



**BUILDING CODE MANUAL
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
BUILDING AND SAFETY DIVISION
Based on the 2011 LACBC**

**#11
1609.1.1
Article 1
06-14-11
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ASCE 7-05 SPECIAL WIND REGION LOADS

ISSUE.

Section 1609 covers the application of wind loads to building, structures, and parts thereof. The Building Code references ASCE 7-05 Chapter 6, and also provides Figure 1609, which specifies the basic wind speed (3-second gust) for the United States. Hatched areas of Figure 1609 are designated “special wind regions” and note number four to the figure requires special wind regions to be examined for unusual wind conditions.

According to Figure 1609, the southern part of Los Angeles County is labeled as “special wind region” requiring more attention. Therefore, the Structural Engineers Association of Southern California (SEAOSC) Ad-Hoc Wind Committee performed an extensive and detailed analysis titled, “Study of Historical and Design Wind Speeds in the Los Angeles Area,”¹ and recommended that an 85 mph (3-second gust) wind speed be used in the design of all buildings, structures, and parts thereof throughout Los Angeles County. In addition, the current Building Code addresses the local topographic effects, and as such may increase the design wind force accordingly.

POLICY:

Buildings, structures, and parts thereof shall be designed to withstand a minimum wind load based on an 85 mph (3-second gust) basic wind speed throughout Los Angeles County, including the “special wind region” as recommended by SEAOSC Ad-Hoc Wind Committee’s “Study of Historical and Design Wind Speeds in the Los Angeles Area”¹ unless and until such time that sufficient meteorological data indicate that an increase beyond 85 mph would be both justifiable and reasonable.

Supersedes BCM 1609 1.1 Article 1 dated 7-29-10

¹ Study of Historical and Design Wind Speeds in the Los Angeles Area, June 19, 2010 by Structural Engineers Association of Southern California (SEAOSC) Ad-Hoc Wind Committee

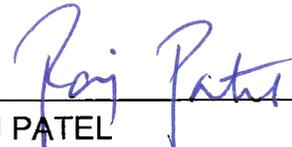
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