

ADMINISTRATIVE MANUAL  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
GEOTECHNICAL AND MATERIALS ENGINEERING DIVISION

GS004.0

## GRADING IN AREAS SUBJECT TO GEOTECHNICAL HAZARDS

The Geotechnical Development Review Units review tentative subdivision maps, plans, and supporting geotechnical documents for those maps and plans. Often these maps and plans depict grading in areas that may be geotechnically unstable. For the purpose of this directive, geotechnically unstable is defined as factors of safety for gross static stability less than 1.5 and pseudostatic stability less than 1.1.

Section 110.2.2 of the 2014 County of Los Angeles Building Code states that, except as provided in Section 110.2.3, work requiring a building or grading permit by this Code is not permitted in an area determined by the Building Official to be subject to hazard from landslide, settlement, or slippage. Section 110.2.3.2 indicates that if the Building Official determines that the work is safe for the intended use, grading may be approved in an area subject to geotechnical instability.

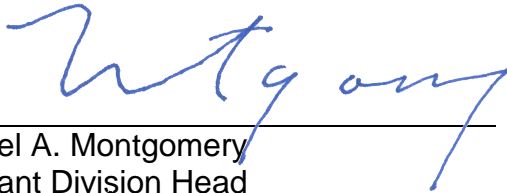
Grading may be allowed in geotechnically unstable areas, under special circumstances and on a case-by-case basis, when the geotechnical consultants can support with statements and analyses that the proposed work will comply with all of the following:

- The proposed grading will not worsen the overall stability of the area.
- Adjacent properties will not be impacted.
- Any proposed or existing structures and associated infrastructure will be free from landslide, settlement, and slippage.
- The area of geotechnical instability is contained to one existing/proposed lot.
- Change in use will not worsen the geotechnical stability of the area (e.g., irrigation, onsite sewage disposal).

Tentative subdivision map and grading plan submittals that request grading approval in geotechnically unstable areas shall be discussed with the supervisors of the Geotechnical Development Review Units and either the Building Official (for single-lots) or the Land Development Division Subdivision Mapping Section.

Areas with factors of safety for gross static stability less than 1.5 and pseudostatic stability less than 1.1 must be designated as "Restricted Use Areas" (for subdivisions of land) on the Final Map or "Building Setback" (for single lots) on the Grading Plans. See GS063.0 and GS064.0 for further details.

Approved By:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Montgomery", written over a horizontal line.

Michael A. Montgomery  
Assistant Division Head