

# Attachment A

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**ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNTY OF MONTEREY, STATE OF CALIFORNIA,  
AMENDING TITLE 18 OF THE MONTEREY COUNTY CODE TO REPEAL THE 2022  
CALIFORNIA BUILDING STANDARDS CODE WITH LOCAL AMENDMENTS AND  
ADOPT THE 2025 CALIFORNIA BUILDING STANDARDS CODE WITH LOCAL  
AMENDMENTS**

**County Counsel Summary**

*This ordinance amends the Monterey County Code to repeal the 2022 California Building Standards Code with County amendments and adopt the 2025 California Building Standards Code with County amendments to form the Building Standards Code of Monterey County. The 2025 California Building Standards Code, applicable throughout California, becomes effective as of January 1, 2026. This ordinance adopts the state standards with more restrictive local amendments applicable in the unincorporated area of Monterey County based on express findings that the County amendments are reasonably necessary because of local climatic, geological, and topographical conditions.*

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Monterey ordains as follows:

**SECTION 1. FINDINGS AND DECLARATIONS.**

A. Pursuant to Article XI, section 7 of the California Constitution, the County of Monterey may adopt and enforce ordinances and regulations not in conflict with general laws to protect and promote the public health, safety, and welfare of its citizens.

B. The 2025 California Building Standards Code contain building standards that establish the minimum requirements to safeguard the public health, safety and general welfare through structural strength, means of egress facilities, stability, sanitation, adequate light and ventilation, energy conservation and safety to life and property from fire, earthquakes, flood and other human-made and natural hazards, and to provide safety to firefighters and emergency responders during emergency operations.

C. The 2025 California Building Standards Code includes the 2025 California Building Code, 2025 California Residential Code, 2025 California Electrical Code, 2025 California Mechanical Code, 2025 California Plumbing Code, 2025 California Energy Code, 2025 California Historical Building Code, 2025 California Fire Code, 2025 California Existing Building Code, 2025 California Green Building Standards Code, and the 2025 California Reference Standards Code.

D. State law requires that the 2025 California Building Standards Code become effective throughout the state 180 days after its publication, which is not later than January 1, 2026.

E. California Health and Safety Code sections 13869.7, 17958.7 and 18941.5 provide that the governing body of the local government may make changes or modifications to the California Building Standards Code based upon express findings that such changes or modifications are reasonably necessary because of local climatic, geological or topographical conditions, provided that such changes or modifications are more restrictive building standards than those contained in the California Building Standards Code.

F. Pursuant to AB 130 (2025), and the amendments to California Health and Safety Code Sections made thereunder, from October 1, 2025 to June 1, 2031, cities and counties are generally prohibited from making certain changes to said codes unless, among other qualifying conditions, the changes or modifications are substantially equivalent to changes or modifications that were previously filed by the governing body of the city or county and were in effect as of September 30, 2025.

G. The Board of Supervisors desires to adopt the 2025 California Building Standards Code with changes or modifications based upon express findings that such changes or modifications are reasonably necessary because of local climatic, geological or topographical conditions, and that such changes or modifications are more restrictive building standards than those contained in the California Building Standards Code, and, furthermore, based upon the express findings that these changes or modifications are substantially equivalent to changes or modifications that were previously filed and were in effect as of September 30, 2025.

H. The Board of Supervisors makes the following express findings to support changes and modifications to the 2025 California Building Standards Code for the County of Monterey:

### **1. Climatic**

The climate of Monterey County is regulated by its proximity to the Pacific Ocean, resulting in a cool-summer Mediterranean climate. Monterey County's average yearly high temperature is 68.6°F and average yearly low temperature is 46.7°F. Average annual precipitation is 18.3 inches with most rainfall occurring between October and April, and little to no precipitation falling during the summer months. Mean annual precipitation in Monterey County ranges from slightly less than 11 inches in the Salinas Valley to over 70 inches in the coastal mountains. Summers in the coastal regions of Monterey County are often cool and foggy. During winter, snow occasionally falls in the higher elevations of the Santa Lucia Mountains and Gabilan Mountains that overlook Monterey County, but snow in Monterey County itself is extremely rare. Annually, there are an average of 15 days with 90°F+ highs, and an average of 13 days with lows reaching the freezing mark or lower.

The amendments to the California Building Standards Code made by this ordinance are necessary for the preservation of the public health and safety and welfare due to the unique local climatic conditions found within Monterey County. Some areas of Monterey County are subject to localized and widespread floods and wildfires that have historically isolated areas of the County from others, making timely, effective emergency response difficult for the duration of the emergency. As such, buildings need to be designed and constructed to stricter fire and

structural safety standards utilizing fire resistant building materials that are vital to ensure the life, health, and safety of the building occupants and responding fire personnel. These amendments are substantially equivalent to changes or modifications that were previously filed and were in effect as of September 30, 2025.

## **2. Geological**

Monterey County lies within the California Coast Ranges, a region that rides on both the Pacific and North American tectonic plates. Regional tectonic forces generate an estimated relative motion between the North American and Pacific plates of approximately two inches per year. Over time, these forces have created the varied mountains and valleys seen in Monterey County today. There are four faults of concern in the Monterey County with the San Andreas and San Gregorio Faults considered the most active with evidence of historic or recent movement which form the eastern and western boundaries of the Salinian block. Seismic hazards in the County could potentially include surface rupture associated with an active fault, ground shaking during an earthquake, and seismically-induced ground failure, including liquefaction (the process in which water saturated sand and silt acquire some of the properties of a liquid and potentially become incapable of supporting structures).

The Salinas Valley is a 120-mile long and up to six-mile wide northwest trending tectonic basin located in the central part of the California Coast Ranges in Monterey County. The Salinas River eroded a valley well below elevation of the bottom of the present Salinas Valley. Sediments being transported in the Salinas River in this earlier Salinas Valley consist of sand and gravel. Valleys which are tributary to the Salinas River downstream of Salinas contain basin deposits that were also deposited during the late Pleistocene/Holocene sea level rise. These basin deposits have a somewhat different mix of sediments from those found in the main Salinas Valley. The basin deposits consist of unconsolidated plastic clay and silty clay with much organic matter, and they locally contain thin layers of silt and silty sand.

Fine-grained estuary deposits are present for no more than two or three miles to the south of Salinas, a result of being far enough from the ocean that it was not flooded during the late Pleistocene sea level rise. Pleistocene sediments in the southern part of the Salinas Valley consist predominantly of sand and gravel.

The amendments to the California Building Standards Code made by this ordinance are necessary for the preservation of the public health and safety and welfare due to the unique local geological conditions found within Monterey County. Monterey County is subject to earthquakes that have historically damaged roads normally used for emergency access, resulting in significantly increased response times to emergencies from responders. Stricter building standards requiring automatic fire sprinkler systems and stronger structural design criteria are necessary to prevent damage to buildings, thereby decreasing the chance of injury or death for both building occupants and responding fire personnel. These amendments are substantially equivalent to changes or modifications that were previously filed and were in effect as of September 30, 2025.

### **3. Topographical**

Monterey County encompasses over 2.1 million acres of which approximately 1.2 million acres are forest and rangeland. Monterey County has miles of wild land urban interface, where backyards of homes meet the natural vegetation (coastal sage scrub and chaparral) in canyons and on hillsides. Access is made difficult by terrain that includes hills, mountains and canyons characterized by steep slopes, deeply incised canyons and narrow valleys. Elevations range from sea level to over 5,800 feet above mean sea level. These varying topographic conditions create delays for emergency personnel during fire events.

The Salinas Valley is bounded on the northeast by the Gabilan Highlands and to the southwest by both the Santa Lucia Range and, in the northern part of the valley, by low hills formerly occupied by the former Fort Ord. To the north of Soledad, the Gabilan Highlands are called the Gabilan Range. The Gabilan Range reaches a maximum elevation of approximately 3,600 feet at Gabilan Peak. To the south the Gabilan Highlands reach a maximum elevation of approximately 2,600 feet. On the southwest side of the valley and to the south, the Santa Lucia Range rises steeply from the southwest edge of the Salinas Valley, reaching a maximum elevation of approximately 5,600 feet.

The amendments to the California Building Standards Code made by this ordinance are necessary for the preservation of the public health and safety and welfare due to the unique local topographical conditions found within Monterey County. The terrain in County of Monterey varies from near sea level in the west to extremely steep mountains in the east, with numerous rivers and streams flowing through the County that create differing impediments to public safety access to areas of the County. Stricter building standards for buildings that may be inhabited require automatic fire sprinkler systems and stronger structural design to prevent damage to buildings, thereby decreasing the chance of injury or death for both building occupants and responding fire personnel. These amendments are substantially equivalent to changes or modifications that were previously filed and were in effect as of September 30, 2025

### **4. Prior local amendments**

These amendments are substantially equivalent to changes or modifications that were previously filed and were in effect as of September 30, 2025. By Ordinance No. 5389 adopted on December 6, 2022, the County adopted certain local amendments to the 2022 California Buildings Standards Code based upon express findings that the local amendments were reasonably necessary because of local climatic, geological, or topographical conditions. Those previously adopted amendments are codified in several chapters of Title 18 of the Monterey County Code. This ordinance amends Title 18 to repeal the 2022 California Building Standards Code and its local amendments, to incorporate the 2025 California Buildings Standards Code, and to adopt local amendments to it, including previously adopted amendments which continue to be and are reasonably necessary because of the local climatic, geological, or topographical conditions described above. Accordingly, this ordinance readopts the same local amendments to the 2025 California Building Standards Code as previously made to the 2022 California Building Standards Code in addition to adopting new modifications to the 2025 California Building Standards Code.

## **5. Emergency Life-Safety Findings for Local Residential Amendments**

### **Supplemental Finding - Seismic Reinforcement (R403.1.3, R602.10)**

#### **Finding:**

Monterey County is located in an exceptionally high seismic risk area, bisected by major active fault systems, including the San Andreas and San Gregorio faults, and has soils subject to liquefaction in the Salinas Valley. Historical earthquakes have caused severe ground shaking and structural damage within the County, and post-event rescue and medical response is hindered by the County's mountainous terrain and vulnerable transportation corridors. To prevent or reduce structural collapse and loss of life during seismic events, reinforced foundations and limiting weaker bracing methods is reasonably necessary due to these unique geological and seismic conditions.

### **Supplemental Finding - Roof Coverings (Class B minimum, Class A in hazard zones, 1505-1505.14)**

#### **Finding:**

Wildfire history in Monterey County demonstrates that rapid fire spread can occur even outside of mapped Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones, with grassland and agricultural fires extending into residential areas due to high wind conditions, chaparral vegetation, and steep topography. A minimum Class B roof covering for all dwellings, and Class A within Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones for all residential structures, is reasonably necessary to reduce ignition risk and protect occupants until firefighting resources arrive. These requirements are based upon unique climatic and topographic emergency conditions in Monterey County.

### **Supplemental Finding - Residential Fire Sprinklers (901.11.3.1.1 & 901.11.3.1.3)**

#### **Finding:**

Due to Monterey County's extensive Wildland-Urban Interface, history of catastrophic fires (including but not limited to the Soberanes Fire of 2016, the Basin Complex Fire of 2008, and the River Fire of 2020, and prolonged emergency response times caused by mountainous topography and limited access routes, automatic fire sprinkler systems are reasonably necessary to provide occupants with critical life and safety protection prior to emergency responder arrival. The re-adoption of enhanced fire sprinkler provisions constitutes unique climatic, topographic, and fire emergency conditions referenced in prior local amendment adoptions, thereby decreasing the chance of injury or death for both building occupants and responding fire personnel.

### **Supplemental Finding - Residential Solar PV Systems (1205.1.1.1, 1205.1.1.2, 1205.1.1.3)**

#### **Finding:**

High rates of residential solar adoption in the County, combined with delayed emergency response and topographic constraints, create unique hazards for firefighters during wildfire and seismic events. During these events, residential rooftop photovoltaic systems present significant

hazards to firefighting operations by obstructing roof ventilation and creating electrocution risks. Enhanced Fire Code provisions for photovoltaic systems are thus reasonably necessary to protect emergency responders and residents to ensure safe emergency operations, reduce fire spread, and protect life and safety. These requirements are adopted in response to unique climatic and electrical fire emergency conditions in the County.

**Supplemental Finding – Residential Energy Storage Systems (ESS) (Section 1207.4.1.1 and 1207.4.8-6)**

**Finding:**

Monterey County has a high rate of adoption of residential energy storage systems due to widespread solar installations. Lithium-ion battery failures can produce intense thermal runaway events, toxic off-gassing, and delayed ignition, all of which create extreme hazards for residents and responding firefighters. The County’s unique topography and rural road network frequently result in extended response times for fire suppression. Enhanced labeling and identification of ESS locations and hazards are reasonably necessary to provide emergency responders with immediate awareness of system type, size, and risk, allowing for rapid protective action to safeguard life safety. These conditions constitute emergency fire safety circumstances within the meaning of state law.

I. The adoption of this ordinance is categorically exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15308 because it protects the environment by enacting local amendments to the California Building Standards Code that provide for stricter building standards due to local climatic, geological, and topographical conditions, as more fully explained in the above findings.

SECTION 2. Chapter 18.00 of the Monterey County Code is readopted to read as follows:

**CHAPTER 18.00  
GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**Sections:**

- 18.00.010 Compliance with provisions.**
- 18.00.020 Continuation of public nuisance.**
- 18.00.030 Right of entry.**
- 18.00.040 Refusal to issue permits, licenses or other entitlements.**
- 18.00.050 Restrictions within Monterey Peninsula Water Management District area.**
- 18.00.060 Agrarian Easements.**

**18.00.010 Compliance with provisions.**

It is prohibited to make any use of or to allow any use of a building or structures which are not allowed under this Title. It shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation whether as principal agent, employee, landlord, tenant or otherwise to permit, allow or cause the setup, alteration, erection, construction, enlargement, conversion, or maintenance of any building or structure contrary to the provisions of this Title and/or to permit, allow or cause establishment,



operation or maintenance of any use of the land, building or premise which is contrary to the provisions of this Title. Any person violating any provision of this Title, including the violation of any condition of a permit or variance, is guilty of a misdemeanor, unless in the discretion of the prosecution, it is charged as an infraction.

**18.00.020 Continuation of public nuisance.**

It is prohibited for any person, firm or corporation to maintain, permit, or allow a public nuisance to exist upon his or her property, or premises, or for any person occupying or leasing the property or premises of another to maintain, permit or allow a public nuisance to exist thereon, after reasonable notice in writing from an enforcement officer, to remove, discontinue or abate the nuisance has been served on the person, firm or corporation.

**18.00.030 Right of entry.**

Whenever there is cause to suspect a violation of any provision of this Title, or whenever necessary to investigate either an application for granting, extension or modification of any application described in this Title, or an action to revoke or modify a discretionary permit, or whenever necessary to investigate a proposed amendment of this Title, the enforcing officers or their duly authorized representatives may enter any site for the purpose of investigation, provided they shall do so in a reasonable manner. No owner or occupant or agent thereof shall, after reasonable notice and opportunity to comply, refuse to permit such entry. In the course of such inspection, no enclosed building or structure shall be entered without the express permission of the owner or occupant. When necessary and with the prior approval of the District Attorney or County Counsel, the responsible enforcing officer may apply to the Court for an inspection warrant.

**18.00.040 Refusal to issue permits, licenses or other entitlements.**

A. Notice of violation from responsible enforcing officer. Upon notification by the responsible enforcing officer that a violation exists, no department, commission, or public employee of the County of Monterey that is vested with the duty or authority to issue or approve permits, licenses or other entitlements shall issue or approve such permits, licenses or other entitlements where there is an outstanding violation of this Title involving the property upon which there is a pending application for such permit, license or other entitlement except those necessary to abate the violation of this Title, if such are obtainable.

B. Extent of authority to refuse. The authority to refuse to issue permits, licenses or other entitlement shall apply whether the applicant for the permit was the owner of record at the time of such violation or whether the applicant is either the current owner of record or a vendor of the current owner of record pursuant to a contract of sale of the real property, with or without actual or constructive knowledge of the violation at the time of his or her interest in such real property.

C. Written notice to applicant of refusal. Written notice of the refusal to issue shall be mailed to the applicant for the permit, license or entitlement and to the property owner. Such written notice shall include information regarding the specific violation and the action necessary to abate the violation.

D. Right of appeal. If the owner, occupant or his or her authorized agent disagrees

with the determination that a violation of this code exists on the property, he or she may apply for a rescission of the notice of refusal by requesting a hearing before the County Hearing Officer pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 1.22 of the Monterey County Code.

E. Rescission of notice of refusal. The responsible enforcing officer shall rescind the notice of refusal when the violation no longer exists and all required work to abate the violation has been completed and approved as determined by the Building Official or County Hearing Officer on appeal.

**18.00.050 Restrictions within Monterey Peninsula Water Management District area.**

Permit limits. No building shall be constructed nor shall a permit for the construction of a building be issued on any parcel or lot within the territorial boundaries of the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District, except upon evidence of adequate potable water service, or a current water connection permit from the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District.

**18.00.060 Agrarian Easements.**

A. Entitlements. Prior to the issuance of any building permit pursuant to Title 18 of this Code, the property owner of property in zoning districts specified in Subsection C of this Section shall execute and record an agrarian easement in a form approved by County Counsel which will preserve and protect agricultural activities as described in Chapter 16.40 of this Code. For the purpose of this Section, an "agrarian easement" is an easement that will allow dust, noise, and odors emanating from lawful agricultural activities on adjoining or proximate real property to burden the property subject to the easement. The requirements of this Section may be waived, or the easement may be released or reconveyed, when the Agricultural Commissioner finds that such requirement is not necessary for the preservation or protection of agricultural activities and such finding is concurred with by the person or decision maker which makes or made the final decision on the entitlement on which the easement may be or was imposed as a condition of approval. This Section shall not apply to legal lots or record which conform to the minimum parcel size requirements of Title 21 of this Code on the effective date of this Chapter.

B. Annexations. The County Administrative Officer shall request the Local Agency Formation Commission to require, as a condition of approval of any annexation of real property into an incorporated city which has not adopted or which does not enforce a similar requirement for agrarian easements, that such annexed territory be subject to an agrarian easement as described in Subsection A of this section, enforceable by the County of Monterey as well as any property owner who may otherwise be protected by such easement.

C. Applicability. The provisions of this Section are applicable throughout the unincorporated areas of the County of Monterey which are specifically classed and zoned as follows:

1. Non-Coastal: Farmlands Zoning District (F), Permanent Grazing Zoning District (PG), Rural Grazing (RG) and Resource Conservation Zoning District (RC).
2. Coastal: Agricultural Preservation (CAP-CZ), Agricultural Conservation (AC-CZ) and Resource Conservation (RC-CZ).

SECTION 3. Chapter 18.01 of the Monterey County Code is readopted with amendments to read as follows:

## **CHAPTER 18.01 SCOPE AND ADMINISTRATION**

### **Sections:**

|                  |                                                |
|------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| <b>18.01.010</b> | <b>General.</b>                                |
| <b>18.01.020</b> | <b>Applicability.</b>                          |
| <b>18.01.030</b> | <b>Department of Building and Safety.</b>      |
| <b>18.01.040</b> | <b>Duties and powers of Building Official.</b> |
| <b>18.01.050</b> | <b>Permits.</b>                                |
| <b>18.01.060</b> | <b>Submittal Document.</b>                     |
| <b>18.01.070</b> | <b>Fees.</b>                                   |
| <b>18.01.080</b> | <b>Building Standards Appeals Board.</b>       |
| <b>10.01.090</b> | <b>Violations.</b>                             |

### **18.01.010 General.**

A. The provisions of this Chapter shall apply to the administration of building standards of the California Building Standards Code as adopted and amended by the County of Monterey, which code shall hereafter be known as the “Building Standards Code for the County of Monterey”. Division II of Chapter 1 of Part 2 of Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations, as modified by this Chapter, shall govern the scope and administration of the Building Standards Code for the County of Monterey. References in this Chapter to sections of the “California Building Code” are to sections in Division II of Chapter 1 of Part 2 of Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations.

