CZU LIGHTNING COMPLEX FIRES

COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ
RECOVERY PERMIT CENTER
Phone 831-454-5323
Email RPC@SantaCruzCounty.Us

Temporary Housing Siting Recommendations – Geologic Hazards

PURPOSE

Temporary housing permits (THPs) are issued without a site visit or field investigation of the temporary housing location. Applicants must be aware that, although a THP has been issued. Geologic hazards may be present on the property, including but not limited to: debris flows, land sliding, steep and/or unstable slopes, and erosion, and these conditions may pose a life-safety risk to occupants if their temporary home site is located in an area subject to these or other geologic hazards. The following siting recommendations are provided for consideration by applicants when choosing where to place a temporary housing unit in relation to potentially hazardous site features.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Applicants are encouraged to consult with technical experts such as licensed geotechnical engineers or geologists to assist them in evaluating the potential for geologic hazards to impact the temporary housing unit. If any of the following conditions are present, then mitigations may be needed, or alternative sites may need to be identified.

- ☐ Could runoff from the hill-slope concentrate in swales and small drainages and flow onto the site, causing flood damage to the proposed structure, or presenting a life-safety hazard?
- ☐ Is the hill-slope behind the structure steep and erodible, where gullying, or slip outs could deliver a sufficient volume of sediment and debris to damage the proposed structure or pose a life-safety hazard?
- ☐ Are large rocks, boulders, or other material present on the slope that pose a rock fall hazard that could impact the proposed structure, or present a life-safety hazard?
- ☐ Do you suspect a potential for land sliding on slopes above the proposed structure that could damage the structure or pose a life-safety hazard (e.g., debris flows, slides or slumps)? How about on steep hillslopes below potential temporary housing and building sites?
- ☐ Do you have any concern for instability in fill slopes supporting the proposed structure or in cut slopes above the structure, especially where retaining walls have been damaged or destroyed by fire?
- ☐ Is the building pad located near a watercourse where normal or flood flows could potentially erode the toe of the slope and trigger failure?

MONITORING

Geologic processes are continuous and change over time, especially during periods of inclement weather. Temporary occupants must remain aware of their surroundings and regularly monitor for slope movement or unsafe conditions. When in doubt, contact a private consulting geologist to determine the safety of your temporary housing site.