

County of Santa Clara

Department of Planning and Development

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Development Services Office Policy: B-001 Geotechnical Reports

CBC 1803.2 Investigations required.

Geotechnical investigations shall be conducted in accordance with Sections 1803.3 through 1803.5.

Exception: The building official shall be permitted to waive the requirement for a geotechnical investigation where satisfactory data from adjacent areas is available that demonstrates an investigation is not necessary for any of the conditions in Sections 1803.5.1 through 1803.5.6 and Sections 1803.5.10 and 1803.5.11.

Geotechnical (Soils) Reports are required for any of the following conditions:

1. All new residential or non-residential structures or additions larger than 1200 sq. ft.
2. Any new structure or retaining wall with piers, piles or engineered systems (helical piles, etc.) Exception: Voluntary foundation upgrades to SFR.
3. Agricultural structures or buildings accessory to a SFR larger than 3000 sq. ft.
4. Any structure required by the County Geologist to obtain a Geological Report.
5. Any retaining wall on a site with a County or State geological hazard area.
6. Any retaining wall on any site supporting a surcharge; supporting a backslope greater than 1V:2H; or supporting another structure or driving surface and wall is taller than 5 feet from the bottom of the footing to the top of the wall.
7. Any Subdivision of land that is subject to the requirements of the State Subdivision Map Act and Local Subdivision Ordinance.
8. Any land use that is subject to the Santa Clara County Grading and Drainage Ordinance.

Geotechnical reports may be required by the Office for any condition during the course of review, as the Building Code gives full discretion to the Building Official to require geotechnical reports. All geotechnical reports shall conform to the requirements of CBC 1803.5.12 and 1803.6.

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