B. Purpose. The purpose of this Chapter is to establish uniform and coordinated administrative regulations among the various referenced codes that are part of this Chapter. In the event of any differences between these administrative regulations and those found in the referenced codes, the text of these regulations shall govern.

C. Section 101.1 of the California Building Code shall be deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:

**101.1 Title.** These regulations shall be known as the Building Standards Code for the County of Monterey, hereinafter referred to as “this code”.

D. Section 102.4 of the California Building Code is amended to add the following referenced codes and standards:

1. California Building Code.
2. California Residential Code.
3. California Electrical Code.
4. California Mechanical Code.
5. California Plumbing Code.

6. California Energy Code.
7. California Historical Building Code.
8. California Fire Code.
9. California Existing Building Code.
10. California Green Building Standards Code.
11. California Referenced Standards Code.
12. Codes and standards referenced within each of the above referenced codes.
13. Any local amendments to the referenced codes and standards as adopted and approved by the Board of Supervisors and incorporated into the Monterey County Code.
14. Chapters 16.08, 16.12, 18.14, 18.15, and 18.16 of the Monterey County Code.

**18.01.020 Applicability.**

Section 102 of the California Building Code is amended to add Section 102.6 to read as follows:

**Alterations and repairs.** All new work performed in alterations and/or repairs to existing structures shall comply with the current provisions of this Title. When alterations and/or repairs result in the removal, alteration, modification, replacement and/or repair of fifty (50) percent or more of the external walls of a building, and/or result in the removal, modification, replacement and/or repair of fifty (50) percent or more of the existing internal structural and/or non-structural framework, plumbing, mechanical and/or electrical installations, independently or in combination thereof, the entire building shall be made to conform to the current provisions of this Title. The determination under this Section of the requirement for upgrading any existing structure to full conformance with current provisions of this Title shall be at the sole discretion of the Building Official.

**18.01.030 Department of Building and Safety.**

Section 103.1 of the California Building Code shall be deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:

**103.1 Creation of enforcement agency.** The Building Services Unit of the Land Use and Community Development Division of the County Resource Management Agency is hereby designated as the enforcement agency for the administration of this Chapter, and the official in charge thereof shall be known as the Building Official.

**18.01.040 Duties and powers of Building Official.**

A. Section 104.7 of the California Building Code shall be amended to add Section 104.7.1 to read as follows:

**104.7.1 Department records.** The Building Official shall maintain sufficient records to show the approved use, occupancy, and type of construction for all structures requiring permits and the Code standards applicable to any existing building as required by state law. Such records shall include any special administrative approvals including alternate materials, methods of design and construction, modifications and tests. The Building Official shall also maintain an official copy of the plans of every building issued a building permit during the life of the building except for any building containing a bank, other financial institution, or public utility. This exception shall not apply to a community apartment project, condominium project, planned development, or a stock cooperative as defined in Section 1351 of the Civil Code.

B. Section 104 of the California Building Code shall be amended to add Sections 104.12 and 104.13 to read as follows:

**104.12 License qualified trade persons, special inspectors and approved fabricators.** The Building Official is authorized to review and approve license applications for qualified trade persons for annual permits, special inspectors and approved fabricators. A reasonable fee may be charged for this review and approval as prescribed by resolution of the Board of Supervisors.

**104.13 Violations of substandard and unsafe buildings.**

**1. Refusal to issue permits, licenses or approvals.** Except for maintenance or emergency repairs, the Building Official may withhold the issuance of any permit, license or other approval under this Chapter when the Building Official determines that reasonable cause exists that a violation of the Monterey County Code exists on the property upon which there is a pending application for such permit, license or approval. The Building Official may withhold the issuance of a permit, license or approval until the applicant provides sufficient evidence to establish that the proposed work or action to be taken will comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws. The Building Official shall withhold the issuance of any permit, license or approval where there is an outstanding violation of this Title and/or other provisions of the Monterey County Code involving the property upon which there is a pending application for such permit, license or other entitlement except those necessary to abate the violation of this Title or other applicable provision of the Monterey County Code, if such are obtainable.

**2. Investigate violations and issue notices and orders.** The Building Official shall investigate violations and issue all necessary notices or orders to ensure compliance with this Chapter and may record any such notice or order with the County Recorder as provided for in Monterey County Code Section 1.22.035.

**3. Evacuation.** The Building Official shall be authorized to order the immediate evacuation of any occupied building or property deemed unsafe when such building or property has hazardous conditions that present imminent danger to its occupants. Persons so notified shall immediately leave the structure or premises and shall not enter or re-enter until authorized to do so by the Building Official.

**4. Demolition.** The Building Official shall order the owner of any premises upon which is located any structure, which in the Building Official's judgment after review is so deteriorated or dilapidated or has become so out of repair as to be dangerous, unsafe, unsanitary or otherwise unfit for human habitation or occupancy, and such that it is unreasonable to repair

the structure, to demolish and remove such structure. If the owner of such premises fails to comply with a demolition order within the time prescribed, the Building Official shall cause the structure to be demolished and removed, either through an available public agency or by contract or arrangement with private persons. All costs including necessary administrative and overhead costs for such removal shall be borne by the owner. Failure to pay such costs may result in the County placing a lien or other encumbrance on the property title.

**5. Closing of vacant structures.** If the structure is vacant and unfit for occupancy but not in danger of structural collapse or unsafe for emergency response personnel, the Building Official is authorized to post a placard of condemnation on the premises and order the structure and premises to be boarded and secured against entry so as not to be an attractive nuisance. Upon failure of the owner to comply with such order within the time specified, the Building Official shall cause the structure and premises to be boarded and secured against entry through any available public agency or by contract or arrangement by private persons. Boarding the building for future repair shall not extend beyond one year, unless approved by the Building Official. All costs including necessary administrative and overhead costs for such boarding shall be borne by the owner. Failure to pay such costs may result in the County placing a lien or other encumbrance on the property title.

**6. Authority to disconnect service utilities.** The Building Official shall have the authority to authorize disconnection of utility service to the building, structure or system regulated by this Chapter and the referenced codes and standards set forth in this Chapter in case of emergency where necessary to eliminate an immediate hazard to life or property or when such utility connection has been made without approval. The Building Official shall notify the serving utility and, whenever possible, the owner and occupant of the building, structure or service system of the decision to disconnect prior to taking such action. If not notified prior to disconnection, the owner or occupant of the building structure or service system shall be notified in writing as soon as practical thereafter.

**7. Authority to condemn equipment.** When any equipment, or portion thereof, regulated by this Chapter has become hazardous to life, health, or property, or when such equipment has been installed without required approvals, the Building Official is authorized to order that the equipment either be removed or restored to a safe or sanitary condition, as appropriate. When equipment or an installation is to be disconnected, the Building Official shall give written notice of the disconnection and causes therefor as soon as practical to the serving utility, owner, and occupant of the building, structure, or premises.

**8. Notice.** Whenever the Building Official has condemned a structure or equipment under the provisions of this section, a notice to that effect shall be posted in a conspicuous place in or about the structure affected by such notice. If the notice pertains to equipment, it shall also be placed on the condemned equipment. The notice shall contain a statement of the penalties provided for occupying the premises, operating the equipment or removing the placard. The Building Official shall remove the condemnation notice whenever the defect or defects have been eliminated. Notice shall also be served on the owner of the structure or equipment by personal service or certified or first-class mail addressed to the last known address. If such mailed notice is returned showing that the letter was not delivered, a copy thereof shall be posted in a conspicuous place in or about the structure affected by such notice. Removal of the notice by anyone other than the Building Official is a misdemeanor.

**9. Record.** The Building Official shall cause a report to be filed on an unsafe condition in the Building Services Unit's records for the property where the unsafe condition exists. The report shall state the occupancy of the structure and the nature of the unsafe condition.

**10. Weed abatement.** Upon failure of the owner or agent having charge of a property to cut and destroy weeds after service of a notice of violation, the Building Official shall be authorized to enter upon the property in violation and cut and destroy the weeds growing thereon, and the costs of such removal shall be paid by the owner. Failure to pay such costs may result in the County placing a lien or other encumbrance on the property title.

**11. Summary abatement.** Where conditions exist that are deemed hazardous to life and property, the Building Official is authorized to abate summarily such hazardous conditions that are in violation of this Chapter.

**12. Collection of costs.** Whenever the County of Monterey or its authorized agent has abated any violation of this Chapter, the Building Official may recover the costs of such enforcement by all available legal means from the owner including but not limited to a lien, encumbrance, or special assessment upon such real estate. When any structure has been ordered demolished and removed, the Building Official shall have the right to sell the salvage and valuable materials at the highest price obtainable. The net proceeds of such sale, after deducting the expenses of such demolition and removal, shall be promptly remitted with a report of such sale or transaction, including the items of expense and the amounts deducted to the owner of the premises. If such a surplus does not remain to be turned over, the report shall so state.

C. Section 111.4 of the California Building Code shall be deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:

**111.4 Suspension and revocation of permit and Certificate of Occupancy.** The Building Official may, in writing, suspend or revoke a permit or Certificate of Occupancy issued under the provisions of this Chapter whenever the permit or Certificate of Occupancy has been issued in error, on the basis of incorrect information supplied, without the payment of the required fees, fines or penalties or in violation of any Federal, State or local ordinances or entitlements whenever any work is being done contrary to the provisions of this Chapter. Such local ordinances and entitlements include but shall not be limited to:

1. Any provision of the approved plans, referenced codes, or any other provision of the Monterey County Code, which are applicable to the work.

2. Any conditions of approval required by other departments or agencies within Monterey County, including but not limited to other County departments, fire protection districts, water districts or agencies, which are applicable to the work.

3. Preservation standards for archeological, biological, environmental or historic or other similarly protected resources.

4. Safety and noise standards for onsite use or occupancy, adjacent properties or the public way, as determined by the Building Official.

5. Any administrative citations and compliance orders including the payment of any fines or penalties.

6. Any air or water quality standards, including but not limited to asbestos, lead paint or other hazardous material contamination.

7. Any required license, security or insurance related to the work.

#### **18.01.050 Permits.**

A. Section 105.2, Paragraph 1 of the California Building Code shall be deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:

**105.2 Work exempt from permit.** Exemptions from building 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. Although building permits will not be required as exempted in this section, other agencies or County departments may need to review for compliance with other provisions of the County Code and County regulations. Permits shall not be required for the following:

B. Section 105.2 of the California Building Code shall be amended to add the following exemptions:

#### **Building**

14. One-story detached structures used as arbors, pergolas, trellis structures, tool and storage sheds, playhouses and similar uses, provided the floor area does not exceed two hundred forty (240) square feet and the structure does not contain any electrical, plumbing or mechanical work and is not used to store hazardous materials or vehicles. Such structures shall be in substantial conformance with all provisions of this Title and all referenced codes.

15. Decks not exceeding two hundred (200) square feet in area, that are not more than thirty (30) inches above grade at any point, are not attached to a structure and do not serve as a component of any required exit or accessible route.

16. One agricultural building or structure on a lot of record that is 2.5 acres or more in size that is one story in height, provided the floor area does not exceed five hundred (500) square feet and the structure does not contain any electrical, plumbing or mechanical work and is not used to store hazardous materials or vehicles. Such structures shall be in substantial conformance with all provisions of this Title and all referenced codes.

#### **Electrical**

**Low Voltage Electrical.** Electrical wiring, devices, appliances, apparatus or equipment operating at less than twenty-five (25) volts and not capable of supplying more than fifty (50) watts of energy.

#### **Miscellaneous**

1. Any other work similar in nature to exempt categories as determined in writing by the Building Official.



C. Section 105.3.2 of the California Building Code shall be deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:

**105.3.2 Time limitation of application.**

An application for a permit for any proposed work shall expire one year after the date of filing unless a permit has been issued or the Building Official has granted an extension of time. The permit applicant shall request any desired application extension in writing prior to expiration and provide justifiable cause for any delays in taking action. The Building Official may grant an extension of time up to one additional year to obtain a permit only if the proposed work will comply with all laws in effect at the time of the granting of such extension. A reasonable fee may be charged for any extension as prescribed by resolution of the Board of Supervisors.

D. Section 105.5 of the California Building Code shall be deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:

**105.5 Expiration.**

Every permit issued shall become invalid unless the work on the site authorized by such permit is commenced within one year after its issuance, or if the work authorized on the site by such permit is suspended or abandoned for a period of one year after the time work is commenced. Work shall be considered to be suspended and/or abandoned if one or more required County department inspections have not been performed and documented in County records consistent with this Code within the requisite one-year time period. The Building Official is authorized to grant, in writing, one or more extensions of time, for periods up to but not more than one year each. The extension shall be requested in writing prior to expiration, and justifiable cause shall be demonstrated. The Building Official may grant such extension of time to complete the construction only if the proposed work will comply with all laws in effect at the time of granting such extension. A reasonable fee may be charged for any extension as prescribed by resolution of the Board of Supervisors.

**18.01.060 Submittal Documents.**

A. Section 107.2.2 of the California Building Code shall be deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:

B.

**107.2.2 Fire protection system shop drawings.**

Shop drawings for the fire protection system(s) shall be submitted to indicate conformance to this code and the construction documents and shall be approved prior to the start of system installation. Fire sprinkler systems must be submitted by a California licensed C-16 contractor and approved prior to installation. This requirement is not intended to delay issuance of a building permit. A rough sprinkler inspection must be scheduled by the installing contractor and completed prior to requesting a framing inspection. Plans and specifications for the household fire warning system shall be submitted by a California licensed C-10 contractor and approved prior to installation. Household fire warning systems installed in lieu of single-station smoke alarms required by the California Residential Code shall meet the requirements of the California Residential Code. Shop drawings shall contain all information as required by the referenced installation standards in Chapter 9.

B. Section 107.3.3 of the California Building Code shall be deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:

**107.3.3 Phased approval.**

The Building Official is authorized to issue a permit for the construction of foundations or any other part of a building or structure before the construction documents for the whole building or structure have been approved, provided that adequate information and detailed documentation have been filed, reviewed and approved demonstrating substantial compliance with applicable provisions of this Chapter and/or referenced codes. The holder of such permit for the foundation or other parts of a building or structure shall proceed at the holder's own risk with the building operation and without assurance that a permit for the entire structure will be granted. Reasonable additional fees as prescribed by resolution of the Board of Supervisors may be assessed for any building or structure submitted for phased approval and/or field inspection.

C. Compliance with other regulations. No permit shall be issued or approved for any proposed work that does not comply with other applicable provisions of the Monterey County Code as determined by the Building Official.

**18.01.070 Fees.**

Section 109 of the California Building Code shall be deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:

**Section 109 Fees.**

A. Payment of fees. A permit shall not be valid until the fees prescribed by resolution of the Board of Supervisors have been paid, nor shall an amendment to a permit be released until the additional fee, if any, has been paid.

B. Schedule of permit fees. On all construction work requiring a permit under this Chapter, a fee for each permit shall be paid as required, in accordance with the fee schedule as approved by the Board of Supervisors in effect at the time of issuance or revision of such permit. Fees for services shall be based on the estimated reasonable cost of providing the services. Costs shall include both direct and indirect costs of providing services according to generally accepted accounting principles.

C. Building permit valuation. The applicant for a permit shall provide an estimated permit value at time of application. Permit valuation shall include the total value of work, including materials and labor, for which the permit is being issued, such as electrical, gas, mechanical, plumbing equipment and permanent systems. If, in the opinion of the Building Official, the valuation is underestimated on the application, the Building Official may determine a minimum building permit valuation by calculation using the most current issue of Building Valuation Data offered by the International Code Council. Final permit valuation consistent with one of these methods shall be set by the Building Official.

D. Work commencing before permit issuance. Any person who commences any work requiring a permit under this Chapter before obtaining the necessary permit shall be subject to additional fees as established by resolution of the Board of Supervisors.

E. Related fees. The payment of the fee for the construction, alteration, removal or

demolition for work done in connection to or concurrently with the work authorized by a permit under this Chapter shall not relieve the applicant or holder of the permit from the payment of other fees that are prescribed by law.

F. Refunds. Refunds for fees on construction work requiring a permit under this Chapter shall be in accordance with the fee refund policy as approved by the Board of Supervisors in effect at the time of request for such refund. Amount of refunds shall be based on the balance of monies remaining from the payment of fees after accounting for the estimated reasonable cost of services provided prior to the voluntary cessation of work and/or the expiration of an un-renewed permit. Application for refunds shall be made in writing within one year from original payment of fees or the date of voluntary cessation of work or permit expiration.

#### **18.01.080 Building Standards Appeals Board.**

Section 113 of the California Building Code shall be deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:

##### **Section 113 Board of Appeals (Building Standards Appeals Board)**

A. General. In order to hear and decide appeals of orders, decisions or determinations made by the Building Official relative to the application and interpretation of this Chapter, there shall be and is hereby created a Building Standards Appeals Board. At the request of the fire chief of a local fire protection district, this board may also hear appeals of the orders, decisions or determinations made by the fire chief relative to the application and interpretation of the California Fire Code as adopted and amended by the County of Monterey.

B. Scope of appeals. An application for appeal shall be based on a claim that the true intent of this Chapter or the rules legally adopted there under have been incorrectly interpreted, the provisions of the Chapter do not fully apply, or an equally good or better form of construction is proposed.

C. Limitation on authority. The board shall have no authority to waive or reduce requirements of this Chapter. The board shall have no authority or jurisdiction over any matter that is appealable under the Monterey County Code to any other board, commission or the County Hearing Officer. The board shall not consider the subject matter of any appeal until the appellant provides sufficient evidence to establish that the appeal was filed and applicable fees were paid within the applicable time limits for filing of appeals pursuant to this Chapter.

D. Who may appeal. Any owner whose interests are adversely affected by any order, decision or determination made by the Building Official pursuant to the provisions of this Chapter and within the limits of authority specified herein, may file an appeal to the Building Standards Appeals Board. For purposes of this section, owner means any individual, corporation, partnership, firm or any other group acting as a unit having a legal or equitable interest in the property as recorded in the official records of the Recorder for the County of Monterey, including the guardian or trustee of the estate of any such person, and the executor or administrator of the estate of such person if ordered to take possession of real property by a court.

E. Terms of appointment. Standing members of the board shall be appointed by the Board of Supervisors to serve a term of five years unless removed for cause. Initial appointments for standing members shall consist as follows: one for five years, one for four years, one for three years, one for two years, and one for one year. Thereafter, each new member shall serve for five years. Members may serve following expiration of a term until a successor has been appointed. Alternate members of the board shall be appointed by the Board of Supervisors. Initial appointment of alternate members shall be one for five years and one for three years. Thereafter, each alternate member shall serve for five years. Adjunct members of the board shall be appointed by the Board of Supervisors. Initial appointment of adjunct members shall be one for four years and one for two years for the physically disabled members and one public member for three years. Thereafter, each adjunct member shall serve for five years.

