



A grading permit is required for most grading operations. Exceptions to the grading permit requirement are:

- An excavation below finished grade for basements and footings of a building, retaining wall, or other structure authorized by a valid building permit. This shall not exempt any fill made with the material from such excavation or exempt any excavation having an unsupported height greater than 5 feet after the completion of such structure.
- Cemetery graves.
- Refuse disposal sites controlled by other regulations.
- Excavations for wells, tunnels, or utilities.
- Mining, quarrying, excavating, processing or stockpiling of rock, sand, gravel, aggregate, or clay where established and provided for by law, provided such operations do not affect the lateral support or increase the stresses in or pressure upon any adjacent or contiguous property.
- Exploratory excavations under the direction of soil engineers or engineering geologists.
- An excavation that: (1) is less than 2 feet in depth or (2) does not create a cut slope greater than 5 feet in height and steeper than 1 unit vertical in 1-1/2 units horizontal.
- Minor earthwork for landscaping.

The City has adopted Appendix Chapter 33, Excavation and Grading, of the California Building Code. Excluded from adoption is Section 3306.2.9 which deals with certain fills being exempted from permit requirements.