



# **TECHNICAL BULLETIN**

## **PERMIT AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT**

B-29X

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### ***Wind Design Criteria***

#### **INTRODUCTION**

For buildings of conventional light-frame construction conformance with the prescriptive requirements contained in the California Building Code (CBC) Chapter 23, Division IV is evidence of compliance with the wind load design requirements of Chapter 16 Div III.

The minimum basic wind speed at any site shall be 80 miles per hour. The wind design shall comply with Exposure C requirements.

#### **TECHNICAL DETAILS**

Where wind design is required for structures other than conventional light-frame construction, or those buildings or portions of buildings of light-frame construction which are not considered conventional, the design shall indicate compliance with CBC Chapter 16. Judgement in the application of these provisions is essential.

In the determination of Exposure the design professional's judgement will generally be accepted. Documentation of exposure may be requested where personal knowledge or other evidence indicates the exposure is incorrect.

#### **GLOSSARY**

**Basic Wind Speed:** is the fastest-mile wind speed associated with an annual probability of 0.02 measured at a point 33 feet above the ground for an area having Exposure C category.

**Exposure B:** has terrain with buildings, forest or surface irregularities, covering at least 20% of the ground level area extending one mile or more from the site.

**Exposure C:** has terrain that is flat and generally open extending ½ mile or more from the site in any full quadrant.

**Exposure D:** represents the most severe exposure in areas with Basic Wind Speeds of 80 miles per hour or greater and has terrain that is flat and unobstructed facing large bodies of water over one mile or more in width relative to any quadrant of the building site. Exposure D extends inland from the shoreline 1/4 mile.

## REFERENCES

1998 California Building Code, Chapter 16 Div III

1998 California Building Code, Chapter 23 Div IV

Sonoma County Residential Construction Handbook Section 1, Appendix 2

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