F. Standing members. The board shall consist of five standing members who are qualified by experience and training and specifically knowledgeable in the California Building Standards Codes and applicable local ordinances to pass on matters pertaining to building standards other than those related to accessibility and who are not employees of the County of Monterey. The standard members shall be composed of the following:

1. One State of California licensed architect.
2. One State of California registered civil or structural engineer.
3. One State of California registered mechanical engineer or licensed plumbing (C-36) or warm-air heating, ventilating and air-conditioning (C-20) contractor.
4. One State of California registered electrical engineer or licensed electrical contractor (C-10).
5. One State of California registered fire protection engineer or licensed fire protection contractor (C-16).

G. Alternate members. The board shall also include two alternate members who shall be called by the board chairperson to hear appeals during the absence or disqualification of a member. Alternate members shall be one State of California licensed architect and one State of California registered civil or structural engineer.

H. Accessibility appeal members. When the board considers appeals of orders, decisions or determinations made by the Building Official relative to the application and interpretation of building standards for accessibility, the board shall consist of two standing or alternate members and three adjunct members. Adjunct members shall include two physically handicapped members and one public member. The two standing or alternate members to hear such appeal shall be chosen by the chairperson prior to commencement of the appeal hearing.

I. Conflict of interest. Any standing, alternate or adjunct member shall not hear an appeal in which that member has a personal, professional or financial interest.

J. Filing of appeals. All appeals shall be in writing and shall be specific and in sufficient detail to provide a clear basis for issuing the requested decision. Only those matters or issues specifically raised by the appellant shall be considered in the hearing of the appeal. All

appeals shall be filed with the Building Official within thirty (30) days after written notice of the decision from which the appeal is being taken has been mailed to the applicant. A fee for such appeals shall be established by resolution of the Board of Supervisors and payable at the time of filing. No appeal shall be accepted without the payment of such fee. No part of such fee shall be refundable unless the appeal is timely withdrawn as determined by the Building Official. Refunds shall be made pursuant to the provisions of this chapter.

K. Finality of decisions. The decisions of this board shall be conclusive and final and an exhaustion of administrative remedies.

L. Rules and procedures. The board is authorized to establish policies and procedures necessary to carry out its duties, which shall at a minimum include the following:

1. Chairperson. The board shall annually select one of its members to serve as chairperson.
2. Disqualification of member. A member shall not hear an appeal in which that member has a personal, professional or financial interest.
3. Secretary. The Building Official shall designate a qualified clerk to serve as secretary to the board. The secretary shall file a detailed record of all proceedings in the office of the Building Official.
4. Compensation of members. Members shall serve without compensation but shall receive their actual and necessary travel expenses in the performance of their duties.
5. Quorum and voting. Attendance by three or more members, including alternate and adjunct members as applicable, shall constitute a quorum for all business and decisions. Decisions of the board shall require a majority vote of the quorum.
6. The board shall meet on an as needed basis upon notice from the chairperson of the filing of an appeal.
7. Open hearing. All hearings before the board shall be open to the public. The appellant, the appellant's representative, the Building Official and any person whose interests are affected shall be given an opportunity to be heard.
8. Conduct of hearings. Hearings shall be conducted in a manner that affords the appellant and the Building Official with notice of the hearing, an opportunity to present testimony and witnesses, and to cross examine witnesses. The hearings need not be conducted according to strict rules of evidence, but only relevant information shall be considered. The Board may continue the hearing, including to request additional evidence from the parties. Upon conclusion of the hearing, the Board may take the matter under submission and deliberate in private.
9. Requests for continued and delayed hearings. The board shall adopt rules on the justifying nature and time limits for requests for continued and delayed hearings by the Building Official or appellant.
10. Board decision. The decision of the board shall be by resolution. Certified copies

shall be furnished to the appellant and to the Building Official.

M. Liability. Members of the board while acting for the County of Monterey in good faith and without malice in the discharge of the duties required by this Chapter or other pertinent law or ordinance, shall not thereby be rendered liable personally and are hereby relieved from personal liability for any damage accruing to persons or property as a result of any act or by reason of an act or omission in the discharge of official duties. Any suit instituted against a member of the board because of an act performed by that member of the board in the lawful discharge of duties and under the provisions of this Chapter shall be defended by legal representatives of the County of Monterey until the final termination of the proceedings. The member of the board shall not be liable for cost in any action, suit or proceeding that is instituted in pursuance of the provisions of this Chapter.

#### **18.01.090 Violations.**

Section 114 of the California Building Code shall be deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:

##### **Section 114 Violations**

A. Compliance with building standards. It shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to erect, construct, alter, extend, repair, move, remove, demolish or occupy any building, structure or equipment or perform any grading work regulated by this Chapter, or cause same to be done, in conflict with or in violation of any of the provisions of this Chapter.

B. Compliance with permit requirements. It shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to erect, construct, alter, extend, repair, move, remove, demolish or occupy any building, structure or equipment or perform any grading work regulated by this Chapter, or cause same to be done without first obtaining a permit from the Building Official.

C. Expired permits. It shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to fail to obtain final inspection approval from the Building Official on any permit issued pursuant to the provisions of this Chapter prior to its expiration. Expired permits shall be renewed upon subsequent application and shall complete the proposed work in compliance with the current provisions of this Chapter or shall restore the property and building to their former use and configuration.

D. Unreasonable state of partial construction. It shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to permit any building or structure to remain in an unreasonable state of partial construction. An unreasonable state of partial construction exists if any of the following occurs:

1. Proposed work has not been diligently pursued on a consistent basis and the appearance of the structure or the construction site substantially detracts from the appearance of the neighborhood.
2. Condition of the structure or the construction site is detrimental to the public health, safety and welfare.
3. Structure or construction site has become an attractive nuisance.

E. Duty to maintain properties and structures. It shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to fail to maintain any building, structure, equipment, premises or grading work regulated by this Chapter with the provisions of the building standards that lawfully existed at the time of construction or with subsequent minimum maintenance standards established by state or local law or this Chapter for existing buildings and property.

F. Prohibited conditions. It shall be unlawful for any owner to create, maintain or permit the continued existence of any dangerous structure or premises, unsafe condition, unsafe equipment, unsafe structure, any structure that is unfit for human occupancy, any substandard building or premises or any unlawful structure or any other hazards as defined in this Chapter. Such violations are public nuisances and the owner shall abate or cause to be abated or corrected such conditions either by repair, rehabilitation, demolition or other approved corrective action without delay.

G. Prohibition for substandard buildings. It shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to create, maintain or permit the continued existence of a substandard building as defined in this Chapter.

H. Prohibited occupancy. It shall be unlawful for any owner to occupy or permit a person, firm or corporation to occupy any structure or premises condemned and placarded by the Building Official. It shall be unlawful for any person to enter such structure or premises except for the purpose of securing the structure, making the required repairs, removing the hazardous condition or of demolishing the same.

I. Compliance with notices and orders. It shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to fail to comply with any order of the Building Official for the evacuation of any occupied building or property, disconnection of service utilities or equipment, stop work order or the suspension and revocation of permits or certificate of occupancies.

J. Removal of posted notices and orders. It shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to remove or deface any notices or orders posted by the Building Official on any structure or any property until the Building Official gives written approval for such removal.

K. Interference with ordered corrective actions. It shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to obstruct, impede or interfere or attempt to obstruct, impede or interfere with any person engaged in the lawful work of vacating, repairing or demolishing any building, structure, equipment, premises or performing any grading work or performing any necessary act preliminary to or incidental to such work when that action is being taken to correct violations of this Chapter as ordered by the Building Official.

SECTION 4. Chapter 18.02 of the Monterey County Code is readopted with amendments to read as follows:

## **CHAPTER 18.02 BUILDING CODE**

### **Sections:**

**18.02.010 Adoption.**

- 18.02.020**      **Applicability of local amendments.**
- 18.02.030**      **Building Address**
- 18.02.040**      **Fire protection and life safety systems.**
- 18.02.050**      **Roofing requirements.**
- 18.02.060**      **Solar photovoltaic system requirements.**
- 18.02.070**      **Structural requirements.**

**18.02.010      Adoption.**

That certain document entitled 2025 California Building Code, California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 2, Volumes 1 and 2, which includes Appendices I, J, L and P as published by the California Building Standards Commission, which is based on the 2024 International Building Code with applicable amendments from the State of California, and the local amendments of this Chapter, are hereby adopted as the Building Code for the County of Monterey.

**18.02.020      Applicability of local amendments.**

Notwithstanding any provisions of the 2025 California Building Code to the contrary, the local amendments in this Chapter shall apply.

**18.02.030      Building Address**

Section 502.1 of the California Building Code shall be deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:

**502.1 Address identification.**

Each new and existing building, including detached accessory dwelling units (ADU), except accessory structures, shall be provided with separate approved address identification. When multiple occupancies exist within a single building, each individual occupancy shall be separately identified by its own address. The address identification shall be legible and placed in a position that is visible from the street or road fronting the property. Address identification characters shall contrast with their background. Address numbers shall be Arabic numbers or alphabetical letters. Numbers shall not be spelled out. Each character shall be a minimum of 4 inches (102 mm) high with a minimum stroke width of ½- inch (12.7 mm). Where required by the fire code official, address identification shall be provided in additional approved locations to facilitate emergency response. Where access is by means of a private road and the building address cannot be viewed from the public way, a monument, pole or other approved sign or means shall be used to identify the structure. Address identification shall be maintained.

**18.02.040 Fire protection and life safety systems.**

Fire protection and life safety systems, including but not limited to sprinkler requirements shall also conform to the local amendments of the Fire Code in Chapter 18.09 of the Monterey County Code.

**18.02.050 Roofing requirements.**

Roofing requirements shall also conform to the local amendments of the Fire Code in Chapter 18.09 of the Monterey County Code.



A. Section 1505.1 of the California Building Codes shall be deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:

**1505.1 General.**

Roof assemblies shall be divided into the classes defined in this section. Class A and B roof assemblies and roof coverings required to be listed by this section shall be tested in accordance with ASTM E108 or UL 790. In addition, fire-retardant-treated wood roof coverings shall be tested in accordance with ASTM D2898. Roof coverings installed on new buildings shall be a minimum Class “B”. Roofing requirements for existing buildings when fifty percent (50%) or more of the roof area is reroofed within a one-year period after the issuance of a building permit shall be a minimum Class “B” roof assembly.

**1505.1.1 Roof coverings within very high fire hazard severity zones.**

The entire roof covering of every existing structure where more than 50 percent of the total roof area is replaced within any one-year period, the entire roof covering of every new structure, and any roof covering applied in the alteration, repair or replacement of the roof of every existing structure, shall be a fire-retardant roof covering that is at least Class A.

**Exception:** The requirements shall not apply in any jurisdiction that adopts the model ordinance approved by the State Fire Marshal pursuant to Section 51189 of the Government Code or an ordinance that substantially conforms to the model ordinance and transmits a copy to the State Fire Marshal.

**1505.1.2 Roof coverings within state responsibility areas.**

The entire roof covering of every existing structure where more than 50 percent of the total roof area is replaced within any one-year period, the entire roof covering of every new structure and any roof covering applied in the alteration, repair or replacement of the roof of every existing structure shall be a fire-retardant roof covering that is at least Class B.

Exception: Areas designated as moderate fire hazard severity zones.

**1505.1.4 Roofing requirements in a Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Area.**

Roofing requirements for structures located in a Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Area shall also comply with Section 705A.

**18.02.060 Solar photovoltaic system requirements.**

Solar photovoltaic system requirements shall also conform to the local amendments of the Fire Code in Chapter 18.09 of the Monterey County Code.

**18.02.070 Structural requirements.**

A. Section 1705.3 of the 2025 California Building Code, Exception Number 1 is deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:

**1705.3 Concrete construction.**

**Exception 1:**

1. Isolated spread concrete footings of buildings three stories or less above grade plane that are fully supported on earth or rock where the structural design of the footing is based on a

specified compressive strength,  $f'_c$ , no greater than two thousand five hundred 2,500 pounds per square inch (psi) (17.2 Mpa).

B. Section 1905.1.7 ACI 318, Section 14.1.4 of the California Building Code shall be deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:

14.1.4 – Plain concrete in structures assigned to Seismic Design Category C, D, E or F.

14.1.4.1 – Structures assigned to Seismic Design Category C, D, E or F shall not have elements of structural plain concrete, except as follows:

(a) Concrete used for fill with a minimum cement content of two (2) sacks of Portland cement or cementitious material per cubic yard.

(b) Isolated footings of plain concrete supporting pedestals or columns are permitted, provided the projection of the footing beyond the face of the supported member does not exceed the footing thickness.

(c) Plain concrete footings supporting walls are permitted provided the footings have at least two continuous longitudinal reinforcing bars. Bars shall not be smaller than No. 4 and shall have a total area of not less than 0.002 times the gross cross-sectional area of the footing. A minimum of one bar shall be provided at the top and bottom of the footing. Continuity of reinforcement shall be provided at corners and intersections.

#### **Exceptions:**

1. Detached one- and two-family dwellings three stories or less in height and constructed with stud-bearing walls, are permitted to have plain concrete footings with at least two continuous longitudinal reinforcing bars not smaller than No. 4 are permitted to have a total area of less than 0.002 times the gross cross-sectional area of the footing.

SECTION 5. Chapter 18.02.5.010 of the Monterey County Code is readopted with amendments to read as follows:

### **CHAPTER 18.02.5 RESIDENTIAL CODE**

#### **Sections:**

- 18.02.5.010 Adoption.**
- 18.02.5.020 Applicability of local amendments.**
- 18.02.5.030 Fire sprinkler requirements.**
- 18.02.5.040 Roofing requirements.**
- 18.02.5.050 Solar photovoltaic system requirements.**
- 18.02.5.060 Structural requirements.**

#### **18.02.5.010 Adoption.**

That certain document entitled 2025 California Residential Code, California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 2.5, excluding Chapter 1 and including Appendices H, Q, and X as published by the California Building Standards Commission, which is based on the 2024 International Residential Code with applicable amendments from the State of California, and the local amendments of this Chapter, are hereby adopted as the Residential Code for the

County of Monterey.

**18.02.5.020 Applicability of local amendments.**

Notwithstanding any provisions of the 2025 California Residential Code to the contrary, the local amendments in this Chapter shall apply.

**18.02.5.030 Fire resistant construction requirements.**

Fire sprinkler requirements shall also conform to the local amendments of the Fire Code in Chapter 18.09 of the Monterey County Code.

**18.02.5.040 Roofing requirements.**

Roofing requirements shall also conform to the local amendments of the Fire Code in Chapter 18.09 of the Monterey County Code.

Section R902.1.3 of the California Residential Code is deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:

**R902.1.3 Roof coverings in all other areas.** The entire roof covering of every existing structure where more than 50 percent of the total roof area is replaced within any one-year period, the entire roof covering of every new structure, and any roof covering applied in the alteration, repair or replacement of the roof of every existing structure, shall be a fire-retardant roof covering that is at least Class B.

**18.02.5.050 Solar photovoltaic system requirements.**

Solar Photovoltaic System requirements shall also conform to the local amendments of the Fire Code in Chapter 18.09 of the Monterey County Code.

**18.02.5.060 Structural requirements.**

A. Section R403.1.3 of the California Residential Code, first paragraph shall be deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:

**R403.1.3 Footing and stem wall reinforcing in Seismic Design Categories D0, D1, and D2.** Concrete footings located in Seismic Design Categories D0, D1 and D2, as established in Table R301.2 (1), shall have minimum reinforcement of at least two continuous longitudinal reinforcing bars, one top and one bottom and not smaller than No. 4 bars. Bottom reinforcement shall be located a minimum of three inches (76 mm) clear from the bottom of the footing.

B. California Residential Code Table R602.10.3 (3) footnote “e” shall be deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:

**Table R602.10.3 (3) Footnote e.**

In Seismic Design Categories D0, D1, and D2, Method GB is not permitted, and the use of Method PCP is limited to one-story single-family dwellings and accessory structures.

C. The Title to California Residential Code Table R602.10.3 shall be deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:

**TABLE R602.10.3(3)<sup>e</sup>**

D. Section R602.10.4 of the California Residential Code shall be amended to add Section R602.10.4.5 to read as follows:

**R602.10.4.5 Limits on methods GB and PCP.** In Seismic Design Categories D0, D1, and D2, Method GB is not permitted for use as intermittent braced wall panels, but gypsum board is permitted to be installed when required by this Section to be placed on the opposite side of the studs from other types of braced wall panel sheathing. In Seismic Design Categories D0, D1, and D2, the use of Method PCP is limited to one-story single-family dwellings and accessory structures.

a. Design methods for conventional light frame construction. The design of structural members may use the provisions of California Building Code Section 2308.

SECTION 6. Chapter 18.03 of the Monterey County Code is readopted with amendments to read as follows:

### **CHAPTER 18.03 ELECTRICAL CODE**

#### **Sections:**

**18.03.010 Adoption.**

**18.03.020 Applicability of local amendments.**

**18.03.030 Solar photovoltaic system requirements.**

#### **18.03.010 Adoption.**

That certain document entitled 2025 California Electrical Code, California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 3, which includes Annex A and B as published by the California Building Standards Commission, which is based on the 2020 National Electrical Code with applicable amendments from the State of California, Annexes C and D of the 2023 National Electrical Code, and the local amendments of this Chapter, are hereby adopted as the Electrical Code for the County of Monterey.

#### **18.03.020 Applicability of local amendments.**

Notwithstanding any provisions of the 2025 California Electrical Code to the contrary the local amendments set forth in this Chapter shall apply.

#### **18.03.030 Solar photovoltaic system requirements.**

Solar Photovoltaic System requirements shall also conform to the local amendments of the Fire Code in Chapter 18.09 of the Monterey County Code.

SECTION 7. Chapter 18.04 of the Monterey County Code is readopted with amendments to read as follows:

### **CHAPTER 18.04 MECHANICAL CODE**

**Section:**

**18.04.010 Adoption.**

**18.04.010 Adoption.**

That certain document entitled 2025 California Mechanical Code, California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 4, as published by the California Building Standards Commission, which is based on the 2024 Uniform Mechanical Code with applicable amendments from the State of California, Appendices B and C of the 204 Uniform Mechanical Code, and the local amendments of this Chapter, are hereby adopted as the Mechanical Code for the County of Monterey.

SECTION 8. Chapter 18.05 of the Monterey County Code is readopted with amendments to read as follows:

**CHAPTER 18.05  
PLUMBING CODE**

**Sections:**

**18.05.010 Adoption.**

**18.05.020 Applicability of local amendments.**

**18.05.030 Water conservation measures.**

**18.05.040 Sewage Disposal.**

**18.05.010 Adoption.**

That certain document entitled 2025 California Plumbing Code, California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 5, including chapter 16A and also including Appendices A, B, D, H, I, and J as published by the California Building Standards Commission, which is based on the 2014 Uniform Plumbing Code with applicable amendments from the State of California, and the local amendments of this Chapter, are hereby adopted as the Plumbing Code for the County of Monterey.

**18.05.020 Applicability of local amendments.**

Notwithstanding any provisions of the 2025 California Plumbing Code to the contrary, the local amendments set forth in this Chapter shall apply.

**18.05.030 Water conservation measures.**

Water conservation measures shall also conform to the requirements of Chapters 15.12, 18.44, and 18.50 of the Monterey County Code.

**18.05.040 Sewage disposal.**

Sewage disposal measures shall also conform to the requirements of Chapter 15.20 of the Monterey County Code.

SECTION 9. Chapter 18.06 of the Monterey County Code is readopted with amendments to read as follows:

## **CHAPTER 18.06 ENERGY CODE**

### **Section:**

#### **18.06.010 Adoption.**

#### **18.06.010 Adoption.**

That certain document entitled 2025 California Energy Code, California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 6, which includes Appendix 1-A as published by the California Building Standards Commission, is hereby adopted as the Energy Code for the County of Monterey.

