INFORMATION BULLETIN / PUBLIC - BUILDING CODE
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SOILS/GEOLOGY REPORT REQUIREMENT WHEN FILING A PARCEL OR TRACT MAP APPLICATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF CITY PLANNING

I. Introduction

This Information Bulletin is intended to clarify when soils and/or geology reports are required to be included as part of the parcel and tract map application processed by the Department of City Planning (DCP). When a project site is located within an Alquist-Priolo Fault Zone, Landslide or Liquefaction seismic hazard zone; a City of Los Angeles Preliminary Fault Rupture Study Area; or, the Hillside Grading Area, soils and/or geologic reports are required **at the time** of application with the DCP. The location of the various seismic hazards (fault zone, liquefaction, earthquake-induced landslides), City of Los Angeles Preliminary Fault Rupture Study Areas, and the Hillside Grading Area (per Special Grading Area [BOE Basic Grid Map A-13372]) are shown on NavigateLA maps; and, are noted in Parcel Profile and Zimas reports. Report requirements for these zones/areas are summarized below. Note: Exemptions from report requirements are explained in Exemptions from Liquefaction, Earthquake Induced Landslide, and Fault-Rupture Hazard Zone Investigations, IB-P-BC 2023-044

II. Liquefaction and Landslide Seismic Hazard Zones

Liquefaction and Earthquake-Induced Landslides zones are established by the State of California per the Seismic Hazard Zonation Program. A soils report is required for sites in liquefaction areas. Both geology and soils (or combined) reports are required for sites within the earthquake-induced landslides zones. See Contents of Reports for Submittal to the LADBS Grading Division, IB-P-BC 2020-113 for guidelines on preparing soils/geology reports. See Slope Stability Evaluation and Acceptance Standards, IB-P-BC 2020-049 for guidelines on preparing reports that address slope stability. The State publication Guidelines for Evaluating and Mitigating Seismic Hazards in California, SP 117A provides more information on seismic hazard evaluations.

III. Surface Fault Rupture Seismic Hazard Zones

Areas with known potential for earthquake surface fault rupture seismic hazards include the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zones, as defined by the State of California (Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zonation Program) and the Preliminary Fault Rupture Study Areas (PFRSA), as defined by the City of Los Angeles. A geology (surface fault rupture hazard investigation) report is required for sites in either of these areas. See Surface Fault Rupture Hazard Investigations, IB-P-BC 2020-129 for guidelines on preparing fault investigations within the City of Los Angeles.

IV. Hillside Grading Area

Sites within the Hillside Grading Area, as shown on the latest Bureau of Engineering Basic Grid Map No. A-13372, will require soils and geology (or combined) reports (see Contents of Reports for Submittal to the LADBS Grading Division, IB-P-BC 2020-113) where significant grading (as determined by the Department) is part of the proposed project. Note: Where significant grading or retaining walls are part of the proposed project, the parcel/tract map shall show the proposed grading.