



**Municipality of Anchorage
Geotechnical Advisory Commission**

A G E N D A

Tuesday, August 24, 2021

Noon – 1:30 p.m.

Regular Meeting

Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

Join by Link: [Click here to join the meeting](#)
and/or

Join by Conference Call:

Teams Meeting Dial-in Number: (907) 519-0237

Meeting Conference ID: 636 259 039#

- I. CALL TO ORDER
 - A. Establishment of Quorum
 - B. Disclosures
- II. MINUTES
 - A. July 27, 2021
- III. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. Local Amendments to the 2018 IBC, Summary of Changes
 - B. Harding-Lawson Associates Maps Briefing Paper: Suggested Edits and Name
- IV. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. Commission Bylaws and Objectives
 - B. Commission Meeting Notes or Minutes: Level of Detail and Length
- V. PERSONS TO BE HEARD (3-minute limit)
- VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS
- VII. OTHER BUSINESS
- VIII. STAFF REPORTS
- IX. ADJOURNMENT

Next Regular Meeting: September 28, 2021, via Teams



Municipality of Anchorage
Geotechnical Advisory Commission

ACTION SUMMARY

Virtual Teams Meeting

12:00 Noon
Tuesday, July 27, 2021

Regular Meeting

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 12:03 p.m.

A. Establishment of Quorum

A quorum was present.

Present: John Aho
Dennis Berry
Steven Halcomb
David Hemstreet
Thomas Krzewinski
Keri Nutter
Zhaohui (Joey) Yang

Excused: Kyle Brennan, Vice Chair
John Thornley, Chair

Staff: Tom Davis, Senior Planner, Planning Department
Wayne Bolen, Plan Reviewer, Building Safety, Development Services Department
Timothy Huntting, Geotechnical Lab Manager
Project Management & Engineering Department
Ross Noffsinger, Engineering Services Manager
Development Services Department

The quorum of Commission members present moved to elect an acting chair to run the meeting. *Commissioner Yang* moved that *Commissioner Berry* be elected as the acting chair. *Commissioner Krzewinski* seconded.

The motion to elect Commissioner Berry as Acting Chair for the meeting was approved unanimously.

Acting Chair Berry moved to table the July agenda business items to the August GAC meeting. *Commissioner Yang* seconded the motion. *Acting Chair Berry* explained that the GAC Chair and Vice Chair are most involved in the July agenda business items and reports, so it is preferable to wait until the Chair and Vice Chair are present before discussing and making decisions. He asked if anyone saw an urgent need to take action on items III.A., IV.A., or VIII.A. in July.

Mr. Noffsinger responded that item III.A., Local Amendments to the 2018 IBC, could wait until next month and that the new municipal Administration may soon bring forward additional amendments anyhow for the GAC to review.

Regarding the Harding-Lawson Maps Briefing Paper, the subject of item VIII, *Acting Chair Berry* confirmed with Tom Davis that the Briefing Paper is now publicly available online and noted that Mr. Davis had emailed two recommended technical corrections and a proposed edit to the briefing paper to the Commissioners this morning.

Commissioner Nutter explained that she had also emailed some recommended edits in the Briefing Paper to the Commission late this morning. The Commissioners discussed allowing staff to move forward with the two technical corrections to the briefing paper, while postponing action on the proposed edits until the next GAC meeting.

The motion to table the July agenda items until the next meeting was approved unanimously.

B. Disclosures

No disclosures.

II. MINUTES

A. June 22, 2021

Commissioner Hemstreet moved to approve the June 22 minutes as drafted. *Commissioner Halcomb* seconded.