SECTION 10. Chapter 18.08 of the Monterey County Code is readopted with amendments to read as follows:

## **CHAPTER 18.08 HISTORICAL BUILDING CODE**

### **Section:**

#### **18.08.010 Adoption.**

#### **18.08.010 Adoption.**

That certain document entitled 2025 California Historical Building Code, California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 8 as published by the California Building Standards Commission is hereby adopted as the Historical Building Code for the County of Monterey.

SECTION 11. Chapter 18.09 of the Monterey County Code is readopted with amendments to read as follows:

## **CHAPTER 18.09 FIRE CODE**

### **Sections:**

#### **18.09.010 Adoption.**

#### **18.09.020 Applicability of local amendments.**

#### **18.09.030 Local amendments.**

#### **18.09.010 Adoption.**

That certain document entitled 2025 California Fire Code, California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 9, which includes Appendices B, BB, C, CC, and H, as published by the California Building Standards Commission, which is based on the 2024 International Fire Code with applicable amendments from the State of California, and the local amendments of this Chapter, are hereby adopted as the Fire Code for the County of Monterey.

#### **18.09.020 Applicability of local amendments.**

Notwithstanding any provisions of the 2025 California Fire Code to the contrary, the local amendments set forth in this Chapter shall apply.

### **18.09.030 Local amendments**

Various provisions of the 2025 California Fire Code (CFC) are modified, amended and/or replaced as noted herein.

A. *\*Section 101.1 of the CFC is deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:*

**101.1 Title.** These regulations shall be known as the Fire Code for the County of Monterey, hereinafter referred to as “Fire Code.”

*\*Section 101.2.1 of the CFC is deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:*

**101.2.1 Appendices.** Provisions in all appendices to the 2025 California Fire Code are hereby adopted in their entirety and shall apply.

*\*Section 102.1 of the CFC is deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:*

**102.1 Construction and design provisions.** The construction and design provisions of this Code shall apply to:

1. Structures, facilities and conditions arising after the adoption of this Code.
2. Existing structures, facilities and conditions not legally in existence at the time of adoption of this Code.
3. Existing structures, facilities and conditions when identified in specific Sections of this Code.
4. Existing structures, facilities and conditions, which, in the opinion of the Fire Code Official, constitute a distinct hazard to life and property.
5. Existing Structures Alterations, Additions and Repairs.
  - a. All new work performed in alterations and/or repairs to existing structures shall comply with the current provisions of this Chapter.
  - b. When alterations and/or repairs result in the removal, alteration, modification, replacement and/or repair of fifty percent (50%) or more of the external walls of a building, or result in the removal, modification, replacement and/or repair of fifty percent (50%) or more of the existing internal structural and/or non-structural framework, independently or in combination thereof, within a five year period, the entire building shall be made to conform to the current provisions of this Chapter.
  - c. Calculations of linear wall measurements shall be shown on all plans submitted for building permits, on the cover page in the project description of said plans.
  - d. The determination under this section of the requirement for upgrading any existing structure to full conformance with current provisions of this Chapter shall be at the sole discretion of the Fire Code Official.

*\*Section 103 of the CFC is amended to add Sections 103.0, 103.0.1, 103.0.2 and 103.4 to read as follows:*

#### **103.0 Responsibility for enforcement.**

103.0.1 Within established fire protection districts and community services districts, responsibility for enforcement of this Code shall be under the direction of the Fire Chief within each district.

103.0.2 In areas of Monterey County outside incorporated cities or organized special districts or fire districts, responsibility for enforcement of this Code shall be under the direction of the Chief Building Official of Monterey County.

**103.4 Police powers.** The fire code official and his deputies shall have the powers of police officers in performing their duties under this Code. When requested to do so by the fire code official, the chief of police of the jurisdiction is authorized to assign such available police officers as necessary to assist the fire code official in enforcing the provisions of this Code.

*\*Section 105.5 of the CFC is amended to add Section 105.5.0 to read as follows:*

**105.5.0 Agricultural Explosive Devices.** An operational permit is required for storage or use of any agricultural explosive device including “bird bombs”.

*\*Section 113.2 of the CFC is deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:*

**113.2 Owner/occupant responsibility.** Correction and abatement of violations of this Code shall be the responsibility of the owner. If an occupant creates, or allows to be created, hazardous conditions in violation of this Code, the occupant shall be held responsible for the correction and abatement of such hazardous conditions.

*\*Section 113.4 of the CFC is deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:*

**113.4 Violation penalties.** Persons who shall violate any provision of this Code or shall fail to comply with any of the requirements thereof or shall erect, install, alter, repair or do work in violation of the approved construction documents or directive of the fire code official, or of a permit or certificate used under provisions of this Code, shall be guilty of an infraction, punishable by a fine in conformance with Monterey County Code Section 1.22.

*\*Section 114.4 of the CFC is deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:*

**114.4 Failure to comply.** Any person who shall continue any work after having been served with a stop work order, except such work as that person is directed to perform to remove a violation or unsafe condition, shall be guilty of an infraction as specified in Section 112.4 of this Code.

*\*Section 202 of the CFC is amended to add the following definitions:*

**202 Definitions**

**ALL WEATHER SURFACE.** A road surface constructed to the minimum standards adopted by the jurisdiction.

**BRIDGE.** A structure to carry a roadway over a depression or obstacle.

**IDLE PALLET.** A pallet or similar product storage and/or lifting device not currently in use and empty of product.

*\*Section 503.2.6 of the CFC is amended to add Sections 503.2.6.1 and 603.2.6.2 to read as follows:*

**503.2.6.1 Private bridge engineering.** Every private bridge hereafter constructed shall meet the following engineering requirements:

1. The weight shall be designed for a minimum of HS-20 loading as prescribed by the AASHTO.
2. The unobstructed vertical clearance shall be not less than fifteen (15) feet clear.
3. The width shall be a minimum of twenty (20) feet clear. The Fire Code Official may require additional width when the traffic flow may be restricted or reduce the width to a minimum of twelve (12) feet for Occupancy Group U or R-3 occupancies.



4. The maximum grade change of the approach to and from any private bridge shall not exceed eight percent for a minimum distance of ten (10) feet.

**503.2.6.2 Private bridge certification.** Every private bridge hereafter constructed shall be engineered by a licensed professional engineer knowledgeable and experienced in the engineering and design of bridges. Certification that the bridge complies with the design standards required by this Code and the identified standards, and that the bridge was constructed to those standards, shall be provided by the licensed engineer, in writing, to the Fire Code Official. Every private bridge, including existing and those constructed under this Code, shall be certified as to its maximum load limits every ten (10) years or whenever deemed necessary by the fire code official. Such recertification shall be by a licensed professional engineer knowledgeable and experienced in the engineering and design of bridges. All fees charged for the purpose of certification or recertification of private bridges shall be at the owner's expense.

*\*Section 503.2.7 of the CFC is deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:*

**503.2.7 Grade.** The grade of fire apparatus access roads shall be no greater than fifteen (15) percent unless specifically approved by the Fire Code Official.

**503.2.7.1 Paving.** All fire apparatus access roads over eight (8) percent shall be paved with a minimum 0.17 feet of asphaltic concrete on 0.34 feet of aggregate base. All fire apparatus access roads over fifteen (15) percent where approved shall be paved with perpendicularly grooved concrete.

*\*Section 503 of the CFC is amended to add Section 503.7 to read as follows:*

**503.7 Fire apparatus access road names.** All fire apparatus access road names shall be issued or approved by the appropriate governmental agency.

*\*Section 505.1 of the CFC is deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following::*

**505.1 Address Identification.** New and existing buildings shall be provided with an approved address identification. The address identification shall be legible and placed in a position that is visible at all times from the street or road fronting the property. Address identification characters shall contrast with their background. Address numbers shall be Arabic numbers or alphabetical letters. Numbers shall not be spelled out. Each character shall be not less than 4" high with a minimum width stroke of one-half inch for single family dwellings and duplexes. For all other occupancies each character shall be not less than 10" high with a minimum stroke of three-quarters inch unless otherwise required by the Fire Code Official.

*Section 507.5.2 of the CFC is deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:*

**507.5.2 Inspection, testing and maintenance.** Fire hydrant systems shall be subject to periodic tests as required by the Fire Code Official. Fire hydrant systems shall be maintained in an operative condition at all times and shall be repaired where defective. Additions, repairs, alterations and servicing shall comply with approved standards. When required by the Fire Code Official, hydrants shall be painted in accordance with the most current edition of NFPA 291.

*\*Section 605.3 of the CFC is amended to add Section 605.3.1 to read as follows*

**605.3.1 Spark arresters.**

605.3.1.1 An approved spark arrester shall be installed on all chimneys, incinerators, smokestacks or similar devices using solid fuel for conveying smoke or hot gases to the outer air.  
605.3.1.2 Spark arresters shall have openings in accordance with Section 2113.9.2(3) of the California Building Code and Section 1003.9.2 of the California Residential Code with minimum openings of 3/8" and maximum openings of 1/2".

*\*Section 901.1 of the CFC is amended to add Section 901.1.1 to read as follows*

**901.1.1 Responsibility.** The owner of the protected premises shall be responsible for all fire protection systems within the protected premises, whether existing or installed under this code.

*\*Section 901.2 of the CFC is amended to add Section 901.2.2 to read as follows*

**901.2.2 Additional documentation.** Additional documentation as required by the Fire Code Official shall be provided to the Fire Code Official in an acceptable format.

*\*Section 901.4 of the CFC is deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:*

**901.4 Fire Protection and Life Safety Systems.** Fire protection and life safety systems shall be installed, repaired, operated and maintained in accordance with the original installation standards for that system. All systems shall be extended, altered, or augmented as necessary to maintain and continue protection whenever the building is altered, remodeled or added to. Alterations to fire protection systems shall be done in accordance with applicable standards.

*\*Section 901.4.8 is added to read as follows:*

**901.4.8 Nonoperational equipment.** Any fire protection equipment that is no longer in service shall be removed.

*\*Section 901.6 of the CFC is amended to add Section 901.6.4 and 901.6.5 to read as follows:*

**901.6.4 Qualifications of Inspection, Testing and Maintenance Personnel.** All personnel performing any inspection, testing or maintenance of any fire protection system shall be qualified. Where such inspection, testing and maintenance is performed by an outside service company, the company shall be appropriately licensed by the California Contractors State License Board in accordance with the California Business & Professions Code or by the California State Fire Marshal.

**901.6.5 Additional records.** All documentation generated during any scheduled inspection or test of any fire protection system, whether required or voluntarily installed, shall be forwarded to the Fire Code Official within fifteen (15) calendar days after the date of the inspection or test.

*\*Section 901.7.7 of the CFC is added to read as follows*

**901.7.7** Unless otherwise approved by the Fire Code Official, fire watch personnel shall be California licensed private security individuals with a minimum of two (2) individuals on duty at all times. Fire watch personnel shall be on duty 24 hours per day until the fire protection system has been returned to service.

*\*Section 901 of the CFC is amended to add Section 901.11 to read as follows:*

**901.11 Fire Protection Features for Plant Processing and Extraction Facilities**

**901.11.1 Scope.** This section applies to occupancies regulated by Chapter 39 of this Code.

**901.11.2 Definitions.**

**901.11.2.1 Plant processing.** Plant processing shall include all plant post-harvest operations, excluding retail sales of plant and related products.

**901.11.2.2 Indoor cultivation.** Indoor cultivation shall be defined as all nursery or cultivation conducted in other than Group U occupancies (greenhouses).

**901.11.3 Fire Protection Systems.** All buildings or portions thereof housing plant post-harvest or indoor cultivation operations shall be protected as defined in this section.

**901.11.3.1 Fire Sprinklers.** Fire sprinklers shall be installed in accordance with 901.11.3.1.1, 901.11.3.1.2, or 901.11.3.1.3

901.11.3.1.1 Fire sprinklers shall be installed in all buildings or portions thereof; such fire sprinkler systems shall be designed to Ordinary Group II design standards in the latest adopted edition of NFPA 13 and Section 903 of this code.

901.11.3.1.2 If the occupancy is classified as a Group H Occupancy the fire sprinkler system may be required to be designed and installed as an Extra Hazard fire sprinkler system

901.11.3.1.3 Where permitted by the fire code official and not otherwise required by this code or the CBC, fire sprinklers may be eliminated in approved buildings less than 500 square feet.

**901.11.3.2 Fire Alarm Systems.** Fire alarm systems shall be installed in all buildings or portions thereof; such fire alarm systems shall include both fire sprinkler system monitoring and complete occupant notification as specified in the latest adopted edition of NFPA 72 and Section 907 of this code.

**901.11.3.3 Special Hazard Systems.** Where specified by appropriate UL listings for extraction booths utilizing volatile solvents, dry chemical fire protection systems shall be installed according to the latest adopted edition of NFPA 17. If there is no UL listing for the extraction booth, a dry chemical fire protection system shall be installed.

**901.11.3.4 Portable Fire Extinguishers.** Portable fire extinguishers shall be installed in accordance with NFPA 10 and Section 906 of this code.

***\*Section 903.2 of the CFC is deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:***

**903.2 Where required.** Approved automatic sprinkler systems shall be provided in all new buildings and structures constructed, moved into or relocated within the jurisdiction.

Exceptions:

(1) Structures not classified as Group R occupancies and not more than five hundred (500) square feet in total floor area.

(2) Detached agricultural buildings, as defined by this code and the CBC, located at least one hundred feet (100) from any other structure or the property line, whichever is closer, and with a maximum size of 10,000 square feet.

(3) Accessory structures not classified as R occupancies associated with existing non-sprinklered R-3 occupancies (one- or two-family dwellings) and less than one thousand five hundred (1500) square feet in total fire area with a clearance from the existing R-3 occupancy of not less than twenty (20) feet.

(4) Where an insufficient water supply exists to provide for an automatic fire sprinkler system and where the Fire Code Official permits alternate protection.

***\*Sections 903.2.1.1, 903.2.1.2, 903.2.1.3, 903.2.1.4, 903.2.1.5, 903.2.3, 903.2.4, 903.2.4.1, 903.7.1, 903.7.3, 903.2.9, 903.2.9.1 and 903.2.9.2 of the CFC are amended as follows***

*The following Sections are amended by changing requirements to five hundred (500) square feet for fire sprinkler installation, as follows (the complete text of the section is not provided):*

903.2.1.1 Group A-1. Change twelve thousand (12,000) square feet to five hundred (500) square feet.

903.2.1.2 Group A-2. Change five thousand (5,000) square feet to five hundred (500) square feet.

903.2.1.3 Group A-3. Change twelve thousand (12,000) square feet to five hundred (500) square feet.

903.2.1.4 Group A-4. Change twelve thousand (12,000) square feet to five hundred (500) square feet.

903.2.1.5 Group A-5. Change one thousand (1,000) square feet to five hundred (500) square feet.

903.2.3 Group E. Change twelve thousand (12,000) square feet to five hundred (500) square feet.

903.2.4 Group F-1. Change twelve thousand (12,000) square feet to five hundred (500) square feet.

903.2.4.1 Group F-1. Change two thousand five hundred (2,500) square feet for woodworking operations to five hundred (500) square feet.

903.2.7-1 Group M. Change twelve thousand (12,000) square feet to five hundred (500) square feet.

903.2.7-3 Group M. Change twenty-four thousand (24,000) square feet to five hundred (500) square feet.

903.2.9 Group S-1. Change twelve thousand (12,000) square feet to five hundred (500) square feet.

903.2.9.1 Repair Garages. Change ten thousand (10,000) square feet (2 story buildings) and twelve thousand (12,000) square feet (1 story buildings) to five hundred (500) square feet.

903.2.9.2 Bulk storage of tires. Change twenty thousand (20,000) cubic feet to five hundred (500) square feet.

***\*Section 903.2.8 of the CFC, first paragraph is deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following. Exceptions remain unchanged.***

**903.2.8 Group R.** An automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.3 shall be provided in all buildings with a Group R fire area, including, but not limited to, one- and two-family dwellings, townhomes, and manufactured homes and mobile homes located outside of licensed mobile home parks hereafter constructed, moved into or relocated within the jurisdiction, including all additions to buildings already equipped with automatic fire sprinkler systems.

(Exceptions remain per 2025 California Fire Code)

***\*Section 903.3.1.1.1 of the CFC is amended to add Section 903.1.1.1-5 to read as follows:***

903.3.1.1.1 -5 Passenger elevator shafts or associated passenger elevator mechanical rooms, where elevator shafts are constructed with a 2-hour fire resistive method.

***\*Section 903.3.1.1.2 of the CFC is deleted:***

Section 903.3.1.1.2 of the California Fire Code is deleted.

***Sections 903.3.1.2, 903.3.1.2.2, 903.3.1.2.3, 903.1.2.4, 903.3.1.2.5, and 903.1.2.6 of the CFC are deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:***

**903.3.1.2 NFPA 13R sprinkler systems.** Automatic sprinkler systems in Group R occupancies up to and including four stories in height shall be permitted to be installed throughout in accordance with NFPA 13R as amended in Chapter 47 of this Code.

**903.3.1.2.1 Balconies and decks.** Sprinkler protection shall be provided for exterior balconies, decks and ground floor patios of dwelling units where the building is of Type V construction, provided there is a roof or deck above. Sidewall sprinklers that are used to protect such areas shall be permitted to be located such that their deflectors are within 1 inch to 6 inches below the structural members and a maximum distance of fourteen (14) inches below the deck of the exterior balconies and decks that are constructed of open wood joist construction.

**903.3.1.2.3 Attics.** Where NFPA 13R sprinkler systems are installed, all attic areas shall be provided with sprinkler protection in accordance with NFPA 13.

**903.3.1.2.4 Sprinkler control valves.** Where NFPA 13R sprinkler systems are installed, sprinkler system control valves shall be installed in accordance with NFPA 13.

**903.3.1.2.5 Bathrooms.** Automatic sprinklers shall be installed in all bathrooms, regardless of square footage, where an electrical receptacle is installed.

**903.3.1.2.6 Accessible storage areas.** Automatic sprinklers shall be installed in all accessible storage areas.

**903.3.1.2.7 Under-stair spaces.** Automatic sprinklers shall be installed in all under-stair spaces including all under-stair closets.

***\*Section 903.3.1.3 of the CFC is deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following.***

**903.3.1.3 NFPA 13D sprinkler systems.** Automatic fire sprinkler systems installed in one and two-family dwellings, Group R-3 and R-4 congregate living facilities and townhouses shall be permitted to be installed throughout in accordance with NFPA 13D. The requirements of this section supersede the requirements of the California Residential Code.

**903.3.1.3.1** All fire sprinkler systems installed in one- and two-family dwellings shall be tested for leakage by undergoing a hydrostatic test made at 200 psi for two-hour duration.

**903.3.1.3.2** Each water system supplying both domestic and fire protection systems shall have a single indicating-type control valve, arranged to shut off both the domestic and sprinkler systems. A separate shut-off valve for the domestic system only shall be permitted to be installed. The location of the control valve shall be approved by the Fire Code Official.

**903.3.1.3.3** Automatic sprinklers shall be installed in all bathrooms, regardless of square footage.

**903.3.1.3.4** Automatic sprinklers shall be installed in all attached garages and other accessory structures.

**903.3.1.3.5** Automatic sprinklers shall be installed in all accessible storage areas.

**903.3.1.3.5.1** Automatic sprinklers shall be installed in all under-stair spaces including all closets.

**903.3.1.3.6** Local water flow alarms shall be provided on all sprinkler systems. Local water flow alarms shall be powered from the main kitchen refrigerator circuit. The local water flow alarm shall be clearly audible from within the master bedroom at an audibility level of not less than 75 dBa. Where no kitchen exists in the building, the water flow alarm shall be powered from the bathroom lighting circuit. Where required by the fire code official, interior audible notification

appliances or additional water flow alarms may be required to be installed at locations specified by the fire code official.

