

Glossary of Terms

Adaptive Management: a phased approach to developing, learning from, improving or maintaining the outcomes of a project or program reflecting the following phases: Plan, Design, Implement, Monitor and Evaluate.

Award: the total amount that has been committed to the recipient and encumbered by the agency for all budget periods. This may include funding for a current budget period plus funding for future periods.¹

Bond: a state general obligation bond issued pursuant to an act adopting the provisions of the State General Obligation Bond Law.² All bonds are loans and are legal promises to pay money, with interest, on a specified date, to the bond holder.

Bond act: the act authorizing the issuance of state general obligation bonds and adopting State General Obligation Bond Law by reference.³

Evaluation: the organization and analysis of data to build context that provides value or understanding.

Goal: a concise description of a problem and the desired state or status of a situation that depicts realistic outcomes.

Grant: a sum of money that is bestowed on an entity with or without consideration⁴ for the purpose of completing an agreed-upon work plan.

Long-term: A period of at least 10 years.

Maintenance period: the length of time a project site is expected to be maintained. These can be 10 years (for grants up to \$100,000), 20 years (for grants up to \$1 million), 25 years (for grants over \$1 million), or in perpetuity (for acquisitions or conservation easements).

Indicator: a general gauge used to evaluate and answer questions related to the achievement of an objective.

Metric: a unique parameter of interest that can be measured to obtain information about the subject(s) of study.

¹ Bond Accountability and Audit Guide (DOF/CNRA)

² Government Code section 16722

³ Government Code section 16722

⁴ Adapted from State Contracting Manual

Monitoring: the collection of data taken at regular time intervals and/or locations. MSU focuses on six types of monitoring:

Baseline monitoring: preliminary documentation of the status and condition of a resource or area used for future comparisons over time.

Compliance monitoring: monitoring to verify that environmental regulations or statutory requirements are aptly applied and followed.

Effectiveness monitoring: a comprehensive analysis conducted to understand the extent to which management practices or project features are effective at meeting their performance objectives.

Implementation monitoring: an assessment of a project area or design feature to evaluate whether the project features or deliverables were completed as planned.

Trend monitoring: an assessment of identical measurements of an attribute over time or space.

Validation monitoring: an assessment of the soundness and rationality of research assumptions, models, methods, and proposals.

Objective: a goal that explicitly details a project feature's expected results and allows for comparison of what was originally intended with what the project verifiably achieves.

Performance measures: the indicators and associated metrics used to track the status or condition of a given resource over time.

Program: a program, or grant program, manages appropriated funds and determines which specific projects will receive grant funding. Once funding is granted, program staff manage and oversee the terms of the grant agreement until the project is complete.

Project: an activity which may cause either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment, and which is any of the following: (a) an activity directly undertaken by any public agency, (b) an activity undertaken by a person which is supported, in whole or in part, through contracts, grants, subsidies, loans, or other forms of assistance from one or more public agencies, or (c) an activity that involves the issuance to a person of a lease, permit, license, certificate, or other entitlement for use by one or more public agencies.⁵

Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QA/QC) protocols: a system of pre-determined checks to ensure consistency across diverse data sources, and corrective actions to manage varied management processes.

⁵ Public Resources Code section 21065