



CITY OF GLENDALE, CALIFORNIA

Community Development
Building & Safety Division

Bulletin: 24-002
Date: 01-04-2024

Informational Bulletin

SUBJECT: Geotechnical Report Requirements

I. 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 the Glendale Building and Safety Code (GBSC) sections 1803, R401.4 and J104.3 as well as the State Health and Safety Code section 17954. The following policy is provided in accordance with the above-mentioned sections for exempting projects from geotechnical reports.

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

A. New buildings/structures, or additions to existing building/structures

Exceptions:

1. Accessory buildings/structures, or additions to existing buildings/structures which conform to all the following:

- a. Occupancy group B, F, M, R-3, S or U.
- b. Single-story, 20 ft maximum height.
- c. Type V construction (wood-frame or light-steel-frame).
- d. New building area does not exceed 500 sq. ft.
- e. Comply with conditions of section III below.

2. Buildings/structures not located in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) areas, seismic hazard zone, Alquist-Priolo zone or adjacent to slopes greater than 3 units horizontal to 1 unit vertical, which conform to all the following:

- a. Occupancy group R-3, S-1 or U.
- b. Maximum 2 stories, no basement, 40 ft maximum height
- c. Type V construction (wood-frame or light-steel-frame).
- d. Total building area does not exceed 3,000 sq. ft.
- e. Comply with conditions of section III below.



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B. Retaining walls when any of the following apply:

1. Slope of retained soil exceeds 2:1.
2. Height of retained soil exceeds 6 feet.

C. Buildings or structures which do not comply with the slope setback requirements specified in GBSC section 1808.7.

D. Projects where special conditions exist as per GBSC section 1803 (e.g., questionable soil, deep foundations)

E. Engineered Grading as defined in GBSC section J104.2.1.

III. General Conditions for Geotechnical Report Requirement Exceptions per Section II. A:

A. The new footing shall be a minimum of 18" wide with 24" minimum embedment into natural grade or certified fill. A minimum of one (1) # 4 continuous horizontal reinforcement bar shall be located at the top, at the middle and at the bottom of the new footing.

B. Pad or isolated footings shall be a minimum 18" square with a 24" minimum embedment into natural grade or certified fill. A minimum of (2) # 4 reinforcement bars shall be placed each direction at the bottom of the footing.

C. Maximum allowable soil bearing pressure used to determine size of pad or continuous footing shall be 1500 P.S.F.

D. Engineer of record shall perform site observation of the foundation excavation.

E. Engineer of record shall submit a written structural observation report to Building and Safety indicating that the footings have the required embedment in natural grade or certified fill and the foundation reinforcement as required in conditions B. and C. above, is properly located along with any additional reinforcement or hardware required by the engineer of record.

F. Should onsite observations reveal adverse or unexpected soil/geological conditions, the Engineer of record shall provide written recommendations to alleviate such conditions and submit to Building and Safety for evaluation. A soils report may be required to justify the recommendations.



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IV. Modified Soils Reports

A. Modified Soils Report is a soil report based on professional geotechnical experience with soil conditions in the City of Glendale (by a private geotechnical consulting firm) and not on-site specific soil sampling. An application for a Building Code Modification (BMOD) request to allow the use of a Modified Soil Report may be submitted for those projects that represent limited geotechnical hazard and are granted on case-by-case basis. The following are some general conditions for BMOD approval (the full set of conditions may vary based on the project specifics):

1. Soil engineer is required to have extensive knowledge about the project vicinity. In order to justify the assumptions proposed in the modified soil report the engineer shall list the nearby projects by address where soil sampling/testing has been performed by the engineer.
2. The modified soils report shall be submitted for review during the plan check process.
3. The project shall comply with the slope setback requirements specified in GBSC section 1808.7.
4. Soil engineer is to determine if the site consists of superficial fill overlaying natural soil. If so, then the volume of removal and re-compaction shall be calculated.
5. Soil engineer is to specify the soil classification, including seismic factors to be used for foundation design.
6. Soil engineer shall perform site observations of the foundation excavations.
7. Soil engineer shall submit a written report to Building and Safety indicating that all soil and geological assumptions have been confirmed through observation of the foundation excavations and/or test borings as necessary to provide such confirmation.
8. Should onsite observations reveal adverse or unexpected soil/geological conditions, the Soil engineer shall provide written recommendations to alleviate such conditions and submit to Building and Safety for evaluation.

APPROVED BY

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ara Sargsyan".

Ara Sargsyan
Building Official

Date: 01/04/2024