



County of Santa Cruz
Community Development & Infrastructure
701 Ocean Street 4th Floor, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
www.sccoplanning.com

Alternate Design, Material or Construction Method

Form
PLG-270
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Rev 10/15/22

The preparer is legally responsible for signatures whether a graphic, typewritten, or handwritten. Documents may not be restricted by digital signatures or otherwise.

| | |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| Project Information | Permit No. _____ |
|----------------------------|------------------|

| | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| APN: _____ | Date: _____ | |
| Project Address: _____ | | |
| Construction Type: _____ | Number of Stories: _____ | Floor Area (sf): _____ |
| Occupancy Type: _____ | Fire Sprinklers (yes or no): _____ | Tenant Area (sf): _____ |

Under the authority of the California Building Code, Plumbing Code, Mechanical Code, Electrical Code, and Green Building Code, the undersigned requests approval of alternate materials, alternate design and methods of construction.

Describe Use: **Briefly explain**

Specify Codes: **Reference codes that are applicable**

Alternate Proposed: **Briefly describe, even if documents are attached**

Justification: **Briefly describe, even if documents are attached, include any references, test reports, expert opinions, etc.**

Requested By **Please print name, sign, & enter date**

| | | |
|--|------------------|-------------|
| Owner | | |
| Name: _____ | Signature: _____ | Date: _____ |
| Contractor | | |
| Name: _____ | Signature: _____ | Date: _____ |
| Design Professional in Responsible Charge | | |
| Name: _____ | Signature: _____ | Date: _____ |
| Stamp of Licensed Professional if applicable | | |

Determination **Internal Use Only**

| | | |
|---|------------------|-------------|
| Building Official | | |
| Name: _____ | Signature: _____ | Date: _____ |
| Findings Describe below | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Denied (appeal information below) | | |



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.

Conditions of Approval

The application to use an alternate design, material and/or construction method may be approved if sufficient evidence is provided that demonstrates:

- The proposed design complies with the intent of current code provisions.
- The proposed material or construction method is equivalent to code requirements in: **Suitability, Strength, Effectiveness, Fire Resistance, Durability, Safety, and Sanitation**
- All features of the approved application, including a copy of the application, must be incorporated into the drawings.
- **Disclaimer.** Applicants must recognize that approval of the proposal for Alternate Design, Material, and Method of Construction is based on the documentation provided 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. The applicant will then need to either revert to the original proposal or file a new application based on 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.
