



# COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

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## PLANNING DEPARTMENT

701 OCEAN STREET, 4<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060  
(831) 454-2580 FAX: (831) 454-2131 TDD: (831) 454-2123  
PAIA LEVINE, PLANNING DIRECTOR

Date: February 4, 2022  
To: CZU Property Owners and Geotechnical Engineers of Record Subject  
Subject: County review of geotechnical reports for properties within identified CZU Debris Flow Hazard Areas

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Santa Cruz County Code Chapter 16.10 requires that geotechnical reports prepared for development projects in geologically hazardous areas must be found to conform to County report guidelines. Pursuant to County Board of Supervisors direction to streamline the rebuilding process for homes destroyed by the CZU Complex Wildfire, an administrative review procedure to determine compliance with the provisions of County Code Chapter 16.10 is being implemented for the review of rebuild projects that meet both the following criteria:

- Project is located within a designated debris flow hazard area, as depicted on the County of Santa Cruz Geographic Information System layer "CZU Potential Debris Flow Hazard Areas", and;
- The Geologic Hazard Clearance issued by County geologic staff for the proposed project scope indicates no geology report is required to address any geologic hazards on the site, provided that any identified debris flow hazard is addressed by the project engineer of record.

County geologic staff have prepared a list of considerations for engineers preparing geotechnical reports for properties meeting these criteria, titled *Preparation of Geotechnical Reports Within Identified CZU Debris Flow Hazard Areas* (attached). Geotechnical reports for these projects that are submitted to the County for acceptance in compliance with County Code Chapter 16.10 must include the cover sheet *CZU Debris Flow Hazard – Geotechnical Engineer of Record Statement* (attached) signed and stamped by the Geotechnical engineer-of-record. The purpose of the cover sheet is to confirm that the project professional has considered the debris flow hazard and provided design recommendations for mitigation.

Geotechnical reports submitted without the *CZU Debris Flow Hazard – Geotechnical Engineer of Record Statement* cover sheet will not be accepted. (NOTE: In the case where the property owner has elected to take advantage of the CZU Directive, and as a result the rebuild project is not subject to County Code 16.10, the geotechnical report is submitted with the building permit application for review by the Recovery Permit Center for compliance with the California Building Code, and a *CZU Debris Flow Hazard – Geotechnical Engineer of Record Statement* form is not required.)

Questions may be emailed to [Carolyn.Burke@santacruzcounty.us](mailto:Carolyn.Burke@santacruzcounty.us).

Sincerely,

Carolyn Burke  
Senior Civil Engineer,  
County of Santa Cruz - Environmental Planning

Attachments:

*Preparation of Geotechnical Reports Within Identified CZU Debris Flow Hazard Areas*  
*CZU Debris Flow Hazard – Geotechnical Engineer of Record Statement*