Building Permits & Inspection Division
Department of Community Development
General Information: (916) 875-5296
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Building Design Criteria

APPLICABLE CODES:

- 2022 California Building Standards Code (California Code of Regulations, Title 24) with Sacramento County Amendments per Title 16 of the Sacramento County Code (see link): Sacramento County - Title 16

  - California Building Code (CBC) Part 2, including Appendix C, H, and P
  - California Residential Code (CRC) Part 2.5, including Appendix AH, AJ, AK, and AZ
  - California Electrical Code (CEC) Part 3
  - California Mechanical Code (CMC) Part 4
  - California Plumbing Code (CPC) Part 5, including Appendix A, B, D, H, I, and J
  - California Energy Code (CEC) Part 6
  - California Historical Building Code (CHBC) Part 8
  - California Existing Building Code (CEBC) Part 10
  - California Green Building Standards Code (CGBSC) Part 11

- 2021 International Swimming Pool and Spa Code, published by ICC
- 2021 International Property Maintenance Code, published by ICC

REFERENCED STRUCTURAL STANDARDS:

- ASCE 7-16 with Supplements 1, 2, and 3 (Minimum Design Loads and Associated Criteria for Buildings and Other Structures)

- Note: See Chapter 35 of the California Building Code (CBC) for other Referenced Standards

SNOW:

Snow loads are not required for the design of structures in the County of Sacramento.

RAIN:

Rain Loads are determined based on the requirements set forth in the ASCE/SEI 7 Standards and the CBC.

- 100-year, hourly rainfall rate: 1.5 inches per hour

WIND:

Wind design is based on the requirements set forth in the CBC, CRC, and ASCE/SEI 7 Standards. The basic design wind speeds are listed below. Note: Lower design wind speeds may be feasible per project specific location.

- 90 mph: Risk Category I
- 95 mph: Risk Category II and Prescriptive CRC
- 105 mph: Risk Category III/IV

SEISMIC:

Earthquake loads are based on the requirements set forth in the CBC, CRC, and ASCE/SEI 7 Standards with designs required to resist the effects of earthquake motions based upon project specific location.

GEOTECHNICAL INVESTIGATIONS (Soils Reports):

Geotechnical investigations are required for new buildings and shall be conducted and reported in accordance with the CBC. For small additions, alterations, minor structures, and prescriptive CRC projects, the following Presumptive Load-Bearing Values may be used without a soils report for shallow foundations on firm, undisturbed, native soil when the designer determines that there is no questionable or expansive soil present. Additionally, in areas likely to have expansive or questionable soil, such as in the Rancho Murieta area, the Building Official may require a soil test.

- Allowable Soil Bearing Pressure: 1500 psf
- Allowable Lateral Bearing Pressure: 100 psf/ft

All geotechnical investigation reports over three years old or referencing a previous code cycle will require a letter or addendum stating that the report is still valid.