Commissioners provided the following proposed edits to the minutes:

1. *Commissioner Nutter* recommended making the references to Commissioner names and titles more consistent throughout the minutes.
2. On page 7, fourth paragraph from bottom, *Commissioner Nutter* corrected “GBA” to be spelled out as “Geoprofessional Business Association (GBA).” *Acting Chair Berry* recommended also identifying the name of the geotechnical report guidance document that is referenced in the same sentence. *Commissioner Nutter* agreed to forward that document name to staff for inserting into the sentence.¹
3. *Commissioner Hemstreet* noted that it was his understanding that GAC “minutes” are intended to be more of just a summary rather than recounting discussions in detail such as

¹ Note: Following the meeting *Commissioner Nutter* emailed the following GBA document title to Mr. Davis: “Important Information about This: Geotechnical-Engineering Report.”

provided in the June minutes. He recommended making the minutes cleaner by limiting them to recording what items the Commission voted on, and actions and decisions made. *Acting Chair Berry* suggested that this could be discussed at the next meeting when the Chair and Vice Chair are present. *Commissioner Hemstreet* agreed.

Commissioner Hemstreet accepted suggested edits 1 and 2 as friendly amendments to his motion.

The June 22, 2021 minutes were unanimously approved with the changes in 1 and 2 above.

Acting Chair Berry requested Mr. Davis to place edit 3 above, raised by Commissioner Hemstreet, on the Commission's August meeting agenda.

III. OLD BUSINESS

A. Local Amendment Revisions to the IBC, Summary of Changes

This item was tabled until the next meeting.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Commission Bylaws and Objectives

This item was tabled until the next meeting.

V. PERSONS TO BE HEARD (3-minute limit)

No persons to be heard.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS (none)

No committee reports.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS (none)

VIII. STAFF REPORTS

A. Harding-Lawson Associates Maps

This item was tabled until the next meeting.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Yang moved to adjourn. *Commissioner Halcomb* seconded.

The meeting adjourned at 12:26 p.m.

Summary of GAC Recommendations

2018 IBC Local Amendments

This summarizes what the GAC recommended to be included in the 2018 IBC local amendments and what was incorporated (amendments attached). In all, the GAC provided 11 modifications to the previous amendments.

If GAC did not modify an amendment, it remained as written from the last code cycle. Six of the eleven amendments were incorporated as recommended. There were five that did not get incorporated exactly as written (attached for reference).

The following is a description of the modifications with some commentary:

- 1808.7 (foundations on or adjacent to slopes) did not include: “whichever is greater”
 - The text could have been modified to be clearer
 - Based on intent, this could be addressed in the next code cycle
- 1803.5.4 (Ground-water) did not include “date of recording” or minor edit related to the code spelling of ground-water)
 - This could be addressed in the next code cycle
- 1803.5.12 this is the seismic one. You will see a letter forthcoming regarding this issue.
- 1810.3.5.3.4 (steel pipes and tubes) the last sentence of our recommended local amendment was not included.
 - This was seen as more in line with means and methods of the contractor and was deleted.
- 1802.1 (warm foundations), which ended up moving to the definitions. We recommended adding “above 32 degrees Fahrenheit” to the definition but it was not included.
 - Has not been an issue in the past but can be corrected in subsequent code cycles.

Local Amendments to the 2018 Code Series (*circle one*)

Architectural **Structural** Mechanical Plumbing Residential Fire

Name: Geotechnical Advisory Commission	Subcommittee: IBC
Affiliation: Municipality of Anchorage	Applicable Code Section(s): 1808
Address: 4700 Elmore Rd	
City, State, Zip: Anchorage, AK 99508	Phone:
Code Change No:	FAX:

In the space below, indicate your comments, including supporting reasons. Proposed text revisions, if any, must be specific and indicated by lining through deleted material and underscoring material to be added. additional pages, if necessary, may be plain bond.

USE SEPARATE SHEETS FOR SEPARATE TOPICS

Proposed Change: Revise 23.15.1808.7 to read as follows:

23.15.1808.7 Foundations on or adjacent to slopes.

Add the following to the end of the first sentence:

"..., and shall be placed 15 feet (4,572 mm) beyond the surface projection of the most critical theoretical failure surface plane determined from the slope stability analysis in accordance with Section 23.15.1803.5.10, whichever is greater."

Reason for Change:

Wording change for clarity.

