Sections 64650 through 64666 is a public well.

Purge Valves are used in OWTS utilizing pressurized wastewater distribution to aid in the cleaning of laterals. Purge valves are generally placed at the end of each lateral.

Qualified Consultant is a California Registered Civil Engineer (RCE) or a California Registered Environmental Health Specialist (REHS). Qualified Consultant also includes a registered soil scientist or a registered geologist but are limited to soil investigations or soil evaluations. A qualified consultant must have demonstrated experience in the design of on-site sewage dispersal systems.

Reconstruction means 100 percent construction of all elements of the structure, including, but not limited to, roof elements, load-bearing walls, non-bearing walls and foundations.

Redoximorphic means exhibiting characteristic features (soil mottles or soil mottling) caused by alternating reduction and oxidation of iron and manganese compounds.

Regulatory Authority. See Permit Authority.

Reserve Replacement Area is an unencumbered portion of land that is reserved for the installation of a future OWTS, in the event of primary OWTS failure. The reserve replacement area must be suitable for an OWTS as demonstrated with acceptable percolation testing, groundwater conditions, and adequate depth of soil. Reserve Replacement area is sometimes referred to as expansion area.

Residential is any structure or room labeled "R-" occupancy as defined by the CBC.

Rough-in means to install the preliminary (rough) plumbing, electrical and/or mechanical building materials without making the final connections.

Sand is individual rock or mineral fragments in soils having diameters ranging from 0.05 to 2.0 millimeters. Most sand grains consist of quartz, but they may be of any mineral composition. It is classified in the USDA Soils Classification Triangle as a soil material that contains 85 percent or more sand and not more than 10 percent clay.

Saturated Soil is the condition of soil when all available pore space is occupied by water and the soil is unable to accept additional moisture. In very fine textured soils a free water surface may not be apparent. The extent of saturated soil conditions and anticipated level of high groundwater can be estimated by the extent of soil mottling, provided the soils contain the necessary iron compounds to exhibit mottling.

Seepage Pit is a pit filled with drain rock into which effluent from a septic tank is collected for gradual seepage into the ground. Seepage pits are typically substituted for a leachfield at severely constrained sites serving existing dwellings.

Septic System. See Onsite Wastewater Treatment System.

Septic Tank is a water-tight covered receptacle designed and constructed to receive the discharge of sewage from a building sewer; separate solids from the liquid; digest organic matter; store digested solids through a period of detention and allow the clarified liquids to discharge for final subsurface dispersal.

Service Provider means an RCE, REHS, or any person who is licensed as a "certified onsite wastewater system inspector" or other equivalent license by passing a state or nationally accredited onsite wastewater exam, capable of operating, monitoring, and maintaining an OWTS (for example, NAWT and/or a proprietary unit certification).

Setback is the minimum horizontal distance from any point along the outside edge of a septic tank, or the edge of a dispersal area, to any point on the described site feature.

Sidewall means the wall of a dispersal trench utilized for effluent infiltration with the wall height being measured from the bottom of the dispersal pipe to the bottom of the dispersal trench.

Simple Graywater System is a graywater system serving a one or two family dwelling with a discharge of 250 gallons per day or less. Simple Systems exceed a Clothes Washer Graywater System.

Silt is individual mineral particles in a soil that range in diameter from the upper limit of clay (0.002 millimeter) to the lower limit of very fine sand (0.05 millimeter). It is classified in the USDA Soils Classification Triangle as a soil material that contains 80 percent or more silt and less than 12 percent clay.

Site means the location of the OWTS and the reserve replacement area capable of disposing up to 200 percent of the design flow from all sources the OWTS is intended to serve.

Site Evaluation means soil profile evaluation, percolation test or groundwater table determination, either individually or collectively.

Soil consists of the natural organic and inorganic material near the earth's surface which is in contrast to the underlying rock material and has been formed over time by the interactions between climate, relief, parent materials, and living organisms.

Soil Depth is the combined thickness of adjacent soil layers which are suitable for effluent filtration. Soil depth is measured vertically to bedrock, hardpan, or an impermeable soil layer.

Soil Horizon or Layer is a layer of soil approximately parallel to the land surface and differing from adjacent (underlying or overlying) layers in some property or characteristic. Differences include, but are not limited to, color, texture, structure and porosity. Soil horizon is also known as soil zone.

Soil Profile is a vertical section of an excavation that displays the soil horizons.

Soil Structure refers to the formation of larger soil particles by the cementing together of individual sand, silt, and clay particles. Soil structure affects the pore size and rate at which water will move through soil. The structure of soil is generally described in the following terms: granular; platy; blocky; prismatic; massive; or columnar.

Soil Survey is a general term for the systematic examination of soils in the field and in the laboratory. This would include the soil description and classification, the mapping of kinds of soil, and the interpretation of soils for many uses such as suitability for growing various crops, grasses, and trees, for engineering uses, and predicting the soil behavior under different management systems. Most notable and common reference used is the USDA National Resources Conservation Service Soil Survey.

Soil Texture is the relative proportions of sand, silt, and clay as defined by the classes of the USDA soil textural triangle. Textural classes may be modified when coarse fragments are present in sufficient number or when the bulk density is excessive.

Stream, Ephemeral Watercourse is a stream or reach of a stream that flows briefly only in response to precipitation in the immediate locality and whose channel is at all times higher than the water table. Any water course that does not meet this definition is to be considered a perennial or intermittent stream for the purposes of the chapter.

Stream, Intermittent is a stream that ceases to flow occasionally or seasonally because of evaporation and leakage. See Perennial Stream.

Stream, Perennial is any stretch of a stream that can be expected to flow continuously or seasonally (Intermittent). Perennial streams are generally fed in part by springs and appear on US Geological Survey maps as a solid blue line. A perennial stream may include an intermittent stream which is a USGS designated blue line dashed stream that ceases to flow occasionally or seasonally because of evaporation and leakage.

Structure is that which is built or constructed.

Sump is a tank that collects treated sewage for a period of time and then, periodically, discharges by means of a pump.

Supplemental Treatment. See Pretreatment.

Toilet, Composting means a self-contained waterless toilet designed to decompose non water-carried human wastes through microbial action on a carbon source & store the resulting matter for further treatment & reuse/disposal. See Waterless Toilet.

Toilet, Flush means a toilet consisting of a bowl for receiving human waste and a water-flushing device.

Toilet, Waterless means a toilet specifically designed to receive non-water-carried human waste; includes composting, incinerator, pit, chemical & vault toilets.

Toilet, Vault: waterless toilet mounted on a vented holding tank designed to store non-water-carried human waste prior to offsite treatment.

Topographic Map is a map showing the topographic features of a land surface, commonly by means of contour lines. It is generally on a sufficiently large scale to show in detail selected man-made and natural features, including relief and physical and cultural features such as vegetation, roads, and drainage.

Unfinished Structure is any structure, or any part of a structure, with exposed studs, and no insulation or sheet rock covering the walls. Unfinished rooms in a primary dwelling and/or residential accessory structure shall have exterior access doors only with no direct access to the interior of a primary dwelling and/or residential accessory structure.

Unstable Landform is an area that shows evidence of mass downslope movement such as debris flow, landslides, rockfalls, and hummocky hill slopes with undrained depressions upslope. Unstable landforms may exhibit slip surfaces roughly parallel to the hillside; landslide scars and curving debris ridges; fences, trees, and telephone poles which appear tilted; or tree trunks which bend uniformly as they enter the ground.

Watercourse is a definite open channel with bed and banks within which water flows either perennially or intermittently, including overflow channels contiguous to the main channel. A watercourse shall include both natural and man-made channels.

