



The City of Atascadero Sign Ordinance is based on the City's responsibility to protect the general public's health, safety and welfare. The spirit of this sign ordinance is based on the City's desire to protect the economy and aesthetics of the community.

The purpose of the sign ordinance is to establish sign regulations that are intended to:

- ♦ Maintain and improve the aesthetic environment.
- ♦ Foster the City's ability to attract sources of economic development and growth.
- \$\delta\text{Encourage the effective use of signs as a means of communication.}
- ♦ Implement quality sign design standards.
- ♦ Enable fair and consistent enforcement.
- ♦ Minimize possible adverse impacts of signs to maintain a positive City image.
- ♦ Enhance traffic safety throughout the City.



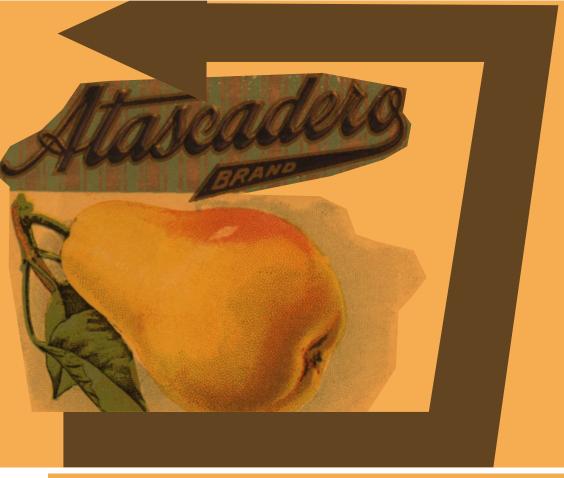


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SIGN DESIGN GUIDELINES

Complement: Color, material, scale, lettering, and lighting is encouraged to complement the surrounding environment and building(s) that the sign address.

Character: Signs shall enhance the public realm and aid in the creation of a street's character. Signs shall not impede pedestrian traffic, block sight lines along roadways, or disturb adjacent residences.

Audience: Signs intended for tourists or residents, may impact sign design. Regardless of audience, sign design shall conform to regulations in the sign ordinance.

Concise: Information on signs shall be brief, clear, and simple with appropriately sized lettering, and information hierarchy. When appropriate, symbols can be used in place of texts.

Size: Signs shall never overpower the building. The sign shall fit comfortably into the architecture of the storefront. Signs shall be mounted in a manner that does not detract from the building.

Consistent: Signs shall be internally consistent. If multiple tenants are listed on a single sign or a multitenant building, variation should be limited.

Timeless: Sign design should convey a timeless character of a street, place, or business. Signs should be designed with durable materials and be well maintained.

Illumination: Lighting used with signs shall be focused and minimal. Lighting shall be in scale with the sign and facade.

SIGN PROCESS & PERMITS

ESTABLISH NEED

Whether you are an existing business or new to Atascadero, we want to help! Some signs do not require permits, while others do. Please utilize this handbook to determine what types of signs require permits or visit www.atascadero.org/signage or give us a call at (805) 461-5000 to discuss signs with a Staff member. Thinking outside the box? Contact us and we can help make it happen!

SIGN PERMIT APP

If you or your sign professional determine you need a sign permit, you can obtain a permit by visiting Historic City Hall or by downloading a sign permit package online at www. atascadero.org/signage. Applicable permit fees will apply.

PERMIT ISSUED

Signs will be reviewed to ensure it meets City Standards and California Building Code, if applicable. Permits are issued and can be picked up at Historic City Hall (6500 Palma Avenue). Sign permits are considered express permits and take approximately 48 hours to process.

INSTALL SIGN

Permits are valid for 180 days to install signs. After installation, please contact the building inspection hot-line at (805) 466-8099 to make an appointment for a quick inspection to make sure the installation is in compliance with the approved plan.

MAINTAIN SIGN

All signs are to be properly maintained in a safe and legible condition at all times. Any sign that is fifty percent (50%) or more damaged or deteriorated, must be repaired and brought into conformance (AMC 9-15.012).





SIGNS THAT CAN BE SEEN & DON'T COST A THING!

