



CITY OF SAN DIEGO - 7650 MISSION VALLEY RD., SAN DIEGO, CA 92108

# PUBLIC NOTICE

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**Date:** April 15, 2026

**Subject:** Effective April 22, 2026 - Local Amendments to the 2025 California Building Standards Code

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The local amendments to the 2025 edition of the [California Building Standards Code](#) have been approved and adopted into Chapters [12](#) and [14](#) of the [San Diego Municipal Code](#) (SDMC).

The 2025 California Building Standards Code applies to all projects with applications submitted on or after January 1, 2026. The approved local amendments take effect on April 22, 2026. These local amendments are necessary to align the City of San Diego's existing regulations with the 2025 State Code.

Relevant sections of the California Building Standards Code being adopted by the SDMC include the California Building Code, the California Residential Code, the California Electrical Code, the California Mechanical Code, the California Plumbing Code, the California Green Building Standards Code and the California Existing Building Code.

Local amendments to the 2025 California Wildland-Urban Interface Code and the California Fire Code are currently in effect in [Chapter 5](#) of the SDMC.

Key highlights of the amendments can be found below and in [our factsheet](#):

**Geotechnical Investigations:** Updated exemptions in Chapter 14, Article 5, Division 18 to align with AB 1046 (Alquist-Priolo) and other larger cities for additions, alterations, and changes of occupancy.

**Home Hardening Standards:** Relocated ignition-resistant construction standards to San Diego Municipal Code Chapter 5 to align with the new Part 7, California Wildland–Urban Interface Code.

**Efficiency Dwelling Units:** Repealed the local amendment for minimum habitable space area; these units are now regulated solely by the CBC.

**Drowning Prevention Requirements:** Adopted amendments from the CBC appendix related to swimming pool safety and added a local clarification prohibiting simultaneous use of exit alarms and pool entry alarms.

**Appendix P – Sleeping Lofts:** Adopted the new CBC appendix supporting infill housing by allowing sleeping lofts that do not qualify as mezzanines.

**Seismic Instrumentation:** Amended CBC Appendix L to include exceptions for additions, alterations, and new residential construction, addressing disproportionate cost impacts in certain fault-hazard and liquefaction zones.

**Plumbing Standards for Adaptive Reuse:** Continued adoption of CPC Appendix M, the Peak Water Demand Calculator.

**Soft-Story Mitigation Standards:** Adopted CBC Appendix A4 for voluntary earthquake-hazard mitigation, with clarified local amendments.

**Green Building Regulations:** Added mandatory cool-roof requirements for low-sloped roofs (reflectance and emittance) in nonresidential buildings, and central hot-water heating requirements for residential buildings utilizing no more than 95% of their energy budget. Implementation is pending approval by the California Energy Commission.

For more information and resources, please see the “Local Amendments to 2025 Code” dropdown on our [Codes & Regulations](#) page.

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