903.3.1.3.7 Automatic fire sprinklers shall be installed to protect all furnaces and heating system appliances.

***\*Section 903.3.10 of the CFC is deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following.***

**903.3.10 Floor control valves.** Approved indicating control valves and water flow switches shall be provided at the point of connection to the riser on each floor in all buildings over one story in height and shall be individually annunciated as approved by the Fire Code Official.

***Section 903.4.2 of the CFC, first paragraph is deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following. Exceptions remain unchanged.***

**903.4.2 Monitoring.** Alarm, supervisory and trouble signals shall be distinctly different and shall be automatically transmitted to an approved central station, remote supervising station or proprietary supervising station as defined in NFPA 72, or, when approved by the Fire Code Official, shall sound an audible signal at a constantly attended location. The fire alarm system installed to transmit such signals shall be considered a building fire alarm system.

***Section 903.4.3 of the CFC, first paragraph is deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following.***

**903.4.3 Alarms.** One exterior approved audible appliance shall be connected to every automatic sprinkler system in an approved location. Sprinkler water-flow alarm devices shall be activated by water flow equivalent to the flow of a single sprinkler of the smallest orifice size installed in the system. Where a building fire alarm system is installed, actuation of the automatic sprinkler system shall actuate the building fire alarm system. Interior alarm notification appliances shall be installed as required by this section or Section 903.4.3.1. A minimum of one audible appliance shall be installed in all occupancies subject to this section.

903.4.3.1 Where an automatic fire sprinkler system is installed in a building with more than one tenant or with over one hundred (100) sprinklers, audible and visible notification appliances shall be installed throughout the building as follows:

- a. Audible notification appliances shall be installed so as to be audible at fifteen (15) dBA above average sound pressure level throughout the building.
- b. Visible notification appliances shall be installed in all public and common use areas, restrooms and corridors in accordance with the spacing requirements of NFPA 72.
- c. Visible notification appliances can be eliminated in normally unoccupied portions of buildings where permitted by the Fire Code Official.

EXCEPTION: The requirements of this section do not apply to Group R-3 Occupancies.

***\*Section 904.14.2 of the CFC is deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following.***

**904.14.2 System interconnection.** The actuation of the fire extinguishing system shall automatically shut down power to the makeup air appliance and all fuel and electrical power located under the hood, except for the electrical power to the exhaust air supply. The fuel and electrical supply reset shall be manual.

***\*Section 904.14.5.2 of the CFC is deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following.***

**904.14.5.2 Extinguishing system service.** Automatic fire extinguishing systems shall be serviced by a CSLB licensed C-16 contractor or a CSFM licensed “A” licensee at least every six months and after any activation of the system. Inspection shall be performed by the owner at least monthly in accordance with the currently adopted edition of NFPA 17-A. The service contractor shall review the records of monthly inspections every six months, and deficiencies shall be reported to the fire code official. A service report shall be forwarded to the fire code official by the licensed service contractor within 15 days after every service on the appropriate AES form.

*\*Section 907 of the CFC is amended to add Section 907.1.6 to read as follows:*

**907.1.6 Multiple Fire Alarm Systems.** Multiple fire alarm systems within a single protected premise are not permitted.

*\*Section 907.2 Exception 1 of the CFC is deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following.*

**907.2 Exception 1.** The manual fire alarm box is not required for fire alarm control units dedicated to elevator recall control.

*\*Section 907.6.4 of the CFC is amended to add Section 907.6.4.0 to read as follows:*

**907.6.4.0 Zone transmittal.** Where required by the fire code official, fire alarm signals shall be transmitted by zone to the supervising station and retransmitted by zone to the public fire service communications center.

*\*Section 907.6.5 of the CFC is deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following.*

**907.6.5 Access.** Access shall be provided to each fire alarm system component for periodic inspection, maintenance and testing.

*\*Section 907.6.6 of the CFC is deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following.*

**907.6.6 Monitoring.** Fire alarm systems, whether required by this Chapter or the California Building Code or voluntarily installed, shall be monitored by an approved supervising station in accordance with NFPA 72 and this Section.  
(Exceptions remain unchanged)

*\*Section 907.6.6 of the CFC is amended to add Section 907.6.6.0 to read as follows:*

**907.6.6.0 Means of communication.** The use of either POTS or cable telephone lines with a digital alarm communicator transmitter shall not be permitted.

EXCEPTION. Where no other communications methods are available, the use of telephone lines shall be permitted to be used on a temporary basis not to exceed one year from the date of final acceptance test or until permitted alternate means of communications are available.

*\*Section 907.7.2 of the CFC is deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following*

**907.7.2 Completion documents.** The following documentation shall be provided at the time of acceptance testing for all fire alarm system installations:

1. A record of completion in accordance with NFPA 72.
2. A record of inspection and testing in accordance with NFPA 72.

3. A contractor's statement verifying that the system has been installed in accordance with the approved plans and specifications and has been 100% tested in accordance with NFPA 72.
4. A contractor's affidavit of personnel qualifications, indicating that all personnel involved with the installation of the fire alarm system meet the qualification requirements of the Fire Code Official.

*\*Section 907.8.2.1 is added to read as follows:*

**907.8.2.1 Testing of FACU Batteries.** Batteries installed in the fire alarm control units and remote power supplies shall be verified for battery capacity based on the approved plans and battery calculations. It shall not be permitted to disconnect the system for 24 hours prior to an acceptance or reacceptance test to test the battery capacity.

*\*Section 1205.1 of the CFC is amended to add Section 1205.1.1 to read as follows:*

**1205.1.1 Signing and Marking.** In addition to signing and marking requirements of the California Building Code and the California Residential Code, the following signing and marking is required:

**1205.1.1.1 Main Panel Exterior Marking.** A placard is required to be permanently affixed to the main service disconnect panel. The placard shall be red in color with white capital letters at least 1/2" in height and in a non-serif font, to read "SOLAR DISCONNECT INSIDE PANEL." The placard shall be constructed of weather-resistant, durable plastic with engraved letters, or other approved material.

**1205.1.1.2 Circuit Disconnecting Means Marking.** A permanent label is to be affixed adjacent to the circuit breaker controlling the inverter or other photovoltaic system electrical controller. The label shall have contrasting color capital letters at least 3/8" in height and in a non—serif font, to read "SOLAR DISCONNECT." The label shall be constructed of durable adhesive material or other approved material.

**1205.1.1.3 Secondary Power Sources.** Where photovoltaic systems are interconnected to battery systems, generator backup systems, or other secondary power systems, additional signage acceptable to the fire code official shall be required indicating the location of the secondary power source shutoff switch.

**1205.1.1.4 Installer Information.** Signage acceptable to the fire code official indicating the name and emergency telephone number of the installing contractor shall be required to be installed adjacent to the main disconnect.

*\*Section 1205.2.1, Exceptions 1 and 2 of the California Fire Code are deleted in their entirety.*

*\*Section 1205.2 of the CFC is amended to add Section 1205.2.1.4 to read as follows:*

**1205.2.1.4 Hip and Valley Layout.** Hip and Valley Layouts. Modules shall be located no closer than one and one-half feet (1-1/2') to a hip or valley if modules are to be placed on both sides of a hip or valley. Where modules are located on only one side of a hip or valley that is of equal length, the modules shall be permitted to be placed directly adjacent to the hip or valley.



*\*Section 1206 of the CFC is amended to add Section 1206.14 to read as follows:*

**1206.14** Where stationary fuel cell power systems are installed inside any structure, signage acceptable to the fire code official shall be required indicating the location of the stationary fuel cell power system. Placarding shall be required to read “FUEL CELL” in block letters 6” high with a ¾” stroke on a contrasting background.

*\*Section 1207.4.1.1 is added to the CFC to read as follows:*

**1207.4.1 .1** Energy storage systems (ESS) disconnects shall be located at or adjacent to the main electrical panel with appropriate placarding showing location of equipment and all shutdowns.

*\*Section 1207 of the CFC is amended to add Section 1207.4.8-6 to read as follows:*

**1207.4.8-6** Where battery energy storage systems are installed inside any structure, signage acceptable to the fire code official shall be required indicating the location of the battery energy storage system. Placarding shall be required to read “BESS” in block letters 6” high with a ¾” stroke on a contrasting background.

*\*Section 3905 of the CFC is amended to add Section 3905.4 to read as follows:*

**3905.4. Fire Protection Systems.** Fire protection systems in occupancies regulated by this chapter shall be in accordance with Section 901.11 of this Code.

*\*Section D103.2 of the CFC is deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following*

**D103.2 Grade.** Fire apparatus access roads shall not exceed fifteen (15) percent in grade with a maximum side slope of five (5) percent.

EXCEPTION: Grades steeper than fifteen (15) percent, if approved by the Fire Code Official, shall be paved with perpendicularly grooved concrete.

*The CFC is amended to add local Appendix MC to read as follows:*

## **APPENDIX MC: STANDARD FIRE CONDITIONS FOR SINGLE FAMILY DWELLINGS**

### **SECTION MC101 GENERAL**

**MC101.1 Scope.** Applications for the construction or remodel of single family dwellings, including one- and two-family dwellings, townhomes, modular and manufactured homes, and mobile homes outside of established mobile home parks, shall be subject to the fire conditions in this appendix when conditioned by the Fire Code Official.

**MC101.2 Conflicting sections.** Where provisions in this appendix conflict with other sections of this Code or other appendices, the provisions of this appendix shall prevail unless otherwise directed by the Fire Code Official.

### **SECTION MC102 ROADS**

**MC102.1 General.** These conditions will be used primarily when conditioning a subdivision or other project that requires roads. Roads identified in this Section are vehicular access to more

than two (2) parcels; more than four (4) residential units; or access to any industrial or commercial occupancy. Includes public and private streets and lanes.

**MC102.2 Road access.** (FIRE 001). Access roads shall be required for every building when any portion of the exterior wall of the first story is located more than one hundred fifty (150) feet from fire department access. All roads shall be constructed to provide a minimum of two (2) ten (10) feet wide traffic lanes with an unobstructed vertical clearance of not less than fifteen (15) feet. The roadway surface shall provide unobstructed access to conventional drive vehicles including sedans and fire apparatus and shall be an all-weather surface designed to support the imposed load of fire apparatus (75,000 pounds). Each road shall have an approved name.

**MC102.3 Roadway engineering.** (FIRE 002). The grade for all roads shall not exceed fifteen percent (15%) with a maximum side slope of five percent (5%). Where road grades are 8 percent (8%) or less, an all-weather aggregate base is required at a minimum or as required in other sections of the Monterey County Code. Where road grades exceed eight percent (8%), a minimum structural roadway surface of 0.17 feet of asphaltic concrete on 0.34 feet of aggregate base shall be required. The length of vertical curves in roadways, exclusive of gutters, ditches and drainage structures designed to hold or divert water, shall not be less than one hundred (100) feet. No roadway turn shall have a horizontal inside radius of less than fifty (50) feet. A roadway turn radius of fifty (50) to one hundred (100) feet is required to have an additional four (4) feet of roadway surface. A roadway turn radius of one hundred (100) to two hundred (200) feet is required to have an additional two (2) feet of roadway surface. Roadway turnarounds shall be required on dead-end roads in excess of one hundred fifty (150) feet of surface length. The minimum turning radius for a turnaround shall be forty (40) feet from the center line of the road. If a hammerhead/T is used, the top of the "T" shall be a minimum of sixty (60) feet in length.

#### **MC102.4 Dead end roads.**

**MC102.4.1 Parcels less than one acre.** (FIRE 003). For parcels less than one acre, the maximum length of a dead-end road, including all dead-end roads accessed from that dead-end road, shall not exceed eight hundred (800) feet. All dead-end road lengths shall be measured from the edge of the roadway surface at the intersection that begins the road to the end of the road surface at its furthest point. Where a dead-end road serves parcels of differing sizes, the shortest allowable length shall apply. Each dead-end road shall have a turnaround constructed at its terminus. The minimum turning radius for a turnaround shall be forty (40) feet from the center line of the road. If a hammerhead/T is used, the top of the "T" shall be a minimum of sixty (60) feet in length.

**MC102.4.2 Parcels greater than one acre and not exceeding five acres** (FIRE 004). For parcels greater than one acre and not exceeding five acres, the maximum length of a dead-end road, including all dead-end roads accessed from that dead-end road, shall not exceed one thousand three hundred twenty (1,320) feet. All dead-end road lengths shall be measured from the edge of the roadway surface at the intersection that begins the road to the end of the road surface at its furthest point. Where a dead-end road serves parcels of differing sizes, the shortest allowable length shall apply. Each dead-end road shall have a turnaround constructed at its terminus. The minimum turning radius for a turnaround shall be forty (40) feet from the center line of the road. If a hammerhead/T is used, the top of the "T" shall be a minimum of sixty (60) feet in length

**MC102.4.3** Parcels greater than five acres and not exceeding twenty (20) acres. (FIRE 005). For parcels greater than five acres and not exceeding twenty (20) acres, the maximum length of a dead-end road, including all dead-end roads accessed from that dead-end road, shall not exceed two thousand six hundred forty (2,640) feet. All dead-end road lengths shall be measured from the edge of the roadway surface at the intersection that begins the road to the end of the road surface at its furthest point. Where a dead-end road serves parcels of differing sizes, the shortest allowable length shall apply. Each dead-end road shall have turnarounds at its terminus and at no greater than one thousand three hundred twenty (1,320) foot intervals. The minimum turning radius for a turnaround shall be forty (40) feet from the center line of the road. If a hammerhead/T is used, the top of the “T” shall be a minimum of sixty (60) feet in length.

**MC102.4.4** Parcels greater than twenty (20) acres. (FIRE 006). For parcels greater than twenty (20) acres, the maximum length of a dead-end road, including all dead-end roads accessed from that dead-end road, shall not exceed five thousand two hundred eighty (5,280) feet. All dead-end road lengths shall be measured from the edge of the roadway surface at the intersection that begins the road to the end of the road surface at its furthest point. Where a dead-end road serves parcels of differing sizes, the shortest allowable length shall apply. Each dead-end road shall have turnarounds at its terminus and at no greater than one thousand three hundred twenty (1,320)-foot intervals. The minimum turning radius for a turnaround shall be forty (40) feet from the center line of the road. If a hammerhead/T is used, the top of the “T” shall be a minimum of sixty (60) feet in length.

## **SECTION MC103 DRIVEWAYS, GATES, AND BRIDGES**

**MC103.1 Driveways.** (FIRE 007). Driveway identified in this Section is defined as a vehicle access that serves up to two (2) parcels with no more than two (2) residential units and any number on non-commercial or industrial buildings on each parcel. Driveways shall not be less than twelve (12) feet wide traffic lane and minimum fourteen (14) feet wide unobstructed clearance, with an unobstructed vertical clearance of not less than fifteen (15) feet. The grade for all driveways shall not exceed fifteen percent (15%) with a maximum side slope of five percent (5%). Where driveway grades are eight percent (8%) or less, an all-weather surface such as an aggregate base shall meet minimum fire requirements. Other types of material for driveways may be required by Monterey County Code. Where the grade exceeds eight percent (8%), a minimum structural roadway surface of 0.17 feet of asphaltic concrete on 0.34 feet of aggregate base shall be required. The driveway surface shall be capable of supporting the imposed load of fire apparatus forty thousand (40,000) pounds, and be accessible by conventional-drive vehicles, including sedans. For driveways with turns ninety (90) degrees and less, the minimum horizontal inside radius of curvature shall be twenty-five (25) feet. For driveways with turns greater than ninety (90) degrees, the minimum horizontal inside radius curvature shall be twenty-eight (28) feet. For all driveway turns, an additional surface of four (4) feet shall be added. All driveways exceeding one hundred fifty (150) feet in length, but less than eight hundred (800) feet in length, shall provide a turnout near the midpoint of the driveway. Where the driveway exceeds eight hundred (800) feet, turnouts shall be provided at no greater than four hundred (400)-foot intervals. Turnouts shall be a minimum of twelve (12) feet wide and thirty (30) feet long with a minimum of twenty (25) foot taper at both ends. Turnarounds shall be required on driveways in

excess of one hundred fifty (150) feet of surface length and shall be thirty (30) feet long with a minimum twenty-five (25) foot taper at both ends. Turnarounds shall be required on driveways in excess of one hundred fifty (150) feet of surface length and shall be located within fifty (50) feet of the primary building. The minimum turning radius for a turnaround shall be forty (40) feet from the center line of the driveway. If a hammerhead/T is used, the top of the "T" shall be a minimum of sixty (60) feet in length.

**MC103.2 Gates.** (FIRE 008). All gates providing access from a road to a driveway shall be located at least thirty (30) feet from the roadway and shall open to allow a vehicle to stop without obstructing traffic on the road. Gate entrances shall be at least two (2) feet wider than the width of the traffic lane but in no case be less than fourteen (14) feet wide unobstructed and unobstructed vertical clearance of fifteen (15) feet. Where a one-way road with a single traffic lane provides access to a gated entrance, a forty (40) foot turning radius shall be used. Where gates are to be locked, the installation of a key box or other acceptable means for immediate access by emergency equipment may be required.

**MC103.3 Bridges.** (FIRE 009). All new and reconstructed bridges shall be at least the width of the roadbed and berms, but in no case less than twelve (12) feet wide. Bridge width on all roads exceeding tertiary standards shall not be less than the width of the two lanes with berms. All bridges shall be designed for HS15-44 loading and have guardrails. Appropriate signage, including but not limited to, weight ratings or vertical clearance limitations, and one-way road or single-lane road conditions, shall be provided at both entrances to any bridge. One-lane bridges may be permitted if there is unobstructed visibility across the entire bridge, and turnouts are provided at both bridge ends. The fire authority may impose more stringent requirements for bridges.

## **SECTION MC104 SIGNS AND ADDRESSES**

**MC104.1 Road signs.** (FIRE 010). All newly constructed or approved roads and streets shall be designated by names or numbers, posted on signs clearly visible and legible from the roadway. Size of letters, numbers and symbols for street and road signs shall be a minimum four-inch letter height, ½-inch stroke, and shall be a color that is reflective and clearly contrasts with the background color of the sign. All numerals shall be Arabic. Street and road signs shall be non-combustible and shall be visible and legible from both directions of vehicle travel for a distance of at least one hundred (100) feet. Height, visibility, legibility, and orientation of street and road signs shall be meet the provisions of the jurisdiction. This section does not require any entity to rename or renumber existing roads or streets, nor shall a roadway providing access only to a single commercial or industrial occupancy require naming or numbering. Signs required under this section identifying intersecting roads, streets and private lanes shall be placed at the intersection of those roads, streets and/or private lanes. Signs identifying traffic access or flow limitations (i.e., weight or vertical clearance limitations, dead-end road, one-way road or single lane conditions, etc.) shall be placed: (a) at the intersection preceding the traffic access limitation; and (b) not more than one hundred (100) feet before such traffic access limitation. Road, street and private lane signs required by this article shall be installed prior to final acceptance of road improvements by the Fire Code Official.

