

**BUILDING CODE MANUAL
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
BUILDING AND SAFETY DIVISION
Based on the 2008 LACBC**

**1609.1.1
Article 1
05-12-09
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ASCE 7-05 SPECIAL WIND REGION LOADS

ISSUE.

2008 County of Los Angeles Building Code Section 1609 covers the application of wind loads to building, structures, and parts thereof. The Building Code references ASCE 7-05 Chapter 6, and also provides Figure 1609, which specifies the basic wind speed (3-second gust) for the United States. Hatched areas of Figure 1609 are designated "special wind regions" and note number four to the figure requires special wind regions to be examined for unusual wind conditions.

Historical climate data from the Weather Bureau, National Weather Service, and FAA airport wind readings indicate that average wind speeds in Los Angeles County are within the 85 mph 3-second gust wind speed as shown in 2008 LACBC Figure 1609. However, for areas south of the Santa Monica Mountains and the San Gabriel Mountains and West of the Santa Ana Mountains, generally known as the Los Angeles Basin, past wind records and current wind patterns indicate higher wind loads due to local climatic and topographic effects. As an example, annual Santa Ana winds can generate wind speeds in excess of 100 mph.

POLICY.

Due to high wind anomalies in the special wind region, the following policy for wind loads shall be implemented for areas on the attached map as delineated by major highways and state routes in the southern areas of Los Angeles County. The areas in northern Los Angeles County that do not fall into the special wind region shall meet at least the minimum Building Code and ASCE 7-05, 85 mph (3-second gust) design criteria.

Unless a specific wind study by a wind engineer or a meteorologist is performed to justify a lower wind speed, all structures located in the special wind region shall be designed for wind speed of not less than 100 mph (3-second gust).

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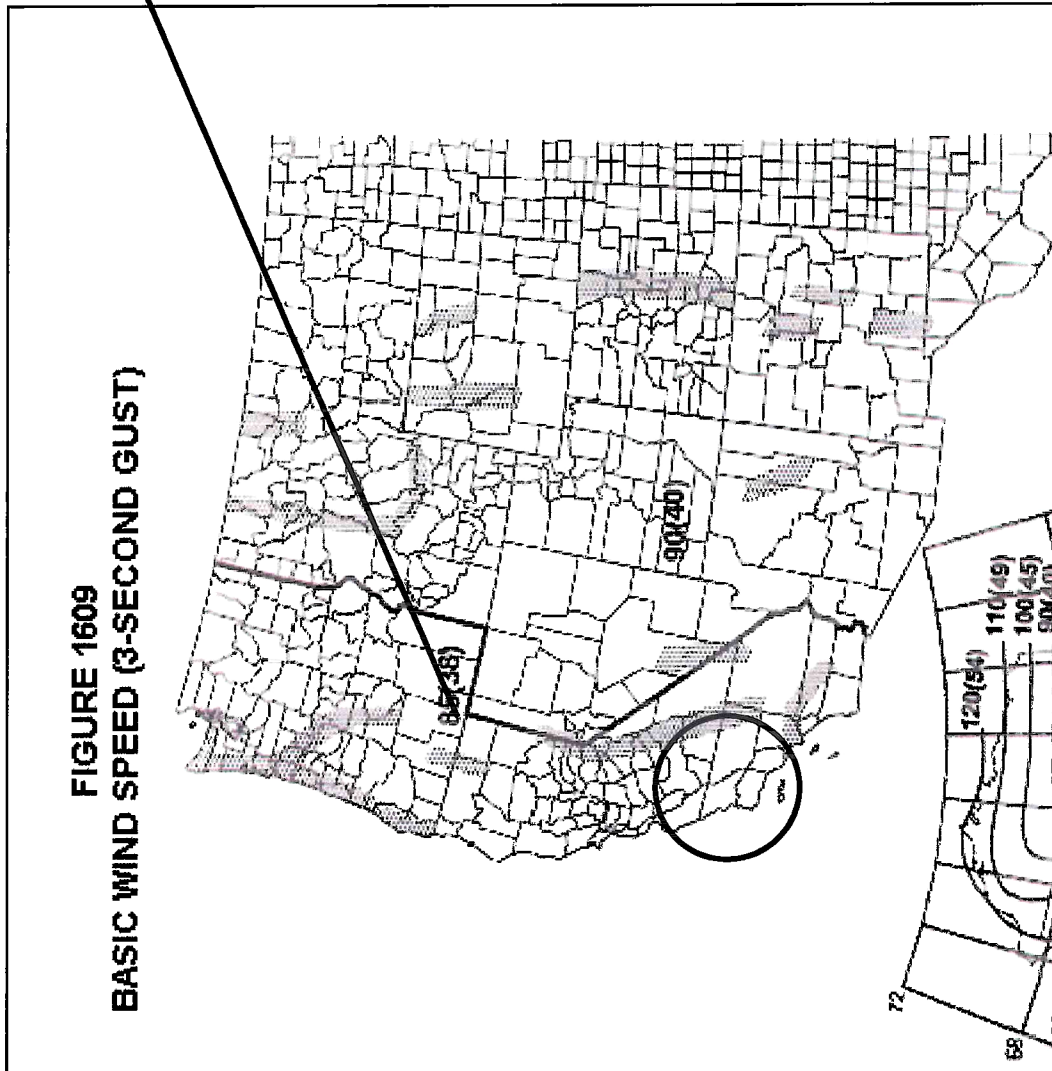
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**FIGURE 1609
BASIC WIND SPEED (3-SECOND GUST)**



ASCE 7-05 Special Wind Region per Figure 1609

All properties south of the 101 Freeway between the westerly border of Los Angeles County and the intersection of the 101 Freeway and the 170/134 Freeways. All properties south of the 134 Freeway between the intersection of the 101/170/134 Freeways and the intersection of the 134 Freeway and state Route 2. All properties east and south of state Route 2 between the intersection of the 134 Freeway and state Route 2 and the easterly border of Los Angeles County (NOTE: Include all of La Canada – Flintridge)

