



County of Santa Cruz

Department of Community Development and Infrastructure

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Soils (Geotechnical) Report Waiver Request for Building Permit Application Submittal

- Applicant

- Applicant's Address

-City, State, and Zip

Assessor's Parcel:

Owner(s):

Project Description:

I am requesting an application for a Soils (Geotechnical) Report Waiver for the above-referenced project description and building permit application. I understand the application for a Soils (Geotechnical) Report Waiver does not guarantee a waiver will be granted. I have reviewed the Soils (Geotechnical) Report Waiver Requirements (page 2) and understand the site condition requirements for requesting a waiver. If the application for a waiver is denied, a Soils (Geotechnical) Report must be prepared by a consulting civil engineer and submitted for review by the County Civil Engineer. This may necessitate redesigning the proposed scope of work submitted under the building permit application. A review fee for the Soils (Geotechnical) Report Review will be required and additional routing(s) during the building permit application review process, with possible revisions to the Soils (Geotechnical) Report and plan sheet(s), will likely be required.

By signing below, I (applicant/owner) acknowledge the above-mentioned risks and hereby request to submit a building permit application(s) with a Soils (Geotechnical) Report Waiver request understanding any or all risks involved.

Applicant Date: _____

Owner* Print Name Date Email

Owner* Print Name Date Email

Owner* Print Name Date Email

*Note: All owners must sign waiver form. Please attach additional sheets if necessary.
(Applicant and Owners must sign document prior to the Project Planner signing to authorize concurrent processing.)

Soils (Geotechnical) Report Waiver Requirements

1. Waiver of the 2022 California Building Code Section 1803.2 requirement for a Soils (Geotechnical) Report is at the discretion of the Planning Department Civil Engineer and will be considered for the following:
 - a. One- and two-story additions attached to an existing residential single family or duplex structure.
 - b. Conversion of an attached non-habitable space (e.g., garage) to habitable space.
 - c. One-story residences or habitable accessory structures of 4,000 square feet or less in floor area, with non-eccentric loading.

2. The project site must meet all the following requirements for approval of a Soils (Geotechnical) Report Waiver:
 - a. Project site is located slopes no greater than 20%;
 - b. No existing cut or fill slopes;
 - c. No proposed cut or fill slopes;
 - d. No mapped or known geologic hazards including liquefaction, landslides, expansive soils, or fault zones;
 - e. Slope setbacks are in conformance with the 2022 California Building Code Section 1808.7 Foundations On or Adjacent to Slopes; and
 - f. No observed structural distress to onsite foundation elements or slabs on grade.
 - g. Existing foundation elements supporting attached non-habitable space to be converted to habitable space must meet current building code requirements.

3. The following conditions shall apply to all foundations for structures granted a Soils (Geotechnical) Report Waiver:
 - a. In the absence of a Soils (Geotechnical) Report, 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
 - b. 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 2022 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 (Geotechnical) report. The request for a Soils (Geotechnical) Report Waiver shall include a site plan showing the location(s) of the proposed improvement(s).