A. General

Applicable codes. All projects shall comply with the *2016 California Building Code* (CBC), *California Plumbing Code* (CPC), 2016 California Fire Code (CFC), 2016 California Mechanical Code (CMC), 2013 California Electrical Code (CEC), 2016 California Residential Code (CRC), 2016 California Energy Code (CEnC), and the *California Green Building Standards Code* (CALGreen), all as adopted by the County of San Diego ordinances.

B. Definitions

Accessible. Accessible to persons with disabilities.

Accessory building. A building, the use of which is incidental to that of the main building on the same lot.

Addition. Any construction which increases the size of a building or structure in terms of site coverage, height, length, width or gross floor area.

Alteration. Any construction or change in the arrangement of rooms or the type, construction or purpose of a building or structure.

Approved. Approved by the Building Official or other authority having jurisdiction.

Area, building. The area included within surrounding exterior walls (or exterior walls and fire walls) of a building exclusive of vent shafts and courts. Areas of the building not provided with surrounding walls shall be included in the building area if such areas are included within the horizontal projection of the roof or floor above.

Basement. That portion of a building between floor and ceiling which is partly below and partly above grade but so located that the vertical distance from grade to the floor below is less than the vertical distance from grade to ceiling.

Building. Any structure used or intended for supporting or sheltering any use or occupancy.

Building, existing. A building erected prior to the date of adoption of these regulations, or one for which a legal building permit has been issued.

Building Official. The Director of Planning & Development Services or his authorized representative.

Ceiling height. The clear vertical distance from the finished floor to the finished ceiling. Beams or girders spaced less than 4 feet on center may be included in the ceiling height.

Conditioned space. An area or room within a building being heated or cooled, containing uninsulated ducts, or with a fixed opening directly into an adjacent conditioned space.

Dwelling unit. A building or portion of a building containing one or more rooms with bathroom and kitchen facilities designed for occupancy by one family for living and sleeping purposes.

Efficiency dwelling unit. A dwelling unit containing only one habitable room plus facilities for bathing, sanitation, cooking and sleeping.

Emergency escape and rescue opening. An operable exterior window, door or other similar device that provides for a means of escape and access for rescue in the event of an emergency.

Habitable space. Space in a building for living, sleeping, eating or cooking. Bathrooms, toilet rooms, closets, halls, storage or utility spaces and similar areas are not considered habitable space.

Hazardous occupancy. Those occupancies classified as Group H by the California Building Code.

Health officer. The Director of Environmental Health or his authorized representative.

Heated space. Space within a building which is provided with a heating system capable of maintaining a room temperature of 60°F (16°C) at the design heating conditions.

Lot. A parcel of land occupied or to be occupied by a building and its accessory buildings, or by a dwelling group and its accessory buildings, including such open spaces as are required by this code, and such open spaces as may be required by the zoning regulations, and having its principal frontage upon a street or officially approved place.

Lot line, front. For an interior lot, the lot line adjoining the street. For a corner lot, the shortest lot line adjoining a street. For a through lot, both lot lines adjoining streets are front lot lines.

Lot line, rear. The lot line not intersecting a front lot line which is most distant from and most closely parallel to the front lot line. A triangular lot shall have a rear lot line not less than 10 feet (3048 mm) long lying wholly within the lot and parallel to the front lot line or, if the front lot line is curved, parallel to a chord of the front lot line.

Lot line, side. Any lot line not a front or rear lot line.

Lot, through. A lot having a pair of opposite lot lines abutting two streets and which is not a corner lot.

Occupancy. The purpose for which a building, or part thereof, is used or intended to be used.

Occupied space. The total area of all habitable rooms in a building.

Owner. Any person, agent, firm or corporation having a legal or equitable interest in the property.

Person. An individual, firm, corporation, association or partnership, and its agents or assigns.

Premises. A lot, plot or parcel of land including the buildings or structures thereon.

Roof assembly. The system of the roof deck, vapor retarder, substrate or thermal barrier, insulation, coverboard, waterproofing membrane, roof covering and any roof appurtenances.

