

## SOILS REPORT WAIVER REQUEST

*Based on the 2013 CBC/CRC*

The design professional in responsible charge (a CA licensed engineer, architect) may request that the Building Department waive the requirement for a soils investigation (report) based on their observations and professional opinion that the site conditions and proposed construction do not indicate that such a report is necessary. When a CA licensed Geotechnical Engineer is involved in the project, they must conduct the observations and produce the request for waiver - - not the architect or civil engineer.

Refer to the relevant portion of the 2013 California Building Code (CBC) section 1803; sections 1803.2 through 1803.3 in particular. The Investigated Conditions that are required to be addressed in a soils investigation or report are cited in Sections 1803.5.1 through 1803.5.12 of the 2013 CBC.

Answer the questions on page 2 of this form. If the answer to any of the questions in items 2 through 12 is "Yes" then a full soils investigation will be required per code requirements.

### **Do not request a waiver.**

If the answer to all of the questions in items 2 through 12 are "No" then the design professional in responsible charge **must create a formal letter** requesting that the Building Department waive the requirement for a soils investigation (report) based on their observations and professional opinion that the site conditions and proposed construction methods and materials do not indicate that such a report is warranted.

The design professional in responsible charge must have full confidence that the answers are all "No", as the town and the property owner are relying on their observations and conclusions as the basis for the waiver. The potential future liability is obviously squarely on the design professional requesting the waiver. In order to complete a timely review, the letter should be submitted at the time of application along with your other submittal documents.

The waiver request letter must include at least the following content:

- The letter should be addressed to either the Town Engineer, Building Official or designee.
- Date of the letter
- Date of site observations.
- APN #
- Site address
- The owners name and mailing address.
- Statement requesting waiving of CBC 1803.2 requirement for a soils investigation.
- Classification of the soils per item 1 of this policy (CBC 1803.5.1).
- Site, soils and construction observations and explanations in distinct detail pertaining to the "No" answers to appropriate to each of items 2 through 12 of this policy (CBC 1803.5.2 through CBC 1803.5.12).
- Summary statement of the Design Professional in responsible charge's professional opinion that a full soils investigation is not warranted by either the observed conditions at the site, and the scope of the proposed construction, based on the 12 criteria/ items.
- Wet stamp and signature of the CA engineer or architect in responsible charge.
- A copy of this form with the 12 items on page 2 completed.

## Instructions:

The design professional's observations and report need to cover at least these 12 specific code section items of the 2013 CBC:

1. **Classification:** (2013 CBC 1803.5.1)  
Provide a classification of the soil materials in accordance with ASTM D 2487.
2. **Questionable Soil:** (2013 CBC 1803.5.2 )  
Are there soil conditions or evidence with existing structures that indicate soils of questionable bearing capacity? Y or N?  
Are minimum bearing values used in the proposed design in excess of the presumptive values found in 2013 CBC Table 1806.2? Y or N?
3. **Expansive Soil:** (2013 CBC 1803.5.3 )  
Are there soil conditions or evidence with existing structures that indicate expansive soils? Y or N?
4. **Ground-water Table:** (2013 CBC 1803.5.4 )  
Is there evidence of a "high" ground-water table and there will be floor levels below grade? Y or N?
5. **Deep Foundations:** (2013 CBC 1803.5.5)  
Does the design utilize a pile and pier, or other deep foundation method? Y or N?
6. **Rock strata:** (2013 CBC 1803.5.6)  
Are issues indicated with variations or doubtful characteristics in the subsurface rock strata? Y or N?
7. **Excavations Near Foundations:** (2013 CBC 1803.5.7)  
Will there be excavation that will remove lateral support from any foundation? Y or N?
8. **Compacted Fill Material:** (2013 CBC 1803.5.8)  
Will there be shallow foundations bearing on compacted fill more than 12" in depth? Y or N?
9. **Controlled Low-strength Material:** (2013 CBC 1803.5.9)  
Will shallow foundations bear on fill of controlled low-strength material? Y or N?
10. **Alternate Setback and Clearance:** (2013 CBC 1803.5.10)  
For slopes of 33.3% or greater; will the structure be placed on the slope, close to an ascending slope, or close to a descending slope? Y or N?  
Is the proposed setback less than the minimum prescribed in 2013 CBC section 1808.7? Y or N?
11. **Seismic Design Category C through F:** (2013 CBC 1803.5.11)  
Do conditions indicate potential hazards of slope instability, liquefaction, differential settlement or surface rupture due to faulting or lateral spreading? Y or N?
12. **Seismic Design Category D through F:** (2013 CBC 1803.5.12)  
Are foundation walls (stem walls with lateral soil loads of more than 12"), basements, or retaining walls proposed? Y or N?

**Note: When the structure has any of these scenarios, the 4 items listed in 1803.5.12 must be addressed in the soils report; a waiver is not allowed.**

*I have completed the above questionnaire and believe the above questions answers correct:*

*License #*

*Date:*

*Design Professional*

*APN#*