



**BUILDING CODE MANUAL
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
BUILDING AND SAFETY DIVISION**

**1802.1
Article 1
05-13-09
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SOILS INVESTIGATION REQUIREMENTS FOR R-3, R-3.1, R-4 & U OCCUPANCIES

ISSUE:

Section 1802.1 of the 2008 County of Los Angeles Building Code states: "Foundation and soils investigations shall be conducted in conformance with Sections 1802.2 through 1802.8." Section 1802.2 states: "The owner or applicant shall submit a foundation and soils investigation to the building official where required in Sections 1802.2.1 through 1802.2.7." The exception to Section 1802.2 reads: "The building official need not require a foundation or soils investigation where satisfactory data from adjacent areas is available that demonstrates an investigation is not necessary for any of the conditions in Sections 1802.2.1 through 1802.2.6."

The intent of this document is to recognize the County's familiarity with the soil conditions and geotechnical hazards associated with particular areas of the jurisdiction, and to provide criteria for exempting a development of up to three one- and two-story Group R-3, R-3.1, and R-4 occupancies and accessory Group U occupancy from soils investigation (geotechnical report) requirements when not subject to those hazards. The County of Los Angeles uses liquefaction, landslide, and Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone maps created by the State of California's Geological Survey to identify these potential hazards.

POLICY:

A soils investigation for foundation design is not required for the proposed construction of a development of up to three Group R-3, R-3.1, R-4, or Group U occupancies accessory to a Group R-3, R-3.1, or R-4 occupancy unless:

- It is located in a liquefaction, landslide, or Alquist-Priolo earthquake fault zone, or
- It requires a grading permit for the creation of a building pad per BCM J103.2, or
- It is otherwise required by the building official based upon the characteristics of the specific project.

All projects that do not meet the exemption criteria may be referred to Geotechnical Materials Engineering Division (GMED) for further evaluation.

Where a geotechnical report is not required, the foundation design shall meet the appropriate Los Angeles County design requirements as described in:

- Expansive soils per BCM 1805.8, A-1
- Collapsible soils in the Antelope Valley per BCM 1801, A-4
- Unrestrained site retaining walls per BCM 1806.1, A-1

RECOMMENDED BY:

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APPROVED BY:

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Supersedes BCM 1802.1 Article 1 dated 02-11-08.