Roof deck. The substrate or floor panel above the framing supporting the roof assembly.

Roof, flat. A roof having a slope less than a unit vertical in 12 units horizontal (1:12 or 5 percent).

Roof, low-slope. A roof having a slope less than a unit vertical in 4 units horizontal (1:4 or 25 percent).

Roof, steep-slope. A roof having a slope of a unit vertical in 4 units horizontal (1:4 or 25 percent) or greater.

Roof, sloped. A roof having a slope of a unit vertical in 2 units horizontal (1:2 or 50 percent) or greater.

Roof, unoccupied. A roof not used for human occupancy other than for maintenance or repair or occasional access.

Roof, vegetated. A roof with growing media and plants over the waterproofing membrane.

Roof, wood-framed. A roof with wood framing members supporting the roof deck.

Roofing, built-up. A roofing system consisting of multiple layers of felts, coated felts, fabrics or mats between which bitumen is applied, finished with a surfacing material.

Roofing, liquid-applied. A roofing system consisting of multiple layers of liquid-applied materials reinforced with fabrics or mats.

Roofing, modified bitumen. A roofing system consisting of one or more layers of polymer-modified bitumen sheets.

Roofing, single-ply. A roofing system consisting of a factory-applied, non-bituminous polymeric membrane.

Roofing, spray polyurethane foam. A roofing system consisting of a layer of spray-applied polyurethane foam insulation and a fluid-applied protective coating.

Roofing, thermoset single-ply. A roofing system consisting of a factory-applied, non-bituminous polymeric membrane that is cured or vulcanized during manufacturing.

Roofing, thermoplastic single-ply. A roofing system consisting of a factory-applied, non-bituminous polymeric membrane that is not cured or vulcanized during manufacturing.

Roofing, weathering. A roofing system consisting of a factory-applied, mineral-surfaced, bituminous membrane.

Roofing, wood shingle. A roofing system consisting of overlapping wood shingles.

Roofing, wood shake. A roofing system consisting of overlapping wood shakes.

Room. A space within a building, enclosed by walls, floor and ceiling, and having a minimum area of 70 square feet (6.5 m²).

Sleeping room. A room designed for occupancy by one or more persons for the purpose of sleeping.

Story. That portion of a building between the upper surface of any floor and the upper surface of the floor next above, except that the topmost story shall be that portion of a building between the upper surface of the topmost floor and the ceiling or roof above. If a finished floor level directly above a basement, cellar or unused underfloor space is more than 6 feet (1829 mm) above grade as defined herein for more than 50 percent of the total perimeter or is more than 12 feet (3658 mm) above grade as defined herein at any point, such basement, cellar or unused underfloor space shall be considered a story.

Story above grade plane. Any story having its finished floor surface entirely above grade plane, or any story having its finished floor surface not more than 6 feet (1829 mm) below grade plane, for more than 50 percent of the total perimeter, or more than 12 feet (3658 mm) below grade plane, at any point.

Story, first. The lowest story in a building which is not a basement or cellar.

Structure. That which is built or constructed, an edifice or building of any kind or any piece of work artificially built up or composed of parts joined together in some manner and which requires location on the ground or which is attached to something having location on the ground.

Townhouse. A single-family dwelling unit constructed in a group of three or more attached units in which each unit extends from the foundation to the roof and has a yard or public way on not less than two sides.

C. Permits

Permit required. Any person, firm or corporation intending to construct, enlarge, alter, repair, move, demolish, or change the occupancy of a building or structure, or any mechanical, plumbing, or electrical system, or to erect, install, enlarge, alter, repair, remove, convert or replace any gas, mechanical, plumbing or electrical system, the installation of which is regulated by this code, or to cause any such work to be done, shall first make application to the Building Official and obtain the required permit for the work.

Work exempt from permit. Exemptions from permit requirements of this code shall not be deemed to grant authorization for any work to be done in any manner in violation of the provisions of this code or any other laws or ordinances of this jurisdiction. Permits shall not be required for the following. Building permits, however, shall be required for any work that constitutes a hazard to life, health or public welfare, or that is regulated by any provision of the California Building Standards Code, or that is not specifically exempted.

