Seismic Hazard Area

Chapter 24.16

Seismic Hazard Area

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24.16.010 Seismic Hazard Area – General purposes.
24.16.020 Seismic Hazard Area - Applicability.
24.16.030 Seismic Hazard Area – Development standards and review.

24.16.010 Seismic Hazard Area – General purposes.
The purposes of this section are to:

A. Protect public health and safety;

B. Establish minimum requirements to address seismic hazards; and

C. Identify seismic hazard areas in Thurston County.

24.16.020 Seismic Hazard Area - Applicability.
This chapter applies to all properties in Thurston County. Seismic activity can be unpredictable and may exceed the scope of this title and other requirements of the Thurston County Code. Such events may cause serious personal or bodily injury, including death, and damage to or loss of property. Too many uncertainties exist about the source, size and mobility of future events. This chapter is not a guarantee against damage or injury due to seismic activity.

24.16.030 Seismic Hazard Area – Development standards and review.
A. Buildings shall be subject to the design requirements and review process in title 14 TCC, Buildings and Construction.

B. Subdivision of property in an area that has a liquefaction susceptibility rating of high may occur provided that a geological report is provided that identifies sufficient buildable area outside of the area that has a liquefaction susceptibility rating of high. The boundary of
the area that has a liquefaction susceptibility rating of high shall be clearly shown on the map.

C. New roads, bridges, and utilities shall only be allowed in an area that has a liquefaction susceptibility rating of high when there is no feasible alternative location. Geotechnical analysis and design shall be provided to ensure the roadway, bridge and utility structures and facilities will not be susceptible to damage from seismic-induced ground deformation. Proposals shall be designed consistent with other requirements in the Thurston County Code, including title 13 TCC, Roads and Bridges, title 14 TCC, Buildings and Construction, and other applicable regulations.

Staff Note: Here are the definitions from Chapter 24.03 Definitions that apply to this chapter:

“Liquafaction” means a phenomenon in which strong earthquake shaking causes a soil to rapidly lose its strength and behave like quicksand. Areas of liquafaction typically occur in areas with artificial fills and in areas of loose sandy soils that are saturated with water, such as low-lying coastal areas, lakeshores, and river valleys. Hazard areas in Thurston County are mapped as having a liquefaction susceptibility of high, moderate to high or moderate on the Liquefaction Susceptibility Map of Thurston County, Washington, published by the Washington Department of Natural Resources (September 2004). Due to their size, smaller unmapped hazard areas of liquefaction may also be present.

“Seismic hazard areas” means the following:

A. Those areas subject to severe risk of damage as a result of earthquake induced ground shaking, slope failure, surface faulting, settlement or soil liquafaction, such as artificial fill areas, and areas underlain by glaciolacustrine deposits and/or glacial outwash; or

B. Those areas mapped as having a liquefaction susceptibility of high, moderate to high, or low to moderate on the Liquefaction Susceptibility Map of Thurston County, Washington, published by Washington Department of Natural Resource (September 2004).