



Municipality of Anchorage
Geotechnical Advisory Commission

A G E N D A

Tuesday, October 22, 2024
12:00 Noon – 1:30 p.m.

Regular Meeting
(Hybrid format)

In-Person Physical Location

Planning Conference Room 170
Planning and Development Center
4700 Elmore Road
Anchorage, Alaska

via Microsoft Teams

[Click here to join the meeting](#)
[Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web:](#)
Meeting ID: 238 552 937 650, Passcode: rSL6pw
Or call in (audio only): +1 907-519-0237
Conference ID: 309 649 142#

I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Establishment of Quorum
- B. Disclosures
- C. Recognizing Staff and Guests

II. MEETING SUMMARIES

- A. September 24, 2024 Regular Meeting

III. OLD BUSINESS

- A. GAC Resolution 2024-02: Recommending Minimum On-Site Testing for Geotechnical Technical Reports
- B. Update on the Port
- C. Update on Academic Research from University of Colorado and University of Notre Dame on Building Code (*Daniel King*)

IV. NEW BUSINESS

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

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Communications Committee
- B. Hazard Mitigation Committee
- C. Seismic Hazard Committee

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

VIII. STAFF REPORTS

- A. Thankful for GAC: Do you want to have the meeting during Thanksgiving Week?

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Next Regular Meeting – November 19 or 26, 2024



**Municipality of Anchorage
Geotechnical Advisory Commission**

ACTION SUMMARY

**Tuesday, September 24, 2024
12:00 Noon – 1:30 p.m.**

**Regular Meeting
(Hybrid format)**

Planning Conference Room 170
Planning and Development Center

Commissioners	MOA Staff	Guests
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dennis Berry • Kyle Brennan • Steven Halcomb, Vice Chair • Dave Hemstreet (<i>excused</i>) • Cody Kreitel • Keri Nutter (<i>excused</i>) • Brian O’Dowd • Amy Steiner • John Thornley, Chair 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karlie Lamothe, Long-Range Planning • Ryan Yelle, Long-Range Planning Manager • Susan Perry, Long-Range Planning • Ben Russell, Office of Emergency Management • Wayne Bolen, Development Services • Grant Gephardt, Development Services • Tim Huntting, Project Management & Engineering 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colin Maynard, Alaska Seismic Hazard Safety Commission • Thomas Fenoseff, Anchorage School District

I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Establishment of Quorum**
- B. Disclosures (none)**
- C. Recognizing Staff and Guests**

II. MEETING SUMMARIES

- A. August 27, 2024 Regular Meeting. Commissioner Steiner** moved to approve; **Commissioner Halcomb** seconded. Passed unanimously.

III. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Letter of Support for Strong Motion Instrumentation at Port of Alaska Terminal 1. Commissioner Brennan** discussed the draft letter and the pros and cons of strong motion instrumentation.
- B. Update on Academic Research from University of Colorado and University of Notre Dame on Building Code.** Nothing to report yet.
- C. GAC NOAA National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program Letter.** **Chair Thornley** made a report.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

- A. GAC Resolution No. 2024-02 Recommending Minimum On-site Testing for Geotechnical Technical Reports.** **Commissioner Steiner** voiced concern that a minimum number of test borings is not an appropriate standard and inquired where on-site testing is. **Wayne Bolen** clarified that testing is required for any new commercial development, tenant improvements with changes to foundation, and new residential development in seismic zones 4 & 5 or additions around 50% of increased dwelling footprint.

Discussion on whether the commission is comfortable relying on other engineering reports for due diligence near the project area or if site-specific data is required.

Wayne Bolen clarified that they are not looking for specific number or depth requirements for site exploration. GAC cannot be the reviewing body for reliability of nearby data due to the timing of permits.

GAC Resolution No. 2024-02 has ongoing updates. **Commissioners** request a possible work session to finalize and approve.

V. PERSONS TO BE HEARD (*none*)

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Communications Committee.** **Commissioner Brennan** reported that the Committee will meet next week.
- B. Hazard Mitigation Committee.** Nothing to report other than connection with Senator Murkowski.
- C. Seismic Hazard Committee.** USGS is getting ready to construct a liquefaction array in Anchorage.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

Colin Maynard is working on building code study and noted that three positions are open on their commission.

VIII. STAFF REPORTS

Tim Huntting reported that the Seismic Mapping proposal has been published.
Wayne Bolen noted that code committees start in October to review the most recent building codes.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Kreitel moved; **Commissioner Steiner** seconded. Unanimous approval at 1:20 pm.

**MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE
GEOTECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMISSION RESOLUTION NO. 2024-02**

**A RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING MINIMUM ON-SITE EXPLORATION FOR
REQUIRED GEOTECHNICAL REPORTS.**

(GAC Case No. 2024-02)

WHEREAS, the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) Geotechnical Advisory Commission (GAC) is established in the Anchorage Municipal Code (AMC) to act in an advisory capacity to the Assembly, the Mayor, boards, commissions, and heads of municipal departments and agencies on geotechnical engineering issues and natural hazards risk mitigation (AMC 21.02.080); and

WHEREAS, the Anchorage area has a complex geological setting; and

WHEREAS, decades of development and demolition in the Anchorage area with minimal and inconsistent oversight have allowed for conditions where past dumping, poor quality fill, and other site issues that are not readily observable from the surface; and

WHEREAS, site-specific geotechnical exploration provides a higher level of awareness of the possibility for risks in the soil; and

WHEREAS, geotechnical reports are required per AMC 23.85.R101.4 and IBC section 1803; and

WHEREAS, historical geotechnical data can be used to provide context on subsurface conditions; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Geotechnical Advisory Commission:

- A. Makes the following findings of fact:
 1. Historical data should not be solely relied upon, and further site-specific exploration is required to support design recommendations. Verification language- EXPAND FINDING
 - 2.
- B. Recommends that the Municipality update its policy to require site-specific geotechnical exploration where geotechnical reports are required.
 - 1.

PASSED AND APPROVED unanimously by the Geotechnical Advisory Commission on this 22nd day of October 2024.

Craig H. Lyon
Secretary

John D. Thornley, Ph.D., P.E., BC.GE
Chair

DRAFT