



**BUILDING CODE MANUAL
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
BUILDING AND SAFETY DIVISION
Based on the 2017 LACBC**

**No. 13
1803.1
Article 1
03-02-17
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**SOILS INVESTIGATION REQUIREMENTS FOR GROUP R-3, R-3.1, R-4 & U
OCCUPANCIES**

ISSUE

Section 1803.1 of the Building Code states: "Geotechnical investigations shall be conducted in accordance with Section 1803.2 and reported in accordance with Section 1803.6. Were required by the building official or where geotechnical investigations involve in-situ testing, laboratory testing, or engineering calculations, such investigations shall be conducted by a registered design professional."

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 the same types of structures as those exempted by the Public Resources Code Sections 2621.6 and 2693.

POLICY

When designed under the Building Code, a soils investigation for foundation design is not required for the proposed construction of a development of up to three 1- and 2-story buildings classified as Group R-3, R-3.1, and R-4 occupancies and/or a building classified as Group U occupancy accessory to Group R-3, R-3.1, or R-4 occupancy unless:

- The building is located in, but not limited to, a liquefaction, landslide, collapsible soil, Alquist-Priolo earthquake fault zone, or Sierra Madre fault zone, or
- It requires a grading permit for the creation of a building pad per BCM J103, Article 1, 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 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 the following policies:

- Expansive soils per BCM 1808.6, Article 1


- Unrestrained site retaining walls per BCM 1807.2, Article1
- Use presumptive load-bearing values of clay, sandy clay, silty clay, clayey silt, silt and sandy silt from Table 1806.2 of the Building Code.

Supersedes BCM 1803.1 Article 1, dated 07-12-11

WRITTEN BY: JEFF LI
Associate Civil Engineer

REVIEWED BY: POLICY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY:



HASSAN ALAMEDDINE
Assistant Deputy Director