## GLOSSARY

**COD:** Chemical oxygen demand (COD) is defined as a measure of the oxygen equivalent of the organic matter content of a sample that is susceptible to oxidation by a strong chemical oxidant.

**BOD:** Biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) is the amount of dissolved oxygen needed (i. e., demanded) by aerobic biological organisms to break down organic material present in a given water sample at certain temperature over a specific time period.

**SS:** Suspended solids refer to small solid particles which remain in suspension in water as a colloid or due to the motion of the water. It is used as one indicator of water quality.

**Eutrophication:** Excessive richness of nutrients in a lake or other body of water, frequently due to run-off from the land, which causes a dense growth of plant life.

**Total solids:** It is a measure of the suspended and dissolved solids in water. Suspended solids are those that can be retained on a water filter and are capable of settling out of the water column onto the stream bottom when stream velocities are low.

**Inorganic acids:** A mineral acid (or inorganic acid) is an acid derived from one or more inorganic compounds. All mineral acids form hydrogen ions and the conjugate base ions when dissolved in water.

**Organic acids:** An organic acid is an organic compound with acidic properties. The most common organic acids are the carboxylic acids, whose acidity is associated with their carboxyl group –COOH.

**Pathogenic:** It is a medical term that describes viruses, bacteria, and other types of germs that can cause some kind of disease.

Effluent: Liquid waste or sewage discharged into a river or the sea.

**Confectionery:** Sweets and chocolates considered collectively.

Coliform: Belonging to a group of rod-shaped bacteria typified by *E. coli*.

**Ultrafiltration:** Filtration using a medium fine enough to retain colloidal particles, viruses, or large molecules.

**Reverse osmosis:** A process by which a solvent passes through a porous membrane in the direction opposite to that for natural osmosis when subjected to a hydrostatic pressure greater than the osmotic pressure.

**Dissolved Oxygen:** Dissolved oxygen (DO) is one of the most important indicators of water quality. It is essential for the survival of fish and other aquatic organisms. Oxygen dissolves in surface water due to the aerating action of winds. Oxygen is also introduced into the water as a byproduct of aquatic plant photosynthesis.

**Grit Chamber:** Grit chambers are long narrow tanks that are designed to slow down the flow so that solids such as sand, coffee grounds, and eggshells will settle out of the water.