



CITY OF SANTA CLARITA
BUILDING & SAFETY DIVISION
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Geotechnical Report Requirements

Basis for Requiring Geotechnical Investigations:

The intent of geotechnical investigations is to ensure that the site is stable and that the foundation is designed appropriately for the prescribed loading. The Building Official may require such investigations in accordance with California Building Code (CBC) Chapter 18 and State Health and Safety Code section 17954. In the absence of specific provisions in CBC Chapter 18, the following policy is provided in accordance with Appendix J section 104.3 for exempting minor projects from geotechnical reports.

Building & Safety Requires Geotechnical Reports for the Following Types of Projects:

- New buildings or structures, both commercial and residential.
Exception: Accessory buildings or structures which conform to all of the following:
 1. Occupancy group R-3, S-1 or U.
 2. Single-story, 40 ft maximum height.
 3. Type V construction (wood-frame or light-steel-frame).
 4. Total floor area does not exceed 1,000 sq. ft.
- Additions (commercial or residential) when any of the following apply:
 1. The total area of the addition is greater than the area of the existing structure.
 2. The total area of the addition is greater than 1,000 square feet.
- Retaining walls when any of the following apply:
 1. Slope of retained soil exceeds 2:1.
 2. Height of retained soil exceeds 8 feet.
 3. Wall is located in an area designed as a buttress fill.
- Buildings or structures which do not comply with the slope setback requirements specified in CBC section 1808.7 and the City of Santa Clarita amendments.
- Buildings or structures located in areas where geotechnical hazards are known to exist.

New geotechnical reports are not required for structures constructed on graded pads for which the City received a final grading certificate less than two years prior to the submittal of construction plans.

Geotechnical reports shall address the stability of the site, type of soil, bearing capacity, expansiveness, corrosives, liquefaction, and any other potential geotechnical hazards or soils design parameters which may affect the structural design or integrity of the proposed building. Geotechnical reports shall be submitted to Building & Safety concurrent with the building plans.

Approval of geotechnical reports by the City Engineering Services Division may be required prior to permit issuance.

When retaining or basement walls are proposed, the geotechnical report shall address lateral pressures due to seismic motions (CBC sec. 1803.5.12).

Building & Safety will require a geology report when the site for the proposed work has a slope steeper than 4:1, or where known geological conditions warrant a geological investigation.

When a geotechnical report is not required, the foundation design shall be based on minimum soil bearing values specified in CBC section 1804. Foundation detailing shall comply with City prescriptive foundation requirements as a minimum. The Building Inspector shall pre-inspect the excavations prior to foundation approval.