SIGN TYPES		MAX SIGN AREA	MAX HEIGHT	OTHER REQUIREMENTS			
	A-Frame	10 sf	5 ft	Min 3-feet in height; Must be located on private property.			
	Banners	40 sf	Not to exceed roof line	Must be placed on structure or in ground; Max. Display 30 days; Must be down 60 days.			
	Tenant Directional	N/A	5 ft	Consistent with style of building.			
0	Projected Image	N/A	Not to exceed roof line	May be used max 30 days; Flashing, distracting lights shall not be used.			
	Temporary Non Commercial	6 sf yard sign 32 sf freestanding	5 ft	Max. display time of 9 months; Prohibited in City right-of-way.			
	Temporary For Sale	6 sf all other lots 32 sf highway lots	6 ft	1 per street frontage / highway frontage; Must be removed 14 days after close of sale.			
GLNSHINE	Window Lettering	Not to Exceed 1/3 of window areas in Downtown Not to Exceed 1/2 window areas in all other zones					



PROHIBITED SIGNS

SIGNS THAT ARE A NO GO



THESE SIGNS TYPES ARE PROHIBITED WITHIN THE CITY OF ATASCADERO



Signs placed within the City's right-of-way



Digital Display / LED messaging



Wall mounted cabinet signs



Roof Mounted Signs



Feather Flags



CAS Snipe Signs



Inflatable Signs



Vehicle Signs when the following is met:

- 1. Vehicle is parked offpremise;
- 2. Vehicle is parked more than 2 hours within 24 hours in the same place.



Sign Handbook

PERMIT REQUIRED SIGNS

SIGN ME UP **BEFORE** YOU **GO-GO**



WALL

A sign installed on the building that faces either a street or parking lot

FREESTANDING

A freestanding, vertically oriented sign with integrated support structure

MONUMENT

A freestanding, ground sign with low overall height

PROPERTY ZONING	IS THIS SIGN ALLOWED?					
Agriculture Max. Area Based on Sign	YES	NO	YES			
RESIDENTIAL (RS, RSF, LSF, RMF) Max. Area Based on Sign	NO	NO	YES*			
NON-RESIDENTIAL (I, IP,CPK, CS) Max. Area 150 sf	YES	YES	YES			
NON-RESIDENTIAL (CN,CR,CT,CP) Max. Area 150 sf	YES	YES	YES			
DOWNTOWN (DC,DO) Max. Area 50 sf	YES	NO*	YES*			
PUBLIC (P,OS,L,LS) Max. Area 50 sf	YES	YES	YES			



*Special exceptions applicable

PERMIT REQUIRED SIGNS



PROJECTING

A sign installed on the building that faces either a street or parking lot

AWNING

A sign installed on the building that faces either a street or parking lot

BUILDING NAME

A sign installed on the building that faces either a street or parking lot

ASA=

Aggregate Sign Area

MORE THAN 1 SIGN MAY BE
USED AS LONG AS THE MAX

ASA IS NOT EXCEEDED

IS THIS S	PROPERTY ZONING		
NO	YES	YES	Agriculutre Max. Area Based on Sign
NO	NO	YES	RESIDENTIAL (RS, RSF, LSF, RMF) Max. Area Based on Sign
YES	YES	YES	NON-RESIDENTIAL (I, IP,CPK, CS) Max. Area 150 sf
YES	YES	YES	NON-RESIDENTIAL (CN,CR,CT,CP) Max. Area 150 sf
YES	YES	YES	DOWNTOWN (DC,DO) Max. Area 50 sf
YES	YES	YES	PUBLIC (P,OS,L,LS) Max. Area 50 sf



SIGNS THAT NEED A LITTLE BIT MORE TLC

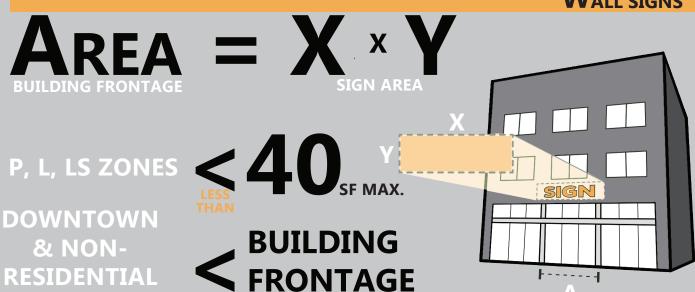
SIGN TYP	E	REQUIREMENTS
	Art & Wall Murals	AUP required prior to installation; AUP limited to review of size, placement, and duration only.
	Changeable Copy	Size to be determined by AUP; Design of sign determined by AUP; Digital Changeable copies are prohibited.
	Freeway Oriented	Subject to AUP Approval; Business must have freeway frontage; Restaurant, service station, hotel, car dealerships permitted to have freeway signs; Multi-tenants with 5 or more permitted; Other requirements per AMC 9-15.010.
OFF-SITE SUBDIVISION	Off-Site Subdivision	5 or more lots may install signs; Subject to AUP approval; Subdivision must be located within City Limits; Signs may not be illuminated;





ZONES

WALL SIGNS



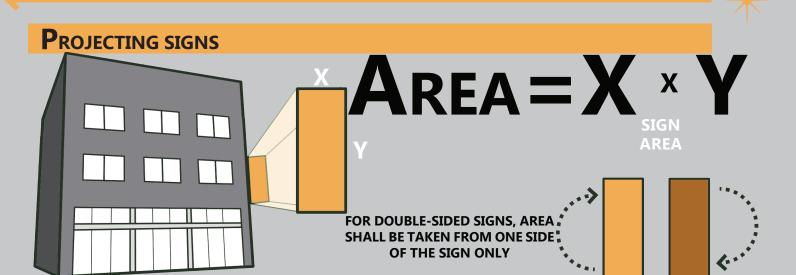
CALCULATING WALL SIGN AREA



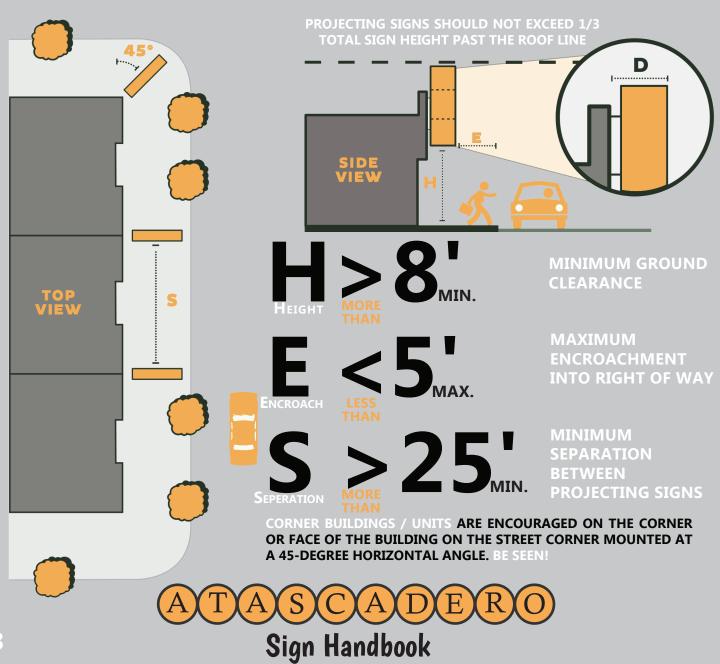
WALL SIGN PLACEMENT & PROJECTIONS

MULTISTORY

DEPTH LESS THAN WALL SIGNS SHALL NOT EXCEED TOP OF ROOF LINE SIDE VIEW

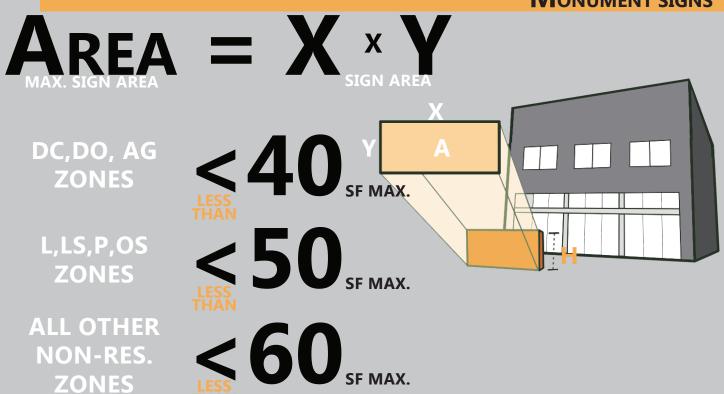


PROJECTING SIGN PLACEMENT & PROJECTION

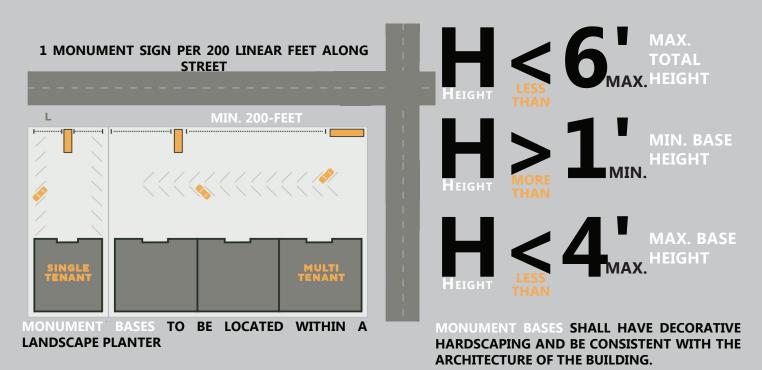


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MONUMENT SIGNS



MONUMENT SIGN PLACEMENT & ORIENTATION



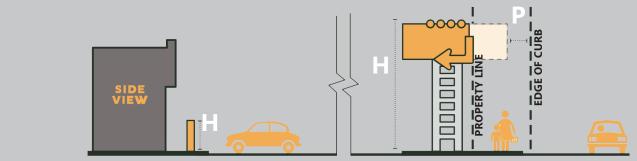


FREE STANDING SIGNS



 $\frac{\text{MULTI-}}{\text{TENANT}} = 50 + 10_{\text{SF}}$ SINGLE **TENANT TENANT**

FREESTANDING SIGN PLACEMENT & ORIENTATION



H < 6

MAX. TOTAL HEIGHT **SINGLE TENANT**

MAX. TOTAL HEIGHT MULTI-TENANT MAX.



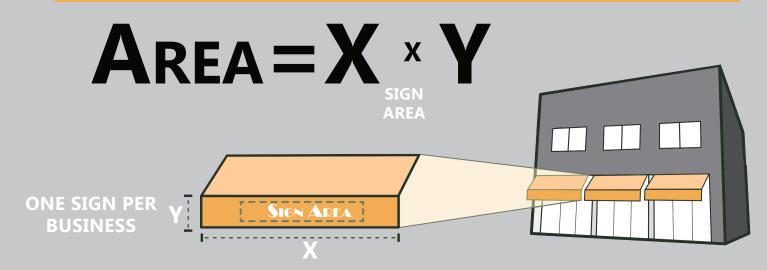
ENCROACHMENT INTO RIGHT OF WAY MIN BASE HEIGHT **FOR SINGLE** FREESTANDING SIGNS IS 1-FOOT.

MIN. BASE HEIGHT FOR MULTI-TENANT FREESTANDING SIGNS IS 4-FEET.

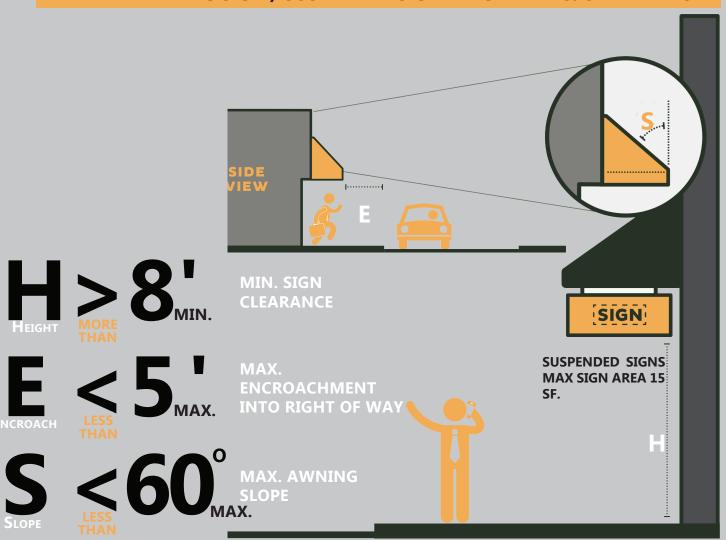
ALL FREESTANDING SIGNS TO BE LOCATED IN LANDSCAPE PLANTERS.



AWNING & SUSPENDED SIGNS



AWNING SIGN / SUSPENDED SIGN PLACEMENT & ORIENTATION







SIGNAGE SMÖRGÅSBORD

Do you not know what type of sign you have on your business or are you thinking about doing something different for your property or business? This section provides an example of each type of sign that is permitted here in the City of Atascadero.

SIGN TYPE



A-Frame Sign



Painted Wall Sign



Standard Wall Sign



Awning Sign



Window Lettering - Perforated Film



Building Name Sign



Changeable Copy Sign



Freeway Oriented - Pole Sign



SIGNAGE SMÖRGÅSBORD



Freeway Oriented - Freestanding Sign





Ground Monument Sign - Multi-Tenant



Information Kiosks



Projecting Sign



Private Light Pole Signs



Projected Image Sign



Ground Monument Sign - Single Tenant



Off-Site Subdivision





SIGN TYPE



Neighborhood Identification Sign



Single Tenant Free Standing Sign



Multi-Tenant Free Standing Sign



Suspended Sign - Attached to Building



Suspended Sign - Under Awning



Suspended Sign - Neon



Temporary For Sale - Residential



Temporary For Sale - Non-Residential



SIGNAGE SMÖRGÅSBORD

SIGN TYPE



Wall Signs - Individual Letters



Window Lettering



Vehicle Sign - Magnet



Vehicle Sign - Wrap



APPENDIX

9-15.007 Allowed Signs By Zone

(a). Permitted Signs by Zones. The following are the signs types that are permitted by zone as shown in Table 15.1.

			d Sign Types Based On	Zone				
		tted Sign**						
			Permit Required**					
	☐ (blank)	Not Permitte						
building permit requirements per section 9-15.005 and 9-15.007 Total Aggregate sign Area (square feet) and may be divided by using								
Sign Type	Total Agg	gregate sig	` -		ed by using			
Oigh Type			one (1) or more sign T	ypes				
	Based on Sign Type	Based on Sign Type	150 sf	50 sf	100 sf			
	Ag Zone	Residential Zones	Non-Residential Zones (CS, CN, CR, CPK, CT, IP, I)	Downtown Zones (DC, DO)	Public Zones (P, OS, L, LS)			
1.A-Frame	Р		Р	Р	Р			
2. Art & Wall Murals	AUP	AUP	AUP	AUP	AUP			
3. Awning	Р		Р	Р	Р			
4. Banner			Р	Р	Р			
5. Building Name	Р	Р	Р	Р	Р			
6. Changeable Copy	AUP	AUP	AUP	AUP	AUP			
7. Freeway Oriented ¹			AUP					
8. Home Occupation	Р	Р						
9. Information Kiosks								
10.Private Light Pole	Р		Р	Р	Р			
11.Ground Monument	Р		Р	Р	Р			
Sign								
12.Multi-Tenant			Р		Р			
Freestanding								
13. Projecting			Р	Р	Р			
14. Projected Image		Р	Р	Р	Р			
15. Off-Site Subdivision	AUP		AUP					
16. Neighborhood Identification	Р							
17. Single Tenant			Р	Р	Р			
Freestanding Sign								
18. Suspended		Р	Р	Р	Р			
19. Temporary For-Sale	Р		Р	Р	Р			
20. Temporary Non-	Р		Р	Р	Р			
Commercial								
21. Tenant Directional	Р		Р	Р	Р			
22. Wall		Р	Р	Р	Р			
23. Window Lettering		Р	Р	Р	Р			
Notes:								
1 Freeway signs are regulat	ted by section 9	9-15.009						





9-15.008 Types of Signs & Standards

(a) Allowed Signs and Standards. The following signs are permitted within the City of Atascadero as shown in Table 15.2. Additional standards may be applicable as contained in this chapter.

Allowed Signage Types – Table 15.2									
Sign Type	Permit Required	Zones Allowed	Max. Sign Area ¹	Number of sign(s) permitted	Max. Height²	Special Requirements			
1.A-Frame	None	All Zoning Districts except Residential	10 sf	1 per street frontage	5 ft.	(a) Must be located outside of Right- of-way on business property, except as allowed by encroachment permit in the East Mall and West Mall parkway area. (b) Minimum height is 3-feet.			
2.Art and Murals	