

When is a Geotechnical Investigation Required?

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this technical bulletin is to clarify when a geotechnical investigation is required as part of a building permit application. The requirements below are intended as general policy guidelines. Section 1803 of the 2016 California Building Code (CBC) outlines specific instances of when a geotechnical report is required based on soil conditions and construction methods. Where a geotechnical investigation is required, the content of the report shall conform to the requirements of Section 1803 and current City Ordinance.

GENERAL

The requirement for the geotechnical investigation is based on the City of Ventura Ordinance 2016 which requires a geotechnical investigation be conducted when the proposed structure area is one thousand square feet or more in total proposed area.

Due to City of Ventura being located in Seismic Design Category E, the geotechnical investigation shall also include all required testing and reporting as outlined in Section 1803.5.11 and 1803.5.12 which applies to all structures that are being proposed in Seismic Design Category E.

In all cases, if a geotechnical report has been previously performed for the parcel, this report must be included in the building permit application. If the existing report is more than a year old, a geotechnical report update letter from a qualified licensed professional must be included with the permit application. The update letter shall address whether the recommendations of the previous report are still valid for the proposed project and if additional soil analysis is required.