

ENGINEERING & SURVEY SERVICES

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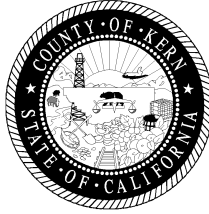
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RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCY

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Animal Control Department

Community and Economic Development Department

Engineering & Survey Services Department

Environmental Health Services Department

Planning Department

Roads Department

Building Bulletin 07-01

Subject to reevaluation next code adoption

Subject: Foundation and Soils Investigation

Date: January 1, 2008

Reissued July 1, 2008

Code: 2007 California Building Code

Section: 1802.2

Section 1802.2.7 requires a foundation and soils investigation where the structure is determined to be in Seismic Design Category D, E, or F. This section identifies several parameters that must be assessed within the investigation, including the peak ground acceleration.

Reason for policy:

Section 1802.2.7 requires a foundation and soils investigation for every structure within Kern County where an existing investigation is not available. The issues of concern identified in 1802.2.7 are not known to exist in many areas of the county, and requiring an investigation for certain structures in those areas would provide little or no benefit.

Policy:

Unless otherwise required by the building official, exceptions are added to section 1802.2.7 as follows:

Exceptions:

1. A foundation and soils investigation may not be required if all of the following conditions are met:
 - a) The structure is determined to be in Seismic Design Category D
 - b) The structure is considered to be an Occupancy Category I or II structure per CBC Table 1604.5.
 - c) Basement and/or foundation walls do not retain over four (4) feet.
 - d) The structure is one story, wood or metal frame and does not exceed 4000 square feet in floor area.
 - e) The assumed allowable soil bearing pressure does not exceed 1500 psf and the maximum allowable lateral bearing pressure does not exceed 100 psf.
2. A foundation and soils investigation may not be required for a swimming pool accessory to a Group R-3 occupancy when the design lateral soil load is as required for silty sands per CBC Table 1610.1 (active pressure of 45 pcf; at-rest pressure of 60 pcf).
3. A foundation and soils investigation may not be required for a retaining wall not exceeding six (6) feet in height measured from the top of the footing when the design lateral soil load is as for silty sands per CBC Table 1610.1 (active pressure of 45 pcf; at-rest pressure of 60 psf). Back fill slope shall not be steeper than 2:1.
4. A foundation and soils investigation may not be required for a Group U or Group R-3 occupancy not more than two stories in height and designed and constructed in accordance with the Conventional Light Frame Construction Provisions per CBC section 2308.
5. A foundation and soils investigation may not be required for additions or alterations to an Occupancy Category I or II structure per CBC Table 1604.5 when the floor area of an existing structure is not increased by more than 1000 square feet and not more than two (2) stories in height.

It should be noted that a site-specific study may still be required by the building official even if the above listed exceptions are met. Additionally, the above listed exceptions shall not permit any work in violation of CBC.

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