**MC104.2 Addresses for buildings.** (FIRE 011). All buildings shall be issued an address in accordance with jurisdictional requirements. Each occupancy, including detached accessory dwelling units (ADU), except accessory buildings, shall have its own permanently posted address. When multiple occupancies exist within a single building, each individual occupancy shall be separately identified by its own address. Letters, numbers and symbols for addresses shall be a minimum of four-inch (4") height, 1/2-inch stroke, contrasting with the background color of the sign, and shall be Arabic. The sign and numbers shall be reflective and made of a noncombustible material. Address signs shall be placed at each driveway entrance and at each driveway split. Address signs shall be and visible from both directions of travel along the road. In all cases, the address shall be posted at the beginning of construction and shall be maintained thereafter. Address signs along one-way roads shall be visible from both directions of travel. Where multiple addresses are required at a single driveway, they shall be mounted on a single sign. Where a roadway provides access solely to a single commercial occupancy, the address sign shall be placed at the nearest road intersection providing access to that site. Permanent address numbers shall be posted prior to requesting final clearance.

## **SECTION MC105 WATER SUPPLY**

**MC105.1 Water systems.** (FIRE 012). The provisions of this condition shall apply when new parcels are approved by a local jurisdiction. The emergency water system shall be available on-site prior to the completion of road construction, where a community water system is approved, or prior to the completion of building construction, where an individual system is approved. Approved water systems shall be installed and made serviceable prior to the time of construction. Water systems constructed, extended or modified to serve a new development, a change of use, or an intensification of use, shall be designed to meet, in addition to average daily demand, NFPA Standard 1142 or other adopted standards. The quantity of water required pursuant to this chapter shall be in addition to the domestic demand and shall be permanently and immediately available.

**MC105.2 (RESERVED)** (FIRE 013).

**MC105.3 Single parcel fire protection water supply.** (FIRE 014). For development of structures totaling less than three thousand (3,000) square feet on a single parcel, the minimum fire protection water supply shall be four thousand nine hundred (4,900) gallons. For development of structures totaling three thousand (3,000) square feet or more on a single parcel, the minimum fire protection water supply shall be nine thousand eight hundred (9,800) gallons. For development of structures totaling more than ten thousand (10,000) square feet on a single parcel, the reviewing authority may require additional fire protection water supply. Other water supply alternatives, including ISO Rural Class 8 mobile water systems, may be permitted by the fire authority to provide for the same practical effect. The quantity of water required by this condition shall be in addition to the domestic demand and shall be permanently and immediately available.

**MC105.4 Fire hydrants and valves.** (FIRE 015). A fire hydrant or fire valve is required. The hydrant or fire valve shall be eighteen (18) inches above grade, eight feet from flammable vegetation, no closer than four feet nor further than twelve (12) feet from a roadway, and in a

location where fire apparatus using it will not block the roadway. The hydrant serving any building shall be not less than fifty (50) feet and not more than one thousand (1,000) feet by road from the building it is to serve. Minimum hydrant standards shall include a brass head and valve with at least one 2 1/2-inch National Hose outlet supplied by a minimum four inch main and riser. More restrictive hydrant requirements may be applied by the Reviewing Authority. Each hydrant/valve shall be identified with a reflectorized blue marker, with minimum dimensions of three inches, located on the driveway address sign, non-combustible post or fire hydrant riser. If used, the post shall be within three feet of the hydrant/valve, with the blue marker not less than three feet or greater than five feet above the ground, visible from the driveway. On paved roads or driveways, reflectorized blue markers shall be permitted to be installed in accordance with the State Fire Marshal's Guidelines for Fire Hydrant Markings Along State Highways and Freeways, May 1988.

## **SECTION MC106 SETBACKS**

**MC106.1 Setbacks.** (FIRE 016). Except as permitted by the fire code official, all parcels one acre and larger shall provide a minimum thirty (30) foot setback for new buildings and accessory buildings from all property lines and/or the center of the road. For parcels less than one-acre, alternate fuel modification standards or other requirements may be imposed by the Fire Code Official to provide the same practical effect.

## **SECTION MC107 VEGETATION AND DEBRIS DISPOSAL**

**MC107.1 Disposition of vegetation and debris fuels.** (FIRE 017). Disposal, including chipping, burying, or removal to a landfill site approved by the local jurisdiction, of vegetation and debris caused by site development and construction, road and driveway construction, and fuel modification shall be completed prior to final clearance of the related permit.

## **SECTION MC108 GREENBELTS**

**MC108.1 Greenbelts.** (FIRE 018). Subdivisions and other developments, which propose greenbelts as a part of the development plan, shall locate said greenbelts strategically as a separation between wild land fuels and structures. The locations shall be approved by the Fire Code Official.

## **SECTION MC109 DEFENSIBLE SPACE**

**MC109.1 Standard defensible space requirements.** (FIRE 019). Defensible space requirements shall meet Section 4291 of the Public Resources Code or the Monterey County Code, whichever is more restrictive. Additional or alternate fire protection approved by the Fire Code Official may be required to provide reasonable fire safety. Environmentally sensitive areas may require alternative fire protection, to be determined by the Fire Code Official and other jurisdictional authorities.

**MC109.2 (RESERVED)** (FIRE 020).

## **SECTION MC110 FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEMS**

**MC110.1 Residential fire sprinkler systems (Standard).** (FIRE 021). The building(s) and attached structure(s) shall be fully protected with automatic fire sprinkler system(s). Installation shall be in accordance with the applicable NFPA standard. A minimum of four sets of plans for fire sprinkler systems must be submitted by a California licensed C-16 contractor and approved prior to installation. This requirement is not intended to delay issuance of a building permit. A rough sprinkler inspection must be scheduled by the installing contractor and completed prior to requesting a framing inspection.

**MC110.2 (RESERVED)** (FIRE 022).

**MC110.3 (RESERVED)** (FIRE 023).

**MC110.4 Residential fire alarm systems.** (FIRE 024). The residence shall be fully protected with an approved household fire warning system as defined by NFPA 72. Plans and specifications for the household fire warning system shall be submitted by a California licensed C-10 contractor and approved prior to installation. Household fire warning systems installed in lieu of single-station smoke alarms required by the California Residential Code shall meet the requirements of the California Residential Code.

**MC110.5 (RESERVED)** (FIRE 025).

SECTION 12. Chapter 18.10 of the Monterey County Code is readopted with amendments to read as follows:

### **CHAPTER 18.10 EXISTING BUILDING CODE**

#### **Sections:**

- 18.10.010 Adoption.**
- 18.10.020 Applicability of local amendments.**
- 18.10.030 Sheer test criteria for mortar quality.**

#### **18.10.010 Adoption.**

That certain document entitled 2022 California Existing Building Code, California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 10 as published by the California Building Standards Commission based on Appendix Chapter A1, A3 and A4 of the 2021 International Existing Building Code, which is entitled Seismic Strengthening Provisions for Unreinforced Masonry Bearing Wall Buildings, with applicable amendments from the State of California, and the local amendments of this Chapter, are hereby adopted as the Existing Building Code for the County of Monterey.

#### **18.10.020 Applicability of local amendments.**

Notwithstanding any provisions of the 2022 California Existing Building Code to the contrary, the local amendments set forth in this Chapter shall apply.

**18.10.030 Shear test and acceptance criteria for mortar quality.**

A. Test equipment. An internal caliper graduated in 0.001 of inch increments shall be used to measure movement of the masonry unit. A hydraulic jack equipped with a pressure gauge graduated in increments of fifty psi or less shall be used. The jack load shall be applied at a rate not exceeding five thousand pounds per minute.

B. Minimum number of technicians and test readings. The test shall be conducted by a minimum of two technicians. Load and displacement readings shall be recorded at the following intervals: caliper reading of 0.001 inch; first visually observed sign of movement or cracking of the mortar or masonry unit; caliper reading of 0.02 inch; and the ultimate load on the unit.

C. Representative test locations. The masonry unit to be tested shall not be located adjacent to a bond course in a brick wall laid in common bond. Tests to evaluate the mortar quality of structural walls shall not be conducted in masonry veneer.

D. Core Tests. A minimum number of mortar test specimens equal to the number of required cores shall be prepared from the cores and tested as specified herein. The mortar joint of the outer Wythe of the masonry core shall be tested in shear by placing the circular core section in a compression testing machine with the mortar bed joint rotated fifteen degrees from the axis of the applied load. The mortar joint tested in shear shall have an average ultimate stress of twenty psi based on the gross area. The average shall be obtained from the total number of cores made. If test specimens cannot be made from cores taken, the shear value shall be reported as zero.

E. Low mortar quality. Walls with mortar values which are consistently low and do not meet the minimum quality values specified in this Chapter shall be entirely pointed per Uniform Building Code Standard 21-8 except that the depth of joint penetration shall be one and one-half inch (38 mm) in lieu of the three-fourths inch (19 mm) specified.

SECTION 13. Chapter 18.11 of the Monterey County Code is readopted with amendments to read as follows:

**CHAPTER 18.11  
GREEN BUILDING STANDARDS**

**Sections:**

- 18.11.010 Adoption.**
- 18.11.020 Purpose.**
- 18.11.030 Definitions.**
- 18.11.040 Standards for Compliance.**
- 18.11.050 Qualifications for Incentives.**
- 18.11.060 Renewable Energy Generation Requirements.**
- 18.11.070 Requirements for County Owned Buildings.**
- 18.11.080 Interaction with other Regulations.**

**18.11.010 Adoption.**

That certain document entitled 2025 California Green Building Standards Code,



California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 11, also known as CALGreen, as published by the California Building Standards Commission, is hereby adopted as the Green Building Standards Code for the County of Monterey.

**18.11.020 Purpose.**

A. The purpose of this Chapter is to improve the public health, safety and general welfare by encouraging responsible use of resources in the design and construction of buildings, by using building concepts having a reduced negative impact or having a positive environmental impact, and by encouraging sustainable construction practices to:

1. Increase energy efficiency in buildings.
2. Reduce potable water demand.
3. Encourage natural resource conservation.
4. Reduce waste generated by construction projects.
5. Provide durable buildings that are efficient, cost effective, and economical to own and operate; and
6. Promote the health and productivity of residents and workers who occupy and live in buildings within the County.

**18.11.030 Definitions.**

The following definitions shall apply for the purposes of this chapter:

A. "Applicant" means any person or entity applying to the County for a building permit to undertake any covered project within the County.

B. "Alternative means" means a method of achieving the green building performance standards equivalent to CALGreen Tiers 1 or 2 (for example, compliance and certification by a third party green building rating system such as Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) or GreenPoint Rated systems).

C. "Compliance official" means the Building Official or his/her designee charged with the administration and enforcement of this chapter.

D. "Green building rating system" means a rating system with specific building design criteria used to determine compliance thresholds. Examples of rating systems include, but are not limited to, the LEED and GreenPoint rated systems.

E. "GreenPoint Rated" means a rating system developed by the Build It Green organization to certify a residential structure meets certain energy and resource efficiency standards.

F. "LEED" means the "Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design" green building rating system developed by the U.S. Green Building Council.

G. "Major remodel" means any remodel that involves two (2) or more of the following:

1. Demolition and new construction of fifty (50) percent or more of the interior or exterior walls within a building.
2. The permit valuation exceeds five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000.00); or
3. Electrical, plumbing, mechanical, and structural repairs affecting an area of five thousand (5,000) square feet or more.

H. "Non-residential structure" means a building not used for a residential use with a designated Occupancy Classification of A, B, E, F, H, I, L or M in the California Building Standards Code.

I. "Rebuild" means demolition and reconstruction of a building or structure involving the repair or replacement of fifty (50) percent or more of the exterior walls or involving work that exceeds one-half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) of the appraised value of the structure.

#### **18.11.040 Standards for Compliance.**

A. Standards for compliance with CAL Green shall be those standards contained in Part 11 of Title 24 of the California Building Standards Code.

B. For the purposes of this chapter, the following equivalency levels are assumed:

1. CALGreen mandatory requirements are generally equivalent to LEED basic standards and GreenPoint rating of a minimum of eighteen (18) points across all resource categories.

2.. CALGreen Tier 1 standards are generally equivalent to LEED Silver standards and GreenPoint rating of a minimum of thirty-three (33) points across all resource's categories; and

3. CALGreen Tier 2 standards are generally equivalent to LEED Gold or better and GreenPoint rating of a minimum of sixty-five (65) points across all resource categories.

#### **18.11.050 Qualifications for Incentives.**

A. Newly constructed buildings, including a rebuild, that incorporate additional prerequisite and elective green building measures to meet or exceed CALGreen Tier 1 thresholds, or the equivalent, shall receive the following incentives:

1. A Step 1 incentive rebate, in the amount set by resolution of the Board of Supervisors, to be applied towards construction permit fees; and

2. A healthier home or business award from the County.

B. Newly constructed buildings, including a rebuild, that incorporate additional prerequisite and elective green building measures to meet or exceed the 2010 CALGreen Tier 2 thresholds, or the equivalent, shall receive the following incentives:

1. A Step 2 incentive rebate, in the amount set by resolution of the Board of Supervisors, to be applied towards construction permit fees; and

2. A healthier home or business award from the County.

C. For projects qualifying for incentives pursuant to Subsection A or B of this section, the Compliance Official may assign an experienced staff person to coordinate review of construction permits by all County departments.

D. When the CALGreen Green Building Rating System is used, the Compliance Official shall be responsible for verifying that buildings have been designed to qualify for the incentives described in this section.

E. When alternative means to the CALGreen Green Building Rating System are proposed, documentation by a qualified professional for the chosen Green Building Rating System shall be provided to the Compliance Official for his or her review and approval prior to the applicant being entitled to any incentives described in this section. Required documentation and certification of meeting the standards under the alternative means shall be supplied at the applicant's expense. Compliance with alternative means is in addition to, and does not alleviate compliance with, the requirements of the California Building Code including the minimum mandatory requirements of CALGreen.

F. The incentive rebate fees described in this section shall not be combined with other construction permit fee incentives.

#### **18.11.060 Renewable Energy Generation Requirements.**

All new non-residential structures greater than twenty-five thousand (25,000) square feet shall provide on-site renewable energy generation as part of their development. A minimum of fifteen (15) percent of the projected energy demand shall be provided by on-site renewable sources. An exception to this requirement may be approved by the Compliance Official if the applicant can demonstrate that on-site renewable energy generation is not appropriate at the site and that alternative design elements better achieve the desired level of efficiency (at least fifteen (15) percent of the total energy demand).

#### **18.11.070 Requirements for County Owned Buildings.**

A. CALGreen Tier 1 standards, or the functional equivalent, are adopted as the minimum mandatory design standards for newly constructed County-owned buildings and major remodels of existing County-owned buildings.

B. All new County-owned buildings shall be subject to the renewable energy generation requirements of Section 18.11.060 of this chapter. Major remodels of County-owned buildings are not subject to the requirements of Section 18.11.060 but may provide on-site renewable energy generation in connection with achieving CALGreen Tier 1 standards.

C. The requirements of Subsections A and B of this section do not apply to County-owned projects that have already been financed as of December 31, 2012 where compliance with this requirement would conflict with existing grants and financing that are already in place. The

Compliance Official shall have the authority to waive the requirements of Subsections A and B of this section where their application would conflict with local, state, or federal policies or regulations.

D. The requirements of Subsection A of this section do not apply to the Monterey County Government Center (MCGC) East and West Wings - Renovation Project for the following reasons:

1. Preparations for the MCGC East and West Wings - Renovation Project began prior to adoption of the 2010 General Plan. Substantial time was invested in studies and planning for this project prior to adoption of the requirements of this section, and the requirements of this section would delay this project.

2. The MCGC East and West Wings are on the National Register of Historic Places, and green building techniques could interfere with historic preservation and raise costs considerably; and

3. The County will consider alternative methods of achieving the objectives and purposes of this Chapter for the MCGC East and West Wings Renovation Project.

#### **18.11.080 Interaction with other Regulations.**

This Chapter is not intended to apply when it is preempted by federal or state laws or regulations, including but not limited to conservation standards applicable to appliances and equipment, including heating, ventilating, and air conditioning ("HVAC") products and water heaters. Many other laws, regulations, and ordinances apply to building design construction and maintenance and to development. The provisions of this Chapter are intended to be in addition to and not in conflict with these other laws, regulations, and ordinances. If any provision of this Chapter conflicts with any duly adopted and valid federal or state statute or regulation, the federal or state statutes or regulations shall take precedence.

SECTION 14. Chapter 18.12 of the Monterey County Code is readopted with amendments to read as follows:

### **CHAPTER 18.12 CALIFORNIA REFERENCED STANDARDS CODE**

#### **Section:**

#### **18.12.010 Adoption.**

#### **18.12.010 Adoption.**

That certain document entitled 2025 California Referenced Standards Code, California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 12, which includes Appendices 12-8-1A and 12-8-1B as published by the California Building Standards Commission, is hereby adopted as the California Referenced Standards Code for the County of Monterey.

SECTION 15. Chapter 18.13 of the Monterey County Code is readopted with amendments to read as follows:

## **CHAPTER 18.13 CODES AND STANDARDS ADOPTED AS REFERENCE**

### **Section:**

#### **18.13.010 Adoption.**

#### **18.13.010 Adoption.**

The following codes and standards are adopted as reference documents and may be used by the Building Official in accordance with California Building Code Section 104.11 on a case-by-case basis in the review and approval of permit applications:

- A. International Property Maintenance Code 2024 Edition published by the International Code Council.
- B. International Fuel Gas Code 2024 Edition as published by the International Code Council.
- C. International Mechanical Code 2024 Edition as published by the International Code Council.
- D. International Plumbing Code 2024 Edition as published by the International Code Council.
- E. ASCE/SEI 31-03 Seismic Evaluation of Existing Buildings published by The American Society of Civil Engineers.
- F. ASCE/SEI 41-06 Seismic Rehabilitation of Existing Building published by the American Society of Civil Engineers.

SECTION 16. Chapter 18.14 of the Monterey County Code is readopted with amendments to read as follows:

## **Chapter 18.14 PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE**

### **Sections:**

- 18.14.010 - Administration.**
- 18.14.020 - Definitions.**
- 18.14.030 - Enforcement provisions.**
- 18.14.040 - General maintenance requirements.**
- 18.14.050 - Light, ventilation and occupancy requirements.**
- 18.14.060 - Plumbing facilities and fixture requirements.**
- 18.14.070 - Mechanical and electrical requirements.**
- 18.14.080 - Fire safety requirements.**
- 18.14.090 - Violations.**

#### **18.14.010 - Administration.**

- A. Title. The regulations in this Chapter shall be known as the Property Maintenance Code of Monterey County.
- B. Scope. The provisions of this Chapter shall apply to all existing residential and nonresidential structures and all existing premises and constitute minimum requirements and

standards for premises, structures, equipment and facilities for light, ventilation, space, heating, sanitation, protection from the elements, life safety, safety from fire and other hazards, and for safe and sanitary maintenance; the responsibility of owners, operators and occupants; the occupancy of existing structures and premises, and for administration, enforcement and penalties.

C. Intent. This Chapter shall be construed to secure its expressed intent, which is to ensure public health, safety and welfare insofar as they are affected by the continued occupancy and maintenance of structures and premises. Existing structures and premises that do not comply with these provisions shall be altered or repaired to provide a minimum level of health and safety as required herein.

D. Severability. If a section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this Chapter is, for any reason, held to be unconstitutional, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Chapter.

E. Resolving Conflicting Provisions. Where there is a conflict between a general requirement and a specific requirement, the specific requirement shall govern. Where differences occur between provisions of this Chapter and the referenced standards or when in a specific case, different sections of this Chapter specify different requirements, the most restrictive shall govern.

F. Maintenance. Equipment, systems, devices and safeguards required by this Chapter or a previous regulation or code under which the structure or premises was constructed, altered or repaired shall be maintained in good working order. The requirements of this Chapter are not intended to provide the basis for removal or abrogation of fire protection and safety systems and devices in existing structures. Except as otherwise specified herein, the owner shall be responsible for the maintenance of buildings, structures, equipment and premises.