Exempted work. One-story detached accessory buildings used as tool and storage sheds, playhouses and similar uses, provided the floor area does not exceed 120 square feet (11 m²).

Fences. Fences not over 6 feet (1829 mm) high.

Oil derricks.

Retaining walls. Retaining walls that are not over 4 feet (1219 mm) in height measured from the footing to the top of the wall, unless they support a surcharge or impounding Class I, II or IIIA liquids.

Water tanks. Water tanks supported directly upon grade if the capacity is not more than 5,000 gallons (18 925 L) and the ratio of height to diameter or width does not exceed 2:1.

Sidewalks and driveways. Sidewalks and driveways not more than 30 inches (762 mm) above adjacent grade, and not over any basement or story below, and not part of an accessible route.

Painting, papering, tiling, carpeting, cabinets and countertops.

Prefabricated swimming pools. Prefabricated swimming pools accessory to a Group R-3 occupancy which are less than 24 inches (610 mm) deep, do not exceed 5,000 gallons (18 925 L) in capacity and are installed entirely above ground.

Swings and other playground equipment.

Window awnings. Window awnings supported by an exterior wall of a Group R-3 or U occupancy when projecting not more than 54 inches (1372 mm) from the exterior wall and when not supported by cables.

Decks. Decks not exceeding 200 square feet (18.58 m²) in area, that are not more than 30 inches above grade at any point, are not attached to a dwelling and do not serve the exit door required for the dwelling.

Public utility. Work performed by a public utility, under the jurisdiction of the California Public Utilities Commission, on its property, poles, towers, transmission lines, or equipment installed under its franchise, or on private property under agreement with the owner, for the purpose of the generation, transmission, distribution or metering of gas, electricity, or communications, or the operation of railroad signals, or the operation of railroad equipment other than buildings.

Temporary motion picture, television and theater stage sets and scenery.

Prefabricated storage sheds. Prefabricated storage sheds not exceeding 200 square feet (18.58 m²) in area, that are not more than 8 feet (2438 mm) high, are not attached to a dwelling and are located more than 5 feet (1524 mm) from the property line.

Temporary use. Temporary use authorized by the Director of Planning & Development Services.

Work in the right-of-way. Work in the right-of-way of a public road or highway, or in a public easement, which is under the jurisdiction of the County of San Diego, Department of Public Works.

Work on private property. Work on private property which is not in the right-of-way of a public road or highway, or in a public easement, which is under the jurisdiction of the County of San Diego, Department of Public Works.

Application for permit. To obtain a permit, the applicant shall first file an application therefor in writing on a form furnished by the department for that purpose. Every such application shall:

1. Identify and describe the work to be covered by the permit for which application is made.
2. Describe the land on which the proposed work is to be done by legal description, street address or similar description that will readily identify and definitely locate the proposed building or work.
3. Indicate the use or occupancy for which the proposed work is intended.
4. Be accompanied by plans, diagrams, computations and specifications and other data as required in Section 106.3.2 of this code.
5. State the valuation of the proposed work.
6. Be signed by the applicant, or the applicant's authorized agent.
7. Give such other data and information as required by the Building Official.

Validity of permit. The issuance or granting of a permit or approval of plans and specifications shall not be construed to be a permit for, or an approval of, any violation of any of the provisions of this code or any other ordinance of the jurisdiction. Permits presuming to give authority to violate or cancel the provisions of this code or other ordinances of the jurisdiction shall not be valid.

Expiration. Every permit issued by the Building Official under the provisions of this code shall expire by limitation and become null and void if the building or work authorized by such permit is not commenced within 180 days from the date of such permit, or if the building or work authorized by such permit is suspended or abandoned at any time after the work is commenced for a period of 180 days (unless a longer time is approved by the Building Official). Before such work can be recommenced, a new permit shall be first obtained and the fee therefor shall be one-half the amount required for a new permit for such work, provided no changes have been made or will be made in the original plans and specifications for such work, and provided further that such suspension or abandonment has not exceeded one year. In order to renew action on a permit after expiration, the permittee shall pay a new full permit fee.

