CODE MODIFICATIONS & ALTERNATE MATERIALS, DESIGNS OR METHODS CNI-008

PURPOSE

The purpose of this application document is to allow applicants and design professionals to document requests for modifications in compliance with the strict letter of the applicable code, or to propose acceptable justification for compliance of an alternate material, design or method of construction.

TECHNICAL DETAILS

Background

The California Building Code (CBC) Section 104.1 grants the building official authorization and direction to enforce the provisions of the California Building Code and all referenced associated codes. The purpose of these codes is to establish minimum requirements to provide a reasonable level of safety, health and general welfare, through structural strength, means of egress, stability, sanitation, light and ventilation, and energy conservation (CBC 101.3). The building official has the authority to render interpretations and adopt policies and procedures to clarify the application of code provisions; however, these shall not have the effect of waiving requirements specifically provided for in these codes (CBC 104.2).

When there are practical difficulties involved with carrying out the provisions of these codes, the building official has the authority to grant modifications for individual cases. The applicant must first demonstrate that there is a special individual reason which makes the strict letter of the code impractical, and that the proposed modification is in accordance with the intent and purpose of this code and that such modification does not lessen health, accessibility, life safety, fire safety, or structural requirements. (CBC 104.2.4)

An applicant may propose to install a material, or utilize a design methodology or method of construction, that is not specifically prescribed in the code, and these shall be approved when determined the alternative is satisfactory. Appropriate justification shall be provided to demonstrate that the proposed alternative complies with the intent of the code; and also is equivalent, for the purpose intended, in terms of quality, strength, effectiveness, fire resistance, durability, and safety. Supporting data shall consist of valid research and reports from approved sources. Tests shall be conducted in accordance with recognized and accepted test standards. (CBC 104.2.3)

The review of these requests will incur additional fees assessed on an hourly basis, regardless of the approvability of the application. Fees will be per the current fee schedule, and assessed fees shall be paid prior to the continuation of the Building Plan Check process.

On the following pages, please indicate if a request for a code modification (per CBC Section 104.10) or a request for an alternative design, material, or method of construction (per CBC Section 104.11) is being submitted. In the text boxes, provide appropriate and adequate text justification or reference uploaded attachments that justify the equivalency with code requirements as it pertains to each aspect of the proposed design or element

Modification Request (CBC 104.2.4

Please identify below the specific code section(s) for which an application for code modification is being applied:

Please identify the special individual reason that makes compliance to the strict letter of the code impractical:

Please provide appropriate justification demonstrating the proposed modification is in accordance with the intent and purpose of the code and does not lessen health, accessibility, life safety, fire safety, or structural requirements. Include additional flood hazard area justification requirements of CBC 104.10.1:

Alternative Material, Design or Method of Construction Request (CBC 104.2.3)

Please identify the specific code section(s) identifying requirements for which the alternative is being proposed:

Please provide appropriate justification identifying the proposed alternative material, design or method of construction is satisfactory and complies with the intent of the code:

Please submit appropriate documentation justifying the material, method or work offered is, for the purpose intended, not less than the equivalent of that prescribed in the code as it pertains to the following:

1. **Quality:**

2. **Strength:**

3. Effectiveness:

4. Fire Safety:

5. Durability:

6. Safety:

Applicant Information

Date of Application: _____

Project Scope:

Permit Application number:

Name of applicant:

Contact Information (phone/email):

Applicant Signature: _____

TO BE COMPLETED BY PERMIT SONOMA STAFF

Date of Approval or Denial: _____

Signature: _____

Conditions of approval:

Reasons for denial: