



**City of Atascadero  
Community Development Department**

**PUBLIC INFORMATION - BUILDING SERVICES**

Community Development Department 6907 El Camino Real Atascadero, CA 93422 (805) 461-5000 fax (805) 461-7612

**RETAINING WALL PERMIT REQUIREMENTS**

Section 105.2.4 of the 2007 California Building Code exempts a retaining wall from a building permit provided:

1. It is not over 4 feet in height measured from the bottom of the footing to the top of the wall.

See  $(X + Y)$  in the figures below.

2. It does not support a surcharge.

*A "surcharge" on a retaining wall is any load in addition to level grade, within that area defined by a 45 degree angle from the bottom of the footing to level grade. See hatched "Surcharge Area" shown below. Examples of a surcharge may be a building or structure, fence, driveway, or slope above level grade, within the hatched "Surcharge Area" shown in the figures below.*

3. It does not impound Class I, II, or IIIA liquids.

Because of the varying soils conditions throughout the City, all retaining walls that do not meet all conditions in this exception are required to have a building permit, and must have plans and supporting documentation stamped and signed by a licensed architect or engineer. (see *Retaining Wall Submittal Checklist* for submittal requirements)

If retaining walls are a part of a subdivision, color and material samples must be reviewed and approved by Planning Services.

If you have any questions regarding your specific retaining wall project, please contact Building Services at 461-5000, or you may visit the Permit Counter at City Hall, and ask to speak to a building inspector.