Extensions of time. The Building Official is authorized to grant, in writing, one or more extensions of time, for periods not more than 180 days each. The extension shall be requested in writing and justifiable cause demonstrated.

Suspension or revocation. The Building Official may, in writing, suspend or revoke a permit issued under the provisions of this code whenever the permit is issued in error or on the basis of incorrect information supplied, or in violation of any ordinance or regulation or any provisions of this code.

Placement of permit. The building permit or copy shall be kept on the site of the building or work at all times during which construction activity is taking place, and shall be open to inspection by the Building Official or his authorized representative.

Conditions of permit. The permit shall contain a general provision requiring the work to be done in accordance with all pertinent laws, ordinances, rules and regulations of the jurisdiction.

Plan review. Plans, engineering calculations, diagrams and other data for buildings or structures regulated by this code shall be submitted in two or more sets with each application for a permit. The Building Official may require plans, computations and specifications to be prepared and designed by an engineer or architect licensed by the State of California to practice as such. The Building Official may require plans to be submitted in electronic format.

Retention of plans. One set of approved plans, specifications and computations shall be retained by the Building Official for a period of not less than 90 days from date of completion of the work covered therein; and one set of approved plans and specifications shall be returned to the applicant and shall be kept on the building site of the work at all times during which the work authorized thereby is in progress.

Validity. The invalidity of any section or provision of this code shall not affect the validity of any other part of this code which can be given effect without such invalid part or parts.

Liability. The building official, officer or employee charged with the enforcement of this code, while acting for the jurisdiction, shall not thereby be rendered liable personally, and is hereby relieved from all personal liability for any damage accruing to persons or property as a result of any act required or permitted in the discharge of official duties. Any suit instituted against any officer or employee because of an act performed by that officer or employee in the lawful discharge of duties and under the provisions of this code shall be defended by the legal representative of the jurisdiction until the final termination of the proceedings. In no case shall any such officer or employee be subject to personal liability for damages resulting from reasonable acts required or permitted in the discharge of official duties pursuant to this code.

Fees. Fees shall be assessed for the work governed by this code in accordance with the schedule of fees adopted by the jurisdiction. The payment of such fees shall not relieve any person from fulfilling all requirements of this code.

Work commencing before permit issuance. Any person who commences any work before obtaining the necessary permits shall be subject to an additional fee established by the Building Official, which shall be in addition to the required permit fees.

Investigation fees: work without a permit. Whenever any work for which a permit is required by this code has been commenced without first obtaining said permit, a special investigation shall be made before a permit may be issued for such work. An investigation fee, in addition to the permit fee, shall be collected whether or not a permit is then or subsequently issued. The investigation fee shall be equal to the amount of the permit fee required by this code. For emergency work commenced without a permit, the investigation fee shall be equal to the amount of the permit fee required by this code. The minimum investigation fee shall be the same as the minimum fee set forth in the fee schedule adopted by the jurisdiction. The payment of such investigation fee shall not exempt any person from compliance with all other provisions of this code nor from any penalty prescribed by law.

Fee refunds. The Building Official may authorize the refunding of not more than 80 percent of the permit fee paid when no work has been done under a permit issued in accordance with this code. The Building Official may authorize the refunding of not more than 80 percent of the plan review fee paid when an application for a permit for which a plan review fee has been paid is withdrawn or canceled before any plan review is done. The Building Official shall not authorize refunding of any fee paid except on written application filed by the original permittee not later than 180 days after the date of fee payment.

D. Foundation and Underfloor (Continued)

Wall anchorage. Wood sills shall be bolted or anchored to concrete or masonry walls with minimum 1/2-inch-diameter (12.7 mm) anchor bolts spaced not more than 6 feet (1829 mm) on center. There shall be a minimum of two bolts per piece with one bolt located within 12 inches (305 mm) of each end of the piece. Bolts shall be embedded at least 7 inches (178 mm) into concrete or masonry. Sole plates of cripple walls shall be anchored to the foundation as required for sills. Anchor bolts shall be provided at each end of a sole plate that is part of a braced wall panel