G. Application of Other Codes. Repairs, additions or alterations to a structure, or changes of occupancy, shall be done in accordance with the procedures and provisions of the California Building Standards Code as amended by the County of Monterey.

H. Existing Remedies. The provisions in this Chapter shall not be construed to abolish or impair existing remedies of the County of Monterey or its officers or agencies relating to the removal or demolition of any structure which is dangerous, unsafe and unsanitary.

I. Workmanship. Repairs, maintenance work, alterations or installations which are caused directly or indirectly by the enforcement of this Chapter shall be executed and installed in a workmanlike manner and installed in accordance with the manufacturer's installation instructions.

J. Historic Buildings. The provisions of this Chapter for existing buildings or structures designated as historic buildings shall also conform to Chapter 18.25 of the Monterey County Code for provisions related to the abatement of dangerous buildings and application of the California Building Standards Code.

K. Referenced Codes and Standards. The codes and standards referenced in this Chapter shall be those that are listed in Chapter 18.01 Building Standards Administrative Code of the Monterey County Code.

L. Requirements Not Covered by Code. Requirements necessary for the strength, stability or proper operation of an existing fixture, structure or equipment, or for the public safety, health and general welfare, not specifically covered by this Chapter, shall be determined by the Building Official. The Building Official may use generally accepted construction standards applicable at the time of original construction for buildings constructed prior to permit

requirements or adoption of local building standards. These standards may include editions of model codes published at the time of original construction.

M. Application of References. References to Chapter or section numbers, or to provisions not specifically identified by number, shall be construed to refer to such Chapter, section or provision of this Chapter.

N. Other Laws. The provisions of this Chapter shall not be deemed to nullify any provisions of local, state or federal law.

#### **18.14.020 - Definitions.**

Unless otherwise expressly stated, the following terms shall, for the purposes of this Chapter, have the meanings shown in this Chapter.

- A. Anchored. Secured in a manner that provides positive connection.
- B. Approved. Approved by the Building Official.
- C. Basement. That portion of a building which is partly or completely below grade.
- D. Bathroom. A room containing plumbing fixtures including a bathtub or shower.
- E. Bedroom. Any room or space used or intended to be used for sleeping purposes in either a dwelling or sleeping unit.
- F. Building Official. The Building Official as described in Section 104 of the California Building Code.
- G. Building Standards in Effect at the Time of Construction. Standards for construction work that were adopted by the County of Monterey at the time of construction. For existing construction completed prior to the adoption of building standards by the County of Monterey on January 1, 1954, those standards for construction work that were published in model codes and generally accepted in California or required by the State of California at the time of construction.
- H. Condemn. To adjudge unfit for occupancy.
- I. Construction Work. Work to construct, enlarge, alter, repair, move, demolish, or change the occupancy of a building or structure, or to erect, install, enlarge, alter, repair, remove, convert or replace any electrical, gas, mechanical or plumbing system, or perform any grading.
- J. Dangerous Structure or Premises. For the purpose of this Chapter, any structure or premises that have any or all of the conditions or defects described below shall be considered dangerous:
  - 1. Any door, aisle, passageway, stairway, exit or other means of egress that does not conform to the approved building code or fire code for the County of Monterey as related to the requirements for existing buildings.
  - 2. The walking surface of any aisle, passageway, stairway, exit or other means of egress is so warped, worn loose, torn or otherwise unsafe as to not provide safe and adequate means of egress.
  - 3. Any portion of a building, structure or appurtenance that has been damaged by fire, earthquake, wind, flood, deterioration, neglect, abandonment, vandalism or by any other cause to such an extent that it is likely to partially or completely collapse, or to become detached or dislodged.
  - 4. Any portion of a building, or any member, appurtenance or ornamentation on the exterior thereof that is not of sufficient strength or stability, or is not so anchored, attached or fastened in place so as to be capable of resisting natural or artificial loads of one and one-half (1½) the original designed value.

5. The building or structure, or part of the building or structure, because of dilapidation, deterioration, decay, faulty construction, the removal or movement of some portion of the ground necessary for the support, or for any other reason, is likely to partially or completely collapse, or some portion of the foundation or underpinning of the building or structure is likely to fail or give way.

6. The building or structure, or any portion thereof, is clearly unsafe for its use and occupancy.

7. The building or structure is neglected, damaged, dilapidated, unsecured or abandoned so as to become an attractive nuisance to children who might play in the building or structure to their danger, becomes a harbor for vagrants, criminals or immoral persons, or enables persons to resort to the building or structure for committing a nuisance or an unlawful act.

8. Any building or structure has been constructed, exists or is maintained in violation of any specific requirement or prohibition applicable to such building or structure provided by the approved building code or fire code for the County of Monterey, or of any law or ordinance to such an extent as to present either a substantial risk of fire, building collapse or any other threat to life and safety.

9. A building or structure, used or intended to be used for dwelling purposes, because of inadequate maintenance, dilapidation, decay, damage, faulty construction or arrangement, inadequate light, ventilation, mechanical or plumbing system, or otherwise, is determined by the Building Official to be unsanitary, unfit for human habitation or in such a condition that is likely to cause sickness or disease.

10. Any building or structure, because of a lack of sufficient or proper fire-resistance-rated construction, fire protection systems, electrical system, fuel connections, mechanical system, plumbing system or other cause, is determined by the Building Official to be a threat to life or health.

11. Any portion of a building remains on a site after the demolition or destruction of the building or structure or whenever any building or structure is abandoned so as to constitute such building or portion thereof as an attractive nuisance or hazard to the public.

12. Any portion of premises that contains open excavations, exposed sharp objects, falling or drowning hazards, unprotected hazardous materials, exposed raw sewage, excessive trash, overgrown weeds, abandoned or inoperative vehicles, pools or spas without required covers or enclosures or other unsafe conditions that threaten the health and safety of the public.

13. Any portion of premises that contains any existing excavation or embankment or fill has become a hazard to life and limb, or endangers property, or adversely affects the safety, use, or stability of a public way or drainage channel.

K. Detached. When a structural element is physically disconnected from another and that connection is necessary to provide a positive connection.

L. Deterioration. To weaken, disintegrate, corrode, rust or decay and lose effectiveness.

M. Dwelling Unit. A single unit providing complete, independent living facilities for one or more persons, including permanent provisions for living, sleeping, eating, cooking and sanitation.

N. Easement. That portion of land or property reserved for present or future use by a person or agency other than the legal fee owner(s) of the property. The easement shall be permitted to be for use under, on or above a said lot or lots.



O. Electrical Facilities. Includes but not limited to electrical distribution equipment, motor circuits, power equipment, transformers, wire, cable, flexible cords, wiring devices, ground fault circuit interrupters, surge protectors, molded case circuit breakers, low-voltage fuses, luminaires, ballasts, motors and electronic control, signaling and communication equipment, switches, receptacles and fixtures.

P. Electrical System Hazards. Where it is found that the electrical system in a structure constitutes a hazard to the occupants or the structure by reason of inadequate service, improper fusing, insufficient receptacle and lighting outlets, improper wiring or installation, deterioration or damage, or for similar reasons, the Building Official shall require the defects to be corrected to eliminate the hazard.

Q. Equipment Support. Those structural members or assemblies of members or manufactured elements, including braces, frames, lugs, snuggers, hangers or saddles, that transmit gravity load, lateral load and operating load between the equipment and the structure.

R. Exterior Property. The open space on a premises, and on adjoining property under the control of owners or operators of such premises.

S. Garbage. The animal or vegetable waste resulting from the handling, preparation, cooking or consumption of food.

T. Guard. A building component or a system of building components located at or near the open sides of elevated walking surfaces that minimizes the possibility of a fall from the walking surface to a lower level.

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

V. Housekeeping Unit. A room or group of rooms forming a single habitable space equipped and intended to be used for living, sleeping, cooking and eating which does not contain, within such a unit, a toilet, lavatory and bathtub or shower.

W. Imminent Danger. A condition which could cause serious or life-threatening injury or death at any time.

X. Infestation. The presence, within or contiguous to, a structure or premises of insects, rats, vermin or other pests.

Y. Inoperable Motor Vehicle. A vehicle which cannot be driven upon the public streets for reason including but not limited to being unlicensed, wrecked, abandoned, in a state of disrepair, or incapable of being moved under its own power.

Z. Labeled. Equipment, materials or products to which have been affixed a label, seal, symbol or other identifying mark of a nationally recognized testing laboratory, inspection agency or other organization concerned with product evaluation that maintains periodic inspection of the production of the above-labeled items and whose labeling indicates either that the equipment, material or product meets identified standards or has been tested and found suitable for a specified purpose.

AA. Let for Occupancy or Let. To permit, provide or offer possession or occupancy of a dwelling, dwelling unit, rooming unit, building, premise or structure by a person who is or is not the legal owner of record thereof, pursuant to a written or unwritten lease, agreement or license, or pursuant to a recorded or unrecorded agreement of contract for the sale of land.

BB. Neglect. The lack of proper maintenance for a building or structure.

CC. Occupancy. The purpose for which a building or portion thereof is utilized or occupied.

DD. Occupant. Any individual living or sleeping in a building or having possession of a space within a building.

EE. Operable Area. That part of a window, skylight or door which is available for unobstructed ventilation and which opens directly to the outdoors.

FF. Operator. Any person who has charge, care or control of a structure or premises which is let or offered for occupancy.

GG. Owner. Any person, agent, operator, firm or corporation having a legal or equitable interest in the property; or recorded in the official records of the state, county or municipality as holding title to the property; or otherwise having control of the property, including the guardian or trustee of the estate of any such person, and the executor or administrator of the estate of such person if ordered to take possession of real property by a court.

HH. Person. An individual, corporation, partnership or any other group acting as a unit.

II. Pest Elimination. The control and elimination of insects, rodents or other pests by eliminating their harborage places; by removing or making inaccessible materials that serve as their food or water; by other approved pest elimination methods.

JJ. Plumbing System Hazards. Where it is found that a plumbing system in a structure constitutes a hazard to the occupants or the structure by reason of inadequate service, inadequate venting, cross connection, back siphonage, improper installation, deterioration or damage or for similar reasons.

KK. Premises. A lot, plot or parcel of land, easement or public way, including any structures thereon.

LL. Public Way. Any street, alley or similar parcel of land essentially unobstructed from the ground to the sky, which is deeded, dedicated or otherwise permanently appropriated to the public for public use.

MM. Rooming House. A building arranged or occupied for lodging, with or without meals, for compensation and not occupied as a one- or two-family dwelling.

NN. Rooming Unit. Any room or group of rooms forming a single habitable unit occupied or intended to be occupied for sleeping or living, but not for cooking purposes.

OO. Rubbish. Combustible and noncombustible waste materials, except garbage; the term shall include the residue from the burning of wood, coal, coke and other combustible materials, paper, rags, cartons, boxes, wood, excelsior, rubber, leather, tree branches, yard trimmings, tin cans, metals, mineral matter, glass, crockery and dust and other similar materials.

PP. Sleeping Unit. A room or space in which people sleep, which can also include permanent provisions for living, eating and either sanitation or kitchen facilities, but not both. Such rooms and spaces that are also part of a dwelling unit are not sleeping units.

QQ. Structure. That which is built or constructed or a portion thereof.

RR. Structure Unfit for Human Occupancy. A structure is unfit for human occupancy whenever the Building Official finds that such structure is unsafe, unlawful or, because of the degree to which the structure is in disrepair or lacks maintenance, is unsanitary, vermin or rat infested, contains filth and contamination, or lacks ventilation, illumination, sanitary or heating facilities or other essential equipment required by this Chapter or the referenced codes and standard or because the location of the structure constitutes a hazard to the occupants of the structure or to the public or the structure contains one or more elements of a substandard building as defined in Section 18.15.030 of the Monterey County Code.

SS. Tenant. A person, corporation, partnership, or group, whether or not the legal owner of record, occupying a building or portion thereof as a unit.

TT. Time of Construction. The date an application was submitted for construction work or the date of completion of the construction work when no permit was required.

UU. Toilet Room. A room containing a water closet or urinal but not a bathtub or shower.

VV. Ventilation. The natural or mechanical process of supplying conditioned or unconditioned air to, or removing such air from, any space.

WW. Reserved.

XX. Workmanlike. Executed in a skilled manner, e.g., generally plumb, level, square, in line, undamaged and without marring adjacent work.

YY. Unlawful Structure. An unlawful structure is one found in whole or in part to be occupied by more persons than permitted under this Chapter or referenced codes and standards, or was erected, altered or occupied contrary to law.

ZZ. Unsafe Conditions. The following conditions shall be deemed unsafe:

1. The nominal strength of any structural member is exceeded by nominal loads, the load effects or the required strength.

2. The anchorage of the floor or roof to walls or columns, and of walls and columns to foundations is not capable of resisting all nominal loads or load effects.

3. Structures or components thereof that have reached their limit state.

4. Siding and masonry joints including joints between the building envelope and the perimeter of windows, doors and skylights are not maintained, weather resistant or watertight.

5. Structural members that have evidence of deterioration or that are not capable of safely supporting all nominal loads and load effects.

6. Foundation systems that are not firmly supported by footings, are not plumb and free from open cracks and breaks, are not properly anchored or are not capable of supporting all nominal loads and resisting all load effects.

7. Soils that have moved, liquefied, caused a chemical reaction, compressed or expanded so as to cause the collapse of any footing, foundation system or structural element or soils that do not provide adequate bearing capacity for the intended use.

8. Concrete or masonry that has deteriorated, deformed, fractured, fissured, spalled, exposed its reinforcement, detached, dislodged or otherwise failed so that it can no longer safely provide support for its intended use.

9. Steel, aluminum or other metal that has deteriorated, corroded, deformed, cracked, fatigued, detached, dislodged or otherwise failed so that it can no longer safely provide support for its intended use.

10. Wood that has deteriorated, deformed, cracked, split, dry-rotted, fatigued, detached, dislodged, been damaged by fire, biotic organisms, insects, rodents and other vermin, been excessively cut or notched or otherwise failed so that it can no longer safely provide support for its intended use.

11. Exterior walls that are not anchored to supporting and supported elements or are not plumb and free of holes, cracks or breaks and loose or rotting materials, are not properly anchored or are not capable of supporting all nominal loads and resisting all load effects;

12. Roofing or roofing components that have defects that admit rain, roof surfaces with inadequate drainage, or any portion of the roof framing that is not in good repair with signs

of deterioration, fatigue or without proper anchorage and incapable of supporting all nominal loads and resisting all load effects;

13. Flooring and flooring components with defects that affect serviceability or flooring components that show signs of deterioration or fatigue, are not properly anchored or are incapable of supporting all nominal loads and resisting all load effects.

14. Veneer, cornices, belt courses, corbels, trim, wall facings and similar decorative features not properly anchored or that are anchored with connections not capable of supporting all nominal loads and resisting all load effects.

15. Overhang extensions or projections including, but not limited to, trash chutes, canopies, marquees, signs, awnings, fire escapes, standpipes and exhaust ducts not properly anchored or that are anchored with connections not capable of supporting all nominal loads and resisting all load effects;

16. Exterior stairs, decks, porches, balconies and all similar appurtenances attached thereto, including guards and handrails, are not structurally sound, not properly anchored or that are anchored with connections not capable of supporting all nominal loads and resisting all load effects; or

17. Chimneys, cooling towers, smokestacks and similar appurtenances not structurally sound or not properly anchored, or that are anchored with connections not capable of supporting all nominal loads and resisting all load effects.

AAA. Unsafe Equipment. Unsafe equipment includes any boiler, heating equipment, elevator, moving stairway, electrical wiring or device, flammable liquid containers or other equipment on the premises or within the structure which is in such disrepair or condition that such equipment is a hazard to life, health, property or safety of the public or occupants of the premises or structure.

BBB. Unsafe Structures. An unsafe structure is one that is found to be dangerous to the life, health, property or safety of the public or the occupants of the structure by not providing minimum safeguards to protect or warn occupants in the event of fire, or because such structure contains unsafe conditions or unsafe equipment or is so damaged, decayed, dilapidated, structurally unsafe or of such faulty construction or unstable foundation, that partial or complete collapse is possible.

CCC. Yard. An open space on the same lot with a structure.

#### **18.14.030 - Enforcement provisions.**

A. Responsibility for Enforcement. The Building Official or his or her designee is hereby authorized and directed to enforce the provisions of this Chapter. The Building Official shall have the authority to render interpretations of this Chapter and to adopt policies and procedures in order to clarify the application of its provisions. Such interpretations, policies and procedures shall be in compliance with the intent and purpose of this Chapter. Such policies and procedures shall not have the effect of waiving requirements specifically provided for in this Chapter.

B. Means of Appeal. Any owner whose interests are adversely affected by any order, decision or determination made by the Building Official pursuant to the provisions of this Chapter may file an appeal to the County Hearing Officer pursuant to Chapter 1.22 of the Monterey County Code. For purposes of this Section, owner means any individual, corporation, partnership, firm or any other group acting as a unit having a legal or equitable interest in the property as recorded in the official records of the County Recorder, including the guardian or

trustee of the estate of any such person, and the executor or administrator of the estate of such person if ordered to take possession of real property by a court.

#### **18.14.040 - General maintenance requirements.**

A. General. The provisions of this Chapter shall govern the minimum conditions and the responsibilities of persons for maintenance of structures, equipment and exterior property. The owner of the premises shall maintain the structures and exterior property in compliance with these requirements, except as otherwise provided for in this Chapter. All vacant structures and premises thereof or vacant land shall be maintained in a clean, safe, secure and sanitary condition as provided herein so as not to cause a blighting problem or adversely affect the public health or safety.

B. Exterior Property Areas. All exterior property and premises shall be maintained in a clean, safe and sanitary condition. The occupant shall keep that part of the exterior property which such occupant occupies or controls in a clean and sanitary condition including but not limited to the following:

1. Grading and Drainage. All premises shall be graded and maintained to prevent the erosion of soil and to prevent the accumulation of stagnant water thereon, or within any structure located thereon except for approved retention areas and reservoirs.

2. Sidewalks and Driveways. All sidewalks, walkways, stairs, driveways, parking spaces and similar areas shall be kept in a proper state of repair and maintained free from hazardous conditions.

3. Weeds. All premises and exterior property shall be maintained free from weeds or plant growth in excess of four (4) inches. All noxious weeds shall be prohibited. Weeds shall be defined as all grasses, annual plants and vegetation, other than trees or shrubs provided; however, this term shall not include cultivated flowers and gardens. Removal of weeds pursuant to this Section is subject to compliance with all other laws and regulations including but not limited to the California Coastal Act, and the federal and state Endangered Species Acts.

4. Rodent Harborage. All structures and exterior property shall be kept free from rodent harborage and infestation. Where rodents are found, they shall be promptly exterminated by approved processes which will not be injurious to human health. After extermination, proper precautions shall be taken to eliminate rodent harborage and prevent reinfestation.

5. Exhaust Vents. Pipes, ducts, conductors, fans or blowers shall not discharge gases, steam, vapor, hot air, grease, smoke, odors or other gaseous or particulate wastes directly upon abutting or adjacent public or private property or that of another tenant.

6. Accessory Structures. All accessory structures, including detached garages, fences and walls, shall be maintained structurally sound and in good repair.

7. Motor Vehicles. Except as provided for in other regulations, no inoperative or unlicensed motor vehicle shall be parked, kept or stored on any premises, and no vehicle shall at any time be in a state of major disassembly, disrepair, or in the process of being stripped or dismantled unless such work is performed inside a structure or similarly enclosed area designed and approved for such purposes. Painting of vehicles is prohibited unless conducted inside an approved spray booth.

