



## Informational Bulletin:

# Liquefaction and Landslides Mitigation

(Updated 6/7/17)

## Background

In response to damaging earthquakes in California, the State Legislature passed the Seismic Hazards Mapping Act in 1990. The Governor signed the Act, codified in the Public Resources Code as Division 2, Chapter 7.8, which became effective on April 1, 1991.

The purpose of the Act is to protect public safety from the effects of strong ground shaking, liquefaction, landslides, ground failures, and other hazards caused by earthquakes. The Act requires that City, County, and State agencies use seismic hazard zone maps developed by the California Department of Conservation, Division of Mines and Geology (DMG) in their land use and permitting process. The Act requires "Projects" within seismic hazard zones to have site-specific geotechnical investigations conducted and mitigation measures, if any, incorporated into the plans. The term "Project" is defined by the Seismic Hazard Mapping Act in Public Resources Code 2693.

## Requirement

Permit applications for any new construction, addition or alteration on a parcel within the areas of potential liquefaction or landslides, according to the seismic hazard zone maps, must be processed with a geotechnical investigation report. Such report must be reviewed and approved by the Public Works Department, Engineering Division, before the approval of construction plans by the Building Division.

Three copies of the geotechnical report must be submitted to the Engineering Division for review prior to construction plans submittal for Building Division review. When the report is submitted along with construction plans and is reviewed concurrently, the plans will not be approved until the report is approved. If the report is required to have changes which in turn require revision to the plans, an additional plan check fee will be assessed in a manner consistent with our standing policy for plan revisions during the plan check process.

The foundation design must be reviewed by the soils engineer or engineering geologist of record for compliance with the recommendations contained in the report. Inspection of the foundation excavation by the soils engineer or engineering geologist of record, if required in the report, must be implemented as a prerequisite for Building Inspector's approval.