



## Structural Peer Review Guidelines

### Purpose

Structural peer review is a technical review of a project by peers qualified by their experience and application of complex structural engineering designs and analyses. This review is to enhance the quality and structural safety of a complicated structural design system.

### Projects subject to the requirement of Structural Peer Review

1. Structures exceeding the maximum allowable height per ASCE 7-10 or more than 240 feet in height.
2. When nonlinear response history procedure is performed per ASCE 7-10.
3. Structure designed with a seismic isolation system and a damping system as required per ASCE 7-10.
4. Alternate designs not specifically prescribed in ASCE 7-10.
5. Performance design which is outside those prescribed in ASCE 7-10.
6. Any other complicated structure or components not defined above but identified by the Building Official to require structural peer review.

### Qualifications to perform Structural Peer Review

1. The Peer Review Team (PRT) shall be independent of the design team and have no conflict of interest in review of the project.
2. The PRT shall have, or exceed, a level of technical experience comparable to that of the design engineer for the project.
3. The PRT shall be familiar with regional design and construction practices.
4. The project team shall not currently employ any member of the PRT.
5. Any members of the PRT shall not be currently working on a project with any of the project team members.

### Composition of the Structural Peer Review Team

1. A California State licensed Structural Engineer with experience in peer review, design, and analysis of buildings similar to the buildings or structures proposed.
2. A California State licensed Geotechnical Engineer with experience in peer review, ground motion preparation, and analysis similar to the buildings or structures proposed.
3. A university professor responsible for testing and research shall be added to the PRT For buildings with more than 40 stories, buildings or structures with unusual structural systems, or buildings or structures with unconventional or atypical materials as determine by the Building Official.

---

## Scope of Peer Review

1. Loading & Configuration
  - Architectural/ functional constraints
  - Site topography, soils, and adjacent property constraints.
  - Environmental effects: wind, earthquake, and surface/ground water
2. Performance evaluation
  - Structural serviceability; deflection, lateral drift, and other deformations.
  - Vibration
  - Crack control
  - Foundation movement
  - Effects of deflection, lateral drift, and other deformations on non-structural elements.
  - Wind and seismic
3. Structural System
  - Structural materials and framing systems
  - Redundancy, ductility, and compatibility in relation to lateral forces
  - Member sizes and locations
  - Foundation system and design
  - Non-structural elements compatible with structural system
  - Detailing of the structural system
  - Constructability of structural elements and connections
4. Detailed Design
  - Methodology of structural calculations
  - Compute and mathematical modeling
  - Structural drawings and specifications, and testing and inspection requirements
  - Diaphragms, collectors, anchorage, and ties

## Procedures

1. When required, the owner/applicant shall provide the names and qualifications of at least three (3) qualified PRTs, the scope of work included in the review, and the proposed timeline schedule for the project, to the Building Official.
2. The Building Official will select one of the owner's/ applicant's proposed PRTs, and notify the owner/applicant who has been selected.
3. The owner/applicant is responsible for bearing the cost of the peer review. This payment is in addition to the plan check fees paid to the Building Division and payment arrangements are negotiated between the peer reviewer and the owner/applicant.
4. The PRT may proceed with the review at the schematic design phase.
5. As a minimum, written reports shall be shared with the Building Division plan check project manager at the following stages: Initial, In-Progress, and Final. The written reports shall cover all aspect of the scope of work as defined above.
6. The Building Division may call for meetings with the Engineer of Record, sub-consulting project engineers, the PRT and other technical experts, as required, to assist in resolving difficult code issues.

**For questions or comments about any of the above items please contact your Plan Review Engineer.**