8. Defacement of Property. The exterior surface of any structure or building on any private or public property shall not be damaged, mutilated or defaced by placing thereon any marking, carving or graffiti.

9. Storage of Materials and Containers. No materials or any type, or storage containers, shall be kept or stored on the exterior of any premises unless the storage of such materials or containers otherwise complies with all applicable laws and regulations including but not limited to the zoning regulations and California Building Standards Code as adopted and amended by the County of Monterey.

C. Exterior Structure. The exterior of a structure shall be maintained in good repair, structurally sound and sanitary so as not to pose a threat to the public health, safety or welfare including but not limited to the following:

1. Protective Treatment. All exterior surfaces, including but not limited to, doors, door and window frames, cornices, porches, trim, balconies, decks and fences, shall be maintained in good condition. Exterior wood surfaces, other than decay-resistant woods, shall be protected from the elements and decay by painting or other protective covering or treatment. Peeling, flaking and chipped paint shall be eliminated and surfaces repainted. All siding and masonry joints, as well as those between the building envelope and the perimeter of windows, doors and skylights, shall be maintained weather resistant and watertight. All metal surfaces subject to rust or corrosion shall be coated to inhibit such rust and corrosion, and all surfaces with rust or corrosion shall be stabilized and coated to inhibit future rust and corrosion. Oxidation stains shall be removed from exterior surfaces. Surfaces designed for stabilization by oxidation are exempt from this requirement.

2. Premises Identification. Except as otherwise provided in the Chapter 18.10 of the Monterey County Code, buildings shall have approved address numbers placed in a position to be plainly legible and visible from the street or road fronting the property. These numbers shall contrast with their background. Address numbers shall be Arabic numerals or alphabet letters. Numbers shall be a minimum of four (4) inches high with a minimum stroke width of 0.5 inch unless otherwise approved by the Fire Code Official.

3. Structural Members. All structural members shall be maintained free from deterioration and shall be capable of safely supporting all required loading.

4. Foundation Walls. All foundation walls shall be maintained plumb and free from open cracks and breaks and shall be kept in such condition to prevent the entry of rodents and other pests.

5. Exterior Walls. All exterior walls shall be free from holes, breaks, and loose or rotting materials; and maintained weatherproof and properly surface coated where required to prevent deterioration.

6. Roofs and Drainage. The roof and flashing shall be sound, tight and not have defects that admit rain. Roof drainage shall be adequate to prevent dampness or deterioration in the walls or interior portion of the structure. Roof drains, gutters and downspouts shall be maintained in good repair and free from obstructions. Roof water shall not be discharged in a manner that creates a public nuisance.

7. Decorative Features. All cornices, belt courses, corbels, terra cotta trim, wall facings and similar decorative features shall be maintained in good repair with proper anchorage and in a safe condition.

8. Overhang Extensions. All overhang extensions including, but not limited to canopies, marquees, signs, metal awnings, fire escapes, standpipes and exhaust ducts shall be maintained in good repair and be properly anchored to be kept in a sound condition.

9. Stairways, Decks, Porches and Balconies. Every exterior stairway, deck, porch and balcony, and all appurtenances attached thereto, shall be maintained structurally sound, in good repair, with proper anchorage and capable of supporting the imposed loads.
  10. Chimneys and Towers. All chimneys, cooling towers, smokestacks, and similar appurtenances shall be maintained structurally safe and sound, and in good repair.
  11. Handrails and Guards. Every handrail and guard shall be firmly fastened and capable of supporting normally imposed loads and shall be maintained in good condition.
  12. Window, Skylight and Door Frames. Every window, skylight, door and frame shall be kept in sound condition, good repair and weather tight.
  13. Glazing. All glazing materials shall be maintained free from cracks and holes.
  14. Openable Windows. Every window, other than a fixed window, shall be easily openable and capable of being held in position by window hardware.
  15. Insect Screens. Every door, window and other outside opening required for ventilation of habitable rooms, food preparation areas, food service areas or any areas where products to be included or utilized in food for human consumption are processed, manufactured, packaged or stored shall be supplied with approved tightly fitting screens of not less than sixteen (16) mesh per inch and every screen door used for insect control shall have a self-closing device in good working condition unless otherwise approved by the Building Official. Screens shall not be required where other approved means, such as air curtains or insect repellent fans, are employed.
  16. Doors. All exterior doors, door assemblies and hardware shall be maintained in good condition. Locks at all entrances to dwelling units and sleeping units shall tightly secure the door.
  17. Basement Hatchways. Every basement hatchway shall be maintained to prevent the entrance of rodents, rain and surface drainage water.
  18. Guards for Basement Windows. Every basement window that is openable shall be supplied with rodent shields, storm windows or other approved protection against the entry of rodents.
  19. Building Security. Doors, windows or hatchways for dwelling units, room units or housekeeping units shall be provided with devices designed to provide security for the occupants and property against unauthorized entry.
- D. Interior Structure. The interior of a structure and equipment therein shall be maintained in good repair, structurally sound and in a sanitary condition including but not limited to the following:
1. Structural Members. All structural members shall be maintained structurally sound and be capable of supporting the imposed loads.
  2. Interior Surfaces. All interior surfaces, including windows and doors, shall be maintained in good, clean and sanitary condition. Peeling, chipping, flaking or abraded paint shall be repaired, removed or covered. Cracked or loose plaster, decayed wood and other defective surface conditions shall be corrected.
  3. Stairs and Walking Surfaces. Every stair, ramp, landing, balcony, porch, deck or other walking surface shall be maintained in sound condition and good repair.
  4. Handrails and Guards. Every handrail and guard shall be firmly fastened and capable of supporting normally imposed loads and shall be maintained in good condition.

5. Interior Doors. Every interior door shall fit reasonably well within its frame and shall be capable of being opened and closed by being properly and securely attached to jambs, headers or tracks as intended by the manufacturer of the attachment hardware.

6. Storage of Materials and Containers. No materials of any type, or storage containers, shall be kept or stored on the interior of any premises unless the storage of such materials or containers otherwise complies with all applicable laws and regulations including but not limited to zoning regulations and the California Building Standards Code as amended by the County of Monterey.

E. Rubbish and Garbage. All exterior property and premises, and the interior of every structure, shall be free from any accumulation of rubbish or garbage. Every occupant of a structure shall dispose of all rubbish in a clean and sanitary manner by placing such rubbish in approved containers. The owner of every occupied premises shall supply approved covered containers for rubbish and shall be responsible for the removal of rubbish. Refrigerators and similar equipment not in operation shall not be discarded, abandoned or stored on premises except at approved locations. Every occupant of a structure shall dispose of garbage in a clean and sanitary manner by placing such garbage in an approved garbage disposal facility or approved garbage containers.

F. Pest Elimination. All structures shall be kept free from insect and rodent infestation. All structures in which insects or rodents are found shall be promptly exterminated by approved processes that will not be injurious to human health. After extermination, proper precautions shall be taken to prevent reinfestation. The owner of any structure shall be responsible for extermination within the structure.

#### **18.14.050 - Light, ventilation and occupancy requirements.**

A. General. The provisions of this Section shall govern the minimum conditions and standards for light, ventilation and space for occupying a structure. The owner of the structure shall provide and maintain light, ventilation and space conditions in compliance with the building standards in effect at the time of construction.

B. Light. Every habitable space shall maintain the required total glazed area for every habitable space. All other spaces shall be provided with natural or artificial light sufficient to permit the maintenance of sanitary conditions, and the safe occupancy of the space and utilization of the appliances, equipment, and fixtures.

C. Ventilation. Every habitable space shall maintain the required operable windows. Every bathroom and toilet room shall maintain the required ventilation by natural or mechanical means. Every room with cooking facilities shall maintain the required ventilation.

D. Overcrowding. The number of persons occupying a dwelling unit shall not create conditions that, in the opinion of the Building Official, endanger the life, health, safety or welfare of the occupants.

E. Food Preparation. All spaces to be occupied for food preparation purposes shall contain suitable space and equipment to store, prepare and serve foods in a sanitary manner. There shall be adequate facilities and services for the sanitary disposal of food wastes and refuse, including facilities for temporary storage.

#### **18.14.060 - Plumbing facilities and fixture requirements.**

A. General. The provisions of this Section shall govern the minimum conditions and standards for plumbing facilities and plumbing fixtures. The owner of the structure shall provide



and maintain plumbing facilities and plumbing fixtures in compliance with the building standards in effect at the time of construction.

B. Public Toilet Facilities. Public toilet facilities shall be maintained in a safe sanitary and working condition. Except for periodic maintenance or cleaning, public access and use shall always be provided to the toilet facilities during occupancy of the premises.

C. Toilet Rooms. A door and interior locking device shall be provided for all common or shared bathrooms and toilet rooms in a multiple dwelling. In other than dwelling units, every toilet room floor shall be maintained to be a smooth, hard, nonabsorbent surface to permit such floor to be easily kept in a clean and sanitary condition.

D. Plumbing Systems and Fixtures. All plumbing fixtures shall be properly installed and maintained in working order, and shall be kept free from obstructions, leaks and defects and be capable of performing the function for which such plumbing fixtures are designed. All plumbing fixtures shall be maintained in a safe, sanitary and functional condition. Plumbing fixtures shall have adequate clearances for usage and cleaning.

E. Water System. Every sink, lavatory, bathtub or shower, drinking fountain, water closet or other plumbing fixture shall be properly connected to either a public water system or to an approved private water system.

F. Hot and Cold Water. All kitchen sinks, lavatories, laundry facilities, bathtubs and showers shall be supplied with hot and cold running water in accordance with the building standards in effect at the time of construction.

G. Contamination. The water supply shall be maintained free from contamination.

H. Supply. The water supply system shall be installed and maintained to provide a supply of water to plumbing fixtures, devices and appurtenances in sufficient volume and at pressures adequate to enable the fixtures to function properly, safely, and free from defects and leaks.

I. Water Heating Facilities. Water heating facilities shall be properly installed, maintained and capable of providing an adequate amount of water to be drawn at every required sink, lavatory, bathtub, shower and laundry facility at a temperature of not less than one hundred twenty (120) degrees Fahrenheit. A gas-burning water heater shall be located in an approved location with adequate combustion air and an approved combination temperature and pressure-relief valve and relief valve discharge pipe.

J. Sanitary Drainage System. All plumbing fixtures shall be properly connected to either a public sewer system or to an approved private sewage disposal system.

K. Obstructions, Leaks and Defects. Every plumbing stack, vent, waste and sewer line shall function properly and be kept free from obstructions, leaks and defects.

L. Grease Interceptors. Grease interceptors shall be maintained and regularly serviced as intended by this Chapter and the references codes and standards and the manufacturer's instructions.

M. Storm Drainage. Drainage of roofs and paved areas, yards and courts, and other open areas on the premises shall be maintained and conveyed to an approved location.

#### **18.14.070 - Mechanical and electrical requirements.**

A. General. The provisions of this Chapter shall govern the minimum mechanical and electrical facilities and equipment to be provided. The owner of the structure shall provide and maintain mechanical and electrical facilities and equipment in compliance with these requirements.

B. Heating Facilities. Heating facilities shall be maintained in structures as required by this Section. Except for spaces not normally associated with human comfort, interior spaces intended for human occupancy including but not limited to dwellings shall be provided with heating facilities capable of maintaining a room temperature of seventy (70) degrees Fahrenheit. Cooking appliances or portable space heaters shall not be used to provide space heating to meet the requirements of this Section.

C. Mechanical Equipment. All mechanical appliances, fireplaces, solid fuel-burning appliances, cooking appliances and water heating appliances shall be properly installed and maintained in a safe working condition, and shall be capable of performing the intended function. All fuel-burning equipment and appliances shall be connected to an approved chimney or vent unless approved. All required clearances to combustible materials shall be maintained. All safety controls for fuel-burning equipment shall be maintained in effective operation. A supply of air for complete combustion of the fuel and for ventilation of the space containing the fuel-burning equipment shall be provided for the fuel-burning equipment.

D. Electrical Facilities. Every occupied building shall be maintained with an electrical system in compliance with the building standards in effect at the time of construction provided it does not create an electrical hazard. Electrical facilities that have been damaged by exposure to water or fire shall be replaced in accordance with the provisions of the California Building Standards Code as amended by the County of Monterey.

E. Elevators, Escalators and Dumbwaiters. Elevators, dumbwaiters and escalators shall be maintained in compliance with the building standards in effect at their time of construction. The most current certificate of inspection shall be on display at all times within the elevator or attached to the escalator or dumbwaiter, be available for public inspection in the office of the building operator or be posted in a publicly conspicuous in an approved location. The inspection and tests shall be performed at not less than the periodic intervals required by the State of California Department of Industrial Relations or their successors.

F. Duct Systems. Duct systems shall be maintained free of obstructions and shall be capable of performing the required function.

#### **18.14.080 - Fire safety requirements.**

A. General. The provisions of this Section shall govern the minimum conditions and standards for fire safety relating to structures and exterior premises, including fire safety facilities and equipment to be provided.

B. Means of Egress. A safe, continuous and unobstructed path of travel shall be provided from any point in a building or structure to the public way. Means of egress shall comply with the building standards in effect at the time of construction. The required width of aisles shall be unobstructed. All means of egress doors shall be readily openable from the side from which egress is to be made without the need for keys, special knowledge or effort, except where the door hardware conforms to that permitted by the California Building Code.

C. Emergency Escape Openings. Required emergency escape openings shall be maintained in accordance with the building standards in effect at the time of construction and the following. Required emergency escape and rescue openings shall be operational from the inside of the room without the use of keys or tools. Bars, grilles, grates or similar devices are permitted to be placed over emergency escape and rescue openings provided the minimum net clear opening size complies with the building standards in effect at the time of construction and such

devices shall be releasable or removable from the inside without the use of a key, tool or force greater than that which is required for normal operation of the escape and rescue opening.

D. Fire-Resistance Ratings. The required fire-resistance rating of fire-resistance-rated walls, fire stops, shaft enclosures, partitions and floors shall be maintained. Required opening protection devices shall be maintained in an operative condition. All fire and smoke stop doors shall be maintained in operable condition. Fire doors and smoke barrier doors shall not be blocked or obstructed or otherwise made inoperable.

E. Fire Protection Systems. All systems, devices and equipment to detect a fire, actuate an alarm, or suppress or control a fire or any combination thereof shall be maintained in an operable condition at all times in accordance with the building standards in effect at the time of construction.

#### **18.14.090 - Violations.**

A. Prohibited Conditions. It shall be unlawful for any owner to create, maintain or permit the continued existence of any dangerous structure or premises, unsafe condition, unsafe equipment, unsafe structure, any structure that is unfit for human occupancy, any substandard building or premises or any unlawful structure or any other hazards as defined in this Chapter. Such violations are public nuisances and the owner shall abate or cause to be abated or corrected such conditions either by repair, rehabilitation, demolition or other approved corrective action without delay.

B. Prohibited Occupancy. It shall be unlawful for any owner to occupy or permit a person, firm or corporation to occupy any structure or premises condemned and placarded by the Building Official. It shall be unlawful for any person to enter such structure or premises except for the purpose of securing the structure, making the required repairs, removing the hazardous condition or of demolishing the same.

C. Maintaining Placards. It shall be unlawful for any owner to deface or remove a condemnation placard without the written approval of the Building Official.

D. Prohibited Services. It shall be unlawful for any owner to operate or permit a person, firm or corporation to operate condemned and placarded equipment.

E. Reconnection of Utilities. It shall be unlawful for any owner to reconnect or permit a person, firm or corporation to reconnect utilities after having been ordered to be disconnected without the written approval of the Building Official.

F. Following Stop Work Orders. It shall be unlawful for any owner to continue any work after having been served with a stop work order by the Building Official except such work that is necessary to perform to remove a violation or unsafe condition.

G. Maintaining Residential Services. It shall be unlawful for any owner to cause any service, facility, equipment or utility to be removed from or shut off from or discontinued for any occupied dwelling, except for such temporary interruption as necessary while repairs or alterations are in progress.

H. Duty to Maintain Buildings, Structures and Premises. It shall be unlawful for any owner to fail to maintain any building, structure or premises in conformance with the provisions of this Chapter, the building standards that lawfully existed at the time of construction and any minimum maintenance standards established by state or local law since the time of construction.

I. Maintaining Exterior Surfaces. It shall be unlawful for any owner to willfully or wantonly damage, mutilate or deface any exterior surface of any structure or building on any private or public property by placing thereon any marking, carving or graffiti.

J. Unauthorized Vehicle Storage. It shall be unlawful for any owner to park, keep or store an inoperative or unlicensed motor vehicle on any premises unless such premises are approved for such parking and storage under all applicable laws.

K. Unauthorized Vehicle Repair. It shall be unlawful for any owner to allow any vehicle to be in a state of major disassembly, disrepair, or in the process of being stripped or dismantled or repaired or painted on any premises unless such work is performed inside a structure or similarly enclosed area designed and approved for such purposes. Painting of vehicles is prohibited unless conducted inside an approved spray booth.

L. Unauthorized Storage of Materials. It shall be unlawful for any owner to keep or store any materials or storage on any premises unless such storage is approved under all applicable laws including but not limited to zoning regulations and the California Building Standards Code as amended by the County of Monterey.

M. Failure to Correct. It shall be unlawful for any owner to willfully fail to diligently pursue the correction of any violation of this Chapter as identified in a notice of violation.

N. Transfer of Ownership. It shall be unlawful for the owner of any real property to sell, transfer, mortgage, lease, or otherwise dispose of any real property knowing there is a notice of violation for a violation of this Chapter involving that real property until the violations are corrected or until such owner first furnishes the grantee, transferee, mortgagee, or lessee owner with a true copy of any such notice of violation and shall furnish to the Building Official a signed and notarized statement from the grantee, transferee, mortgage, or lessee, acknowledging the receipt of a true copy of such notice of violation and fully accepting the responsibility without condition for making the corrections or repairs required by such documents or stating intentions to timely challenge such notice of violation. The transfer of ownership in violation of this Section shall not abrogate the transfer.

SECTION 17. Chapter 18.16 of the Monterey County Code is readopted with amendments to read as follows:

## **CHAPTER 18.16 GRADING**

### **Section:**

#### **18.16.010 Adoption.**

#### **18.16.010 Adoption.**

Adoption. Appendix J of that certain document entitled 2025 California Building Code, California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 2, Volume 2 as published by the California Building Standards Commission based on the 2024 International Building Code with applicable amendments from the State of California, is hereby adopted.

SECTION 18. CROSS REFERENCE CONFORMITY. The Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, upon the concurrence of the County Counsel, is authorized to make such changes to the other provisions of the Monterey County Code to provide for the accuracy of cross references in the County Code to the chapters and sections amended and added by this ordinance.

SECTION 19. SEVERABILITY. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase of this ordinance is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance. The Board of Supervisors hereby

declares that it would have passed this ordinance and each section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase thereof irrespective of the fact that any other part thereof be unconstitutional or invalid.

SECTION 20. EFFECTIVE DATE. This ordinance shall become effective on the thirty-first day following its adoption. This ordinance shall not become operative until this ordinance has been filed with the California Building Standards Commission.

PASSED AND ADOPTED on this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Christopher M. Lopez, Chair  
Monterey County Board of Supervisors

A T T E S T :

VALERIE RALPH  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

By: \_\_\_\_\_

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

*Kelly L. Donlon*

Kelly L. Donlon  
Chief Assistant County Counsel

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