Committee Action:

AS (as submitted) _____ AM (as amended) _____ D (defeated) _____

Local Amendments to the 2018 Code Series (*circle one*)

Architectural **Structural** Mechanical Plumbing Residential Fire

Name: Geotechnical Advisory Commission	Subcommittee: IBC
Affiliation: Municipality of Anchorage	Applicable Code Section(s): 1803
Address: 4700 Elmore Rd	
City, State, Zip: Anchorage, AK 99508	Phone:
Code Change No:	FAX:

In the space below, indicate your comments, including supporting reasons. Proposed text revisions, if any, must be specific and indicated by lining through deleted material and underscoring material to be added. additional pages, if necessary, may be plain bond.

USE SEPARATE SHEETS FOR SEPARATE TOPICS

Proposed Change: Revise 23.15.1803.5.4 to read as follows:

23.15.1803.5.4 Ground-water table.

Delete the section and replace with the following:

Any subsurface soil investigation completed in accordance with this chapter shall identify the location, elevation, and date of recording of any ground-water found within the limits explored.

Reason for Change:

Consistency with IBC.

Committee Action:

AS (as submitted) _____ AM (as amended) _____ D (defeated) _____

Local Amendments to the 2018 Code Series (*circle one*)

Architectural

Structural

Mechanical

Plumbing

Residential

Fire

Name: Geotechnical Advisory Commission	Subcommittee: IBC
Affiliation: Municipality of Anchorage	Applicable Code Section(s): 1803
Address: 4700 Elmore Rd	
City, State, Zip: Anchorage, AK 99508	Phone:
Code Change No:	FAX:

In the space below, indicate your comments, including supporting reasons. Proposed text revisions, if any, must be specific and indicated by lining through deleted material and underscoring material to be added. additional pages, if necessary, may be plain bond.

USE SEPARATE SHEETS FOR SEPARATE TOPICS

Proposed Change: Revise 23.15.1803.5.12 to read as follows:

23.15.1803.5.12 Seismic Design Categories D through F.

Add the following items:

5. A slope shall be considered stable if, based on a limit equilibrium analysis, the minimum factor of safety:

- a. **Equals or exceeds 1.50 under static and post-earthquake loading conditions, and;**
- b. **Equals or exceeds 1.10 under earthquake loading conditions using a horizontal seismic coefficient of 0.30 in Seismically-Induced Ground Failure Zones 1, 2, 3; and 0.20 in Seismically-Induced Ground Failure Zones 4 and 5.**

For slopes that do not satisfy all of the above criteria, the building official may approve an evaluation of the slope performance using a displacement-based method, including methods derived from Newmark sliding block model, or more advanced numerical modeling. Evaluations of slopes using any displacement-based method shall be based on site-specific probabilistic or deterministic ground motions predicted in accordance with Section 21.1 of ASCE 7-16, with the maximum considered earthquake (MCE).

6. It may be necessary to extend the geotechnical investigation beyond the immediate site boundaries in order to evaluate the applicable hazard.

Reason for Change:

Update local amendment to modifications to the IBC and ASCE 7-16.

Committee Action:

AS (as submitted) _____ AM (as amended) _____ D (defeated) _____

Local Amendments to the 2018 Code Series (*circle one*)

Architectural **Structural** Mechanical Plumbing Residential Fire

Name: Geotechnical Advisory Commission	Subcommittee: IBC
Affiliation: Municipality of Anchorage	Applicable Code Section(s): 1810
Address: 4700 Elmore Rd	
City, State, Zip: Anchorage, AK 99508	Phone:
Code Change No:	FAX:

In the space below, indicate your comments, including supporting reasons. Proposed text revisions, if any, must be specific and indicated by lining through deleted material and underscoring material to be added. additional pages, if necessary, may be plain bond.

USE SEPARATE SHEETS FOR SEPARATE TOPICS

Proposed Change: Revise 23.15.1810.3.5.3.4 to read as follows:

23.15.1810.3.5.3.4 Steel pipes and tubes.

Add the following exception:

3. The building official may permit smaller diameter piles provided that an analysis is submitted indicating that the piles have sufficient capacity to transfer the required axial and lateral loads. The safe installation of the piles of smaller diameter is the responsibility of the contractor.

Reason for Change:

Update to section number and the change of "gravity" to "axial" for clarity.

