



ALTERNATIVE MATERIALS, DESIGN OR CONSTRUCTION METHODS

City of Murrieta – Development Services Department
1 Town Square, Murrieta CA 92562

This Information Bulletin outlines the application and submittal requirements for processing a request for Alternate Materials, Design or Construction Methods pursuant to California Building Code Section 104.11.

Documents Referenced in this Information Bulletin

- Application for Alternative Methods, [DS-112](#)

I. SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS

A. Application & Fees

An application must be completed and submitted to the Building & Safety Division. The justification portion of the application must state the basis for the request and substantiate the claim of equivalency to code requirements for the proposed material, design, or construction method or code modification.

The following fees are required to be paid prior to review unless otherwise indicated. If, during the course of review, it is determined that additional reviews are required, additional fees may be charged based upon an hourly rate. If it is determined that the complexity of the project requires significant research or outside consultation, a deposit account may be required.

Alternate Methods Requests..... \$220
Records Fee\$1/page

Please note that the application/review fees and other administrative fees are non-refundable.

B. Substantiating Documents

Plans and documents submitted in support of the request must clearly indicate the location, nature, extent, and details relevant to the subject of the request. Provide the following, as applicable.

- State specific code provisions for which alternative is requested and why request is being submitted
- Describe, by code section, those provisions for which alternative is desired
- Compare the proposed alternative versus the code requirements in terms of structural strength, suitability, effectiveness, fire resistance, safety and health impacts affecting the building or user of the building

- Demonstrate the proposed alternative is compatible with the balance of code requirements
- When applicable, specify how authoritative consensus document(s) are used to substantiate proposal
- Provide assumptions, references, and documentation of evaluation methods utilized. This includes intended use, input data, anticipated outputs, and limitations of computer models and other analytical tools or methods
- Specify when and where special inspection and testing are required and the standards of acceptance for demonstrating compliance. Show how the proposed alternate, if accepted, will be identified on the job site
- Where land use restrictions and building setbacks are required, deed restrictions may be an appropriate method to ensure continued compliance
- State how and where alternate proposal is incorporated within construction plans and prepare plan amendments as necessary. The design professional has the responsibility to coordinate all construction documents and ensure compatibility between documents
- The report and design documents shall be dated, signed and stamped by the design professional according to plan submittal procedures
- For alternate methods of design requests, the applicant shall set performance criteria for their design. Performance criteria shall be reviewed, amended and approved by the Director prior to start of design

II. REVIEW & VERIFICATION

The Building Official, or designee, has the responsibility to review design submittals for compliance to the adopted codes and procedures. If the Building Official does not have the expertise on staff to make a thorough and competent review, the Building Official shall select a consultant that possesses the necessary qualifications to perform a third-party or peer-review. Cost of peer review shall be paid by applicant to the Building and Safety Division prior to commencing the review.

- Verify all applicable information and justifications listed above as requirements for submittals is received and verify evaluation design methods used by designer are appropriate to the alternative proposed
- Verify products are being used in accordance with their listing conditions. If not available, require documentation and/or testing to demonstrate compliance with intent of code and intended use
- Evaluate performance of material and possible flaws that could affect performance of material in its installed state
- The reviewer shall document the submittal has been reviewed and accepted as meeting the alternative materials, design and methods of construction provisions of the code. If the Director is not satisfied the applicant has met the conditions, the request should be denied in writing with the applicable reason(s)

III. INSPECTION & FIELD VERIFICATION

The alternate proposal as approved in the construction documents must be verified by inspections, and where necessary, testing as follows:

- To verify alternated materials, systems and fabricated products comply with accepted design criteria and the manufacturers and engineers installation procedures, inspectors shall check product labeling, certification, quality assurance processes, and testing as applicable
- When appropriate, an approved third party quality assurance inspection and testing service may be required for continuous inspection and testing activities. This is intended to verify that

construction complies with the code and the approved plans

IV. PROCESSING TIME

First review comments will be issued within 30 business days or sooner, based upon the information provided and the complexity of the request. Incomplete packages may result in extended review periods.