



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

701 OCEAN STREET, 4TH FLOOR, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060
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TOM BURNS, PLANNING DIRECTOR

Requests for Code Modification or Alternate Materials, Methods of Design or Methods of Construction

Purpose:

The Building Official may approve modifications to the requirements of adopted/referenced codes and standards where special individual reasons exist that make strict compliance impractical. The authority allows demonstration of equivalent protection for the health, life safety, fire safety and structural requirements by meeting the intent and purpose of the code.

The Building Official may also permit the use of an alternate material, method of design or method of construction for innovative ideas or technological advances not specifically regulated in the code. This authority allows approvals of alternatives that are equivalent to code accepted methods for seven areas: suitability, strength, effectiveness, fire resistance, durability, safety and sanitation.

Procedure:

The project design professional will need to complete and submit the related Department form with all supporting documentation. The designer may submit the request before, with or after any application or approval for the related construction permit.

After submission, Department staff will review the request for clarity and completeness of information and determine if any testing is required to substantiate the request. Department staff will then notify the project design professional when the application is complete for processing or if testing is required.

After the application is considered complete, Department staff will complete their review and make an initial determination whether to approve or deny the request. After this review, if denied, the project design professional may request an informal conference with the Building Official to discuss the decision. If unsatisfied, the project design professional has the right to appeal the decision to the Building, Accessibility and Fire Code Appeals Board.

Application for Request for Approval of Alternate Materials, Designs, Tests and Methods of Construction

County of Santa Cruz Ordinance 12.10.420(f), California Building Code, Section 108.7, California Plumbing Code, Section 301.2, California Mechanical Code, Section 108.7 and California Electrical Code, Article 89.108.7 provide for the approval of alternate materials, designs, tests and methods of construction.

Under the authority of CBC, UPC, UMC & NEC, the undersigned requests approval of alternate materials, alternate design and methods of construction for:

Project Name: _____ **Application No.:** _____

Project Address: _____ **A.P.N.:** _____

Occupancy Group _____ **Type of Construction** _____ **Sprinklers (Y/N)** _____ **No. of Stories** _____

Floor Area: _____ **Tenant Area:** _____

Describe Use: _____

Subject of Alternative (a separate form should be filled out for each alternative item):
A brief description of the item must be included here even if additional documents are attached.

Code Requirement (Specify Code Section):

Alternate Proposed (A brief description of the item must be included here even if additional documents are attached.):

Justification: (Attach copies of any reference, test reports, expert opinions, etc. The Chief Building Official may require that a consultant be hired by the applicant to perform all applicable test, research and analysis and submit a full report of evaluation to the Building Division for consideration and approval)

Requested By:

Print Owners Name & Signature (Required)

Contact Phone No.:

Project Design Professional Wet Stamp and Signature:

Application for Request for Approval of Alternate Materials, Designs, Tests and Methods of Construction

Staff Use Only:

The Building Official finds that the subject application for approval of alternative materials, design, tests and methods of construction includes sufficient evidence that the proposed design complies with the intent of the provisions of the current code and the material or method proposed is equivalent to the code provisions for:

- 1. Suitability
- 2. Strength
- 3. Effectiveness
- 4. Fire resistance
- 5. Durability
- 6. Safety
- 7. Sanitation

Upon approval, all the features of the approved application (Including a copy of the application) shall be incorporated into the drawing/permanent file.

Approved **Denied (see appeal information below)**

By:

Date:

DISCLAIMER:

Applicants for Alternate Materials, Alternate Design and Methods of Construction shall note that the approval of the proposal is based on the factual documentation provided in support of the alternate at the time of approval. If at any point during the review or inspection process, the building official notices deviations from the original application, the approval becomes null and void. At that time, the applicant has to either revert to the original proposal or file a new application based on the revised plans.

For Alternate proposals processed prior to submittal of a full set of plans the approval is only in concept. The approval needs to be validated after submittal of all construction documents.

Right to Appeal

Determinations of the Building Official regarding alternative materials are appealable to the Building, Accessibility and Fire Code Appeals Board. Please refer to the attached brochure for information regarding how to file an appeal.