Committee Action:

AS (as submitted) _____ AM (as amended) _____ D (defeated) _____

Local Amendments to the 2018 Code Series (*circle one*)

Architectural **Structural** Mechanical Plumbing Residential Fire

Name: Geotechnical Advisory Commission	Subcommittee: IBC
Affiliation: Municipality of Anchorage	Applicable Code Section(s): 1802
Address: 4700 Elmore Rd	
City, State, Zip: Anchorage, AK 99508	Phone:
Code Change No:	FAX:

In the space below, indicate your comments, including supporting reasons. Proposed text revisions, if any, must be specific and indicated by lining through deleted material and underscoring material to be added. additional pages, if necessary, may be plain bond.

USE SEPARATE SHEETS FOR SEPARATE TOPICS

Proposed Change: Revise 23.15.1802.1 Definitions: Warm Foundation to read as follows:

WARM FOUNDATION. Any foundation where the temperature of the bearing soil is normally maintained above 32 degrees Fahrenheit.

Reason for Change:

Refinement of definition.

Committee Action:

AS (as submitted) _____ AM (as amended) _____ D (defeated) _____

Publications: Geotechnical Hazards Assessment Study

Geotechnical Hazards Assessment Study

June, 1979

[Main Document](#)

[Appendix](#)

Maps

- [Background Information for User of Seismically Induced Ground Failure Maps](#) *(new 7/27/2021)*
- [List of Plates](#)
- [Anchorage 1A-5A](#)
- [Eagle River 1B-5B](#)
- [Turnagain Arm 1C-5C](#)

Municipality of Anchorage Official Web Site

City Hall is located at:
632 West 6th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Contact Us
Employee Search
ADA Compliance
Privacy Statement & Disclaimer

For Employees
Open Data Portal
Maps
Record Request

Harding-Lawson Associates Maps
Geotechnical Hazards Assessment Study
June 1979

Seismically Induced Ground Failure Maps of Anchorage

Background for the User:

The map shows the relative potential for ground failure across the Municipality of Anchorage caused during or as the result of an earthquake, such as land sliding, land spreading, surface cracking, and liquefaction. The relative potential for such earthquake-induced ground failure is rated on a scale of one (lowest susceptibility) to five (very high susceptibility). These criteria were developed by consideration of observed and expected seismic response for the various combinations of soil, geologic, and topographic conditions existing across the Municipality. In general, the susceptibility for earthquake-induced ground failure is least in areas of exposed bedrock; moderate in areas underlain by dense, coarse-grained, unconsolidated sediments (such as glacial till); and greatest in areas which are underlain by saturated, fine-grained, unconsolidated deposits.

The boundaries of these five ground failure zones as drawn on the original maps (circa 1979, <https://www.muni.org/Departments/OCPD/Planning/Publications/Pages/GeotechHazStudy.aspx>) were based heavily on the types, magnitude, and extent of ground failure that actually occurred in Anchorage during the 1964 Great Alaska Earthquake but also considered the geologic mapping available at that time, and interpretation of historic, pre-1964 ground failures interpreted from aerial photographs and/or reported in literature. It is important to understand that the authors of this original map did not perform any new field explorations or numeric analysis. Further, the 1979 report which accompanied the original maps clearly points out the major data gaps which existed at that time, as well as the need for future updates to the maps with new information as available.

The map reflects the relative potential for earthquake-induced ground failure qualitatively; e.g. the potential for and/or magnitude of ground failure in Zone 1 is very low versus Zone 5 where the potential for and/or magnitude of ground failure is very high. Further, it is important to understand that there is no absolute type or quantitative magnitude (e.g. specific dimension of movement) of ground failure associated with any single hazard zone; although Zone 5 generally delineates the areas that experienced significant and destructive translational ground failures during the 1964 and pre-1964 earthquakes, and Zone 4 generally delineates the lateral extent of notable ground spreading observed behind Zone 5.

These maps were and still are intended for general land use and development planning—the map is not a substitute for engineering. The map is also referenced in Chapter 18 of the local amendments to the building code. As stated in the 1979 report, the map should be updated as new information becomes available and that property owners and developers should have the opportunity to demonstrate, through on-site investigations, whether or not the level of risk described on the map actually exists on individual sites.

