



# COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

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PLANNING DEPARTMENT  
701 OCEAN STREET, 4<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060  
(831) 454-2580 FAX: (831) 454-2131 TDD: (831) 454-2123

## Soils Report Waiver Requirements:

Waiver of the 2019 California Building Code Section 1803.2 requirement for a geotechnical investigation or soils report is at the discretion of the Planning Department Civil Engineer and will be considered for the following:

- One and two story additions attached to an existing residential single family or duplex structure;
- Conversion of an attached non-habitable space (e.g. garage) to habitable space; or
- One story residences or habitable accessory structures of 4,000 square feet or less in floor area, with non-eccentric loading.

Note: A Soils Report by a California Registered Civil or Geotechnical Engineer is required for detached two story structures either habitable or non-habitable

Requirements for new or existing structures requesting a soil report waiver include:

- Project site slopes no more than 20%;
- No existing cut or fill slopes;
- No proposed cut or fill slopes;
- No mapped or known geologic hazards including liquefaction, landslides, expansive soils, or fault zones;
- Slope setback in conformance with the 2019 California Building Code Section 1808.7 Foundations On or Adjacent to Slopes; and
- No observed structural distress to onsite foundation elements or slabs on grade.

Existing foundation elements supporting attached non-habitable space to be converted to habitable space must meet current building code requirements.

New foundations for structures granted a soils report waiver shall comply with the following:

- In the absence of a Geotechnical Investigation, the maximum allowable soil bearing pressure used for foundation design is 1,500 psf per California Building Code Table 1806.2 for Class 5 soils; and
- All footings shall be a minimum of 12" wide and 18" below undisturbed natural grade for single story; and 15" wide and 24" below undisturbed natural grade for two stories, unless deeper footings are required to satisfy structural requirements.

In seeking a waiver for requirements of the 2019 California Building Code Section 1803.2 – Geotechnical Investigations, it shall be the permit holder's responsibility to submit a request in writing to the Planning Department Civil Engineer; and the permit holder accepts full and absolute responsibility for any adverse consequences of waiving the requirement for a soils report. The request for a Soils Report Waiver should include with a site plan showing the location(s) of the proposed improvement(s).