Seismically Induced Ground Failure Map of Anchorage

For reference, the definitions of the zones as provided on the original maps are listed below:

Zone 1: LOWEST GROUND FAILURE SUSCEPTIBILITY. Includes exposed bedrock, thin alluvium and colluvium over bedrock, generally coarse and fine-grained glacial deposits overlying bedrock in upland areas. May experience minor ground cracking and acceleration of normal mass wasting processes in unconsolidated material such as rock falls and snow avalanches.

Zone 2: MODERATELY LOW GROUND FAILURE SUSCEPTIBILITY. Mixed coarse and fine-grained glacial deposits in lowland areas, thick deposits of channel, terrace, flood plain, and fan alluvium. The thickness of alluvium in the upland areas is variable, and some areas are rated as 1. May have very low susceptibility; may experience minor ground cracking, localized settlement due to consolidation, and perhaps liquefaction or lurching of localized saturated zones of fine-grained material.

Zone 3: MODERATE GROUND FAILURE SUSCEPTIBILITY. Fine-grained surficial and subsurface deposits, including the Bootlegger Cove Clay, and other silt, clay, and peat deposits. Where coarser material (alluvium or fill) overlies these deposits, the seismic-related ground failure susceptibility is controlled by the fine-grained material. May experience ground cracking and horizontal ground movement due to landspreading or lurching, and subsidence due to consolidation.

Zone 4: HIGH GROUND FAILURE SUSCEPTIBILITY. Fine-grained, surficial and subsurface deposits within the vicinity of steep slopes. Includes areas above and below the slope, the width of which is approximately 10 times the slope height in the slide area. Highly susceptible to all types of seismically-induced ground failure, including liquefaction, translational sliding, lurching, landspreading, cracking and subsidence.

Zone 5: VERY HIGH GROUND FAILURE SUSCEPTIBILITY. Areas of previous seismically-induced landslides. Includes the zone of tension cracks above the headward scarp, and the toe bulge or pressure ridge areas. Although portions of these previous slides may remain relatively undisturbed from strong shaking, these slides will be the more likely site of future seismically-induced sliding.

Keri Nutter's suggested edits (see email following)

Briefing Paper

Harding-Lawson Associates Maps Geotechnical Hazards Assessment Study June 1979

Seismically Induced Ground Failure Maps of Anchorage

Background for the User:

The map shows the relative potential for ground failure across the Municipality of Anchorage caused during or as the result of an earthquake. [such as land sliding, land spreading, surface cracking, and liquefaction.] The relative potential for such earthquake-induced ground failure is rated on a scale of one (lowest susceptibility) to five (very high susceptibility). These criteria were developed by consideration of observed and expected seismic response for the various combinations of soil, geologic, and topographic conditions existing across the Municipality. In general, the susceptibility for earthquake-induced ground failure is ~~lowest~~ ^{lowest} in areas of exposed bedrock; moderate in areas underlain by dense, coarse-grained, unconsolidated sediments (such as glacial till); and ~~greatest~~ ^{greatest} in areas which are underlain by saturated, fine-grained, unconsolidated deposits. ^{highest}

The boundaries of these five ground failure zones as drawn on the original maps (circa 1979, <https://www.muni.org/Departments/OCPCD/Planning/Publications/Pages/GeotechHazStudy.aspx>) were based heavily on the ~~type~~ ^{size}, magnitude, and extent of ground failure that actually occurred in Anchorage during the 1964 Great Alaska Earthquake, but also considered the geologic mapping available at that time ~~and interpretation of historic~~ ^{and} pre-1964 ground failures interpreted from aerial photographs and/or reported in literature. It is important to understand that the authors of this original map did not perform any new field explorations or numeric analysis. Further, the 1979 report which accompanied the original maps clearly points out the major data gaps which existed at that time, as well as the need for future updates to the maps with new information as available.

Key info to highlight

The map reflects the relative potential for earthquake-induced ground failure qualitatively; e.g. the potential for and/or magnitude of ground failure in Zone 1 is very low versus Zone 5 where the potential for and/or magnitude of ground failure is very high. Further, it is important to understand that there is no absolute type or quantitative magnitude (e.g. specific dimension of movement) of ground failure associated with any single hazard zone; although Zone 5 generally delineates the areas that experienced significant and destructive translational ground failures during the 1964 and pre-1964 earthquakes, and Zone 4 generally delineates the lateral extent of notable ground spreading observed behind Zone 5.

These maps were and still are intended for general land use and develop^{ment} planning—the map is not a substitute for engineering. The map is also referenced in Chapter 18 of the local amendments to the building code. As stated in the 1979 report, the map should be updated as new information becomes available and that property owners and developers should have the opportunity to demonstrate, through on-site investigations, whether or not the level of risk described on the map actually exists on individual sites.

implies a mechanism to update map - but is intent for owners/developers to demonstrate risk solely with on-site investigations/reports?

Perry, Susan

From: Keri Nutter <knutter@dowl.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 11:40 AM
To: Davis, Tom G.; Krzewinski, Thomas; Thornley, John; Kyle Brennan (KLB@shanwil.com); Zhaohui Yang; Steven Halcomb; Dennis Berry; John Aho; Hemstreet, David A (DOT)
Cc: Perry, Susan; Noffsinger, Ross D.; Bolen, Wayne A.
Subject: RE: [EXT] FW: Briefing Paper to accompany Seismically Induced Ground Failure Maps
Attachments: Harding-Lawson 1979 Map Briefing Paper_KAN.07.27.21.pdf

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Thanks, Tom!

Here are a few suggested edits, in addition to what Ross shared; I am amenable to Ross' suggested title change. There are a couple of key paragraphs that caveat the limitations of the mapping that should be highlighted and not hidden.

Keri

Keri Nutter, CPG
Geosciences Manager

DOWL

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From: Davis, Tom G. <tom.davis@anchorageak.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 8:58 AM
To: Krzewinski, Thomas <Thomas_Krzewinski@golder.com>; Thornley, John <John_Thornley@golder.com>; Kyle Brennan (KLB@shanwil.com) <KLB@shanwil.com>; Zhaohui Yang <zyang2@alaska.edu>; Keri Nutter <knutter@dowl.com>; Steven Halcomb <SHalcomb@crweng.com>; Dennis Berry <dberry@bbfm.com>; John Aho <eqman39@gmail.com>; Hemstreet, David A (DOT) <dave.hemstreet@alaska.gov>
Cc: Perry, Susan <susan.perry@anchorageak.gov>; Noffsinger, Ross D. <ross.noffsinger@anchorageak.gov>; Bolen, Wayne A. <wayne.bolen@anchorageak.gov>
Subject: [EXT] FW: Briefing Paper to accompany Seismically Induced Ground Failure Maps

WARNING: External Sender - use caution when clicking links and opening attachments.

To Geotechnical Advisory Commission:

For **Agenda Item VIII.A.** at today's GAC meeting, the municipal GIS folks have uploaded the Harding-Lawson Maps Briefing Paper onto the municipal Map Gallery app. Here is what it looks like when map users go into the app: <https://muniorg.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=6d9f19e70868491da6296bdb398b33cc>. The version of the briefing paper on the municipal Map Gallery is the same version that you received in the meeting packet from Sue Perry on Friday.

Sue has also uploaded the Briefing Paper onto the Planning Department's web page for the 1979 Harding-Lawson study. See <http://www.muni.org/Departments/OCPD/Planning/Publications/Pages/GeotechHazStudy.aspx>.

For Today's discussion of item VIII.A.: Ross Noffsinger found several typos in the Briefing Paper, which we intend to correct, plus has suggested a more descriptive title/filename:

- Zone 2 on the 2nd page should read "Moderately Low" instead of "Moderate".
- On the first page, last paragraph, first sentence: the word "develop" should read "development".
- Finally, Ross suggests the document is worthy of a more descriptive title/filename in order to draw people to read it, and has suggested "Seismic Zone Definitions and Discussion" or something to that effect.

Today I hope to briefly take the Commissioners through how our websites above are currently providing public access to the paper, ask Commissioners if there are any more edit comments to add on the narrative and the paper's title/filename, and then prepare to send a corrected version of the briefing paper to our GIS folks in order to make the improved version available.

Thank you,

Tom



Planning Department
MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE

Tom G. Davis, AICP
Senior Planner - Urban Designer -
Planning Department
Long-Range Planning Division
Email: tom.davis@anchorage.gov
Phone: (907) 344-7915
4200 Steese Road, Anchorage, AK 99507
www.muni.org/planning

Geotechnical Advisory Commission (GAC) Charter

GAC Vision

The Geotechnical Advisory Commission (GAC) shall provide professional advice to the Municipality of Anchorage on issues relating to natural hazards risk mitigation and be recognized as a premiere advisory group.

GAC Mission

Act in an Advisory Capacity

Act in an advisory capacity to the Assembly, the Mayor, Heads of Executive Departments, the Planning and Zoning Commission, the Platting Board, the Building Board, Building Safety, and the professional design community.

Provide Information and Technical Guidance

Recommend studies and identify program changes that will mitigate the risks associated with natural hazards.

Sponsor Educational Programs

Sponsor, and take an active part in, programs that will disseminate information to government agencies, the public, and out peers.

Support Natural Hazards Risk Mitigation Efforts

Provide support to efforts by others to address the issues related to natural hazards risk mitigation

By achieving this mission, we create an opportunity to be an effective body in mitigating the potential damaging efforts of natural hazards events.

GAC Values

The GAC shall:

- give professional advice,
- recommend studies,
- receive peer recognition,
- provide value to stakeholders,
- be operated with integrity,
- be objective, reasonable, non-bureaucratic,
- disseminate information
- recommend program changes
- sponsor education programs
- recommend/support special studies
- be advocates for natural hazards risk mitigation, and
- make the “right” decisions

Key Success Factors and Measures of Success

Success Factor	Measure
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholder Satisfaction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet or exceed MOA expectations Advice is sought Advice is accepted MOA endorsement Feedback from Staff
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate of Risk Mitigation Programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support post-earthquake damage assessment training Participate in the ANSS Participate on Microzonation Advisory Panel Develop stakeholder support
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support Public Education in Natural Hazards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foster social environment where natural hazards risk mitigation is accepted Examine ADES programs Examine MOA OEM programs Learn about ASTF programs Community Council presentations Presentations to schools
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommended Programs for Risk Mitigation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ground failure map update Avalanche ordinance update Support microzonation implementation Participate in IBC & IRC review/amendments Support responsible development in the MOA

ENDORSEMENT

We, the members of the Municipality of Anchorage Geotechnical Advisory Commission, enthusiastically and fully endorse this Commission Charter for guiding and enhancing efforts in natural hazards risk mitigation.

John Aho/Chairman

Dave Cole/Vice Chairman

Peter Haeussler

Rodney Kinney, Jr.

Keith Mobley

Mark Musial

Robert Scher

Steve Teller

Howard Thomas

MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE
GEOTECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMISSION
RULES OF PROCEDURE

ARTICLE I – OFFICERS

1. The commission shall annually organize and elect a Chair and Vice-Chair at its first meeting in January.
2. The Chair shall preside over the meetings of the Commission and shall exercise all the powers usually incident to the office, and shall be a voting member with full right to have their vote recorded in all deliberations of the Commission. The Chair or a designated appointee shall attend Anchorage Assembly, Platting Board, and Planning and Zoning Commission meetings at which important Commission recommendations are presented and shall speak on behalf of the Commission.
3. The Vice-Chair shall assume the duties of the Chair in their absence. In case of the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair, the members present may elect for the meeting a Temporary Chair, who shall during such meeting have full powers of the Chair.
4. The Director of Planning shall be the Secretary. In the Director of Planning's absence, another member of the planning staff shall act as Secretary. The Secretary shall keep a record of all meetings of the Commission and shall keep such files as may be required.

MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE
GEOTECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMISSION
RULES OF PROCEDURE

ARTICLE II - MEETINGS

1. Regular meetings of the Commission shall be held on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 12:00 noon, unless notice of postponement is given each member at least twenty-four hours prior to that time. Should the Commission be unable to complete all of the required business at a regular meeting, the Commission shall continue the meeting to the immediate following Tuesday.
2. Special meetings may be called by the Chair or Secretary, provided that at least twenty-four hours notice of special meeting is given each member at their established business or residence.
3. Meeting of the Commission shall be held at a designated place unless notice of another meeting place is given each member at least twenty-four hours prior to the meeting and a public posting is made at the regular meeting place informing the public of the change of meeting location.
4. All meetings of the Commission shall be open to the public, except that any question permitted by law may be discussed in an executive session, which is closed to the public, provided that no final action is taken on any question in that session.
5. A majority of the membership of the Commission shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Action by the Commission shall require the favorable vote of a majority of the full membership of the Commission. Full membership means a majority of nine, less the number of Commissioners excused for conflicts of interest.

MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE
GEOTECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMISSION
RULES OF PROCEDURE

6. Any member who has a substantial direct or indirect financial interest in any question being voted shall identify their interest but shall not be excused from voting hereon except with the concurrence of the majority of the other members present.
7. Any member of the Commission anticipating an extended period of absence from Commission meetings shall so advise the Commission at a prior meeting. A member who misses three consecutive regular meetings without prior excuse shall automatically be recommended to the Mayor and Assembly for replacement.
8. In all matters not covered by these rules, Roberts Rules of Order, Revised, shall govern.
9. All recommendations by the Commission to the Anchorage Assembly, Platting Board, or Planning and Zoning Commission shall be made by resolution. Resolutions shall be numbered consecutively within each year, according to the sequence of approval, shall be signed by the Chair and the Secretary, and the motion adopting the resolution shall show the vote of each member.
10. The agenda for each regular meeting of the Commission shall be prepared by the Secretary and shall be distributed to each member at least twenty-four hours prior to the meetings.

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The order of business at all meetings of the Commission shall be as follows:

1. Roll Call
2. Minutes
3. Special Order of Business
4. Old Business
5. New Business
6. Persons to Be Heard
7. Committee Reports
8. Staff Report
9. Adjournment

11. The deadline for adjournment of all meetings shall be as designated by a majority vote of the members present.

ARTICLE III - CHANGE OF RULES

1. The Rules of Procedure may be amended at any regular or special meeting of the Commission by a majority vote of the membership of the Commission.

Approved: 12-17-02

Amended: 10-26-04 [regular meetings changed from every fourth Tuesday to every fourth Wednesday]

Amended: 12-28-04 [regular meetings changed from every fourth Wednesday to every fourth Tuesday]

Amended: 07-26-05 [officer elections changed to regular meeting in January of each year instead of the regular meeting in July]

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Anchorage Municipal Code
Title 4 (current 2021)

4.50.050 Geotechnical Advisory Commission

- A. There is established a geotechnical advisory commission composed of nine members.
- B. Due consideration shall be given to technical qualifications. The director of planning shall function as an ex officio member of the commission, and shall serve as secretary to the commission.
- C. The commission shall act in an advisory capacity to the assembly, the mayor, and heads of executive departments, and shall have the following powers and duties:
 - 1. To make recommendations and give advice on geotechnical matters, including but not limited to revisions to the Anchorage coastal resources map.
 - 2. To make such special studies on geotechnical matters as may be designated from time to time.
 - 3. To act in an advisory capacity to the platting board and planning and zoning commission.
- D. The sunset provisions in section 4.05.150 shall not apply to this board.

(AO No. 62-75; AO No. 77-136; AO No. 88-36; AO No. 95-223, § 1, expires 1-20-1998; AO No. 99-7, § 1, 1-26-99, expires 1-20-02; AO No. 2001-189, § 2, expires 1-20-05; AO No. 2004-96, § 1, 6-8-04; AO No. 2011-64(S-1), § 4, 6-28-11; AO No. 2011-81, § 2, 8-30-11)

Cross reference(s)—Environmental protection, tit. 15; land use planning, tit. 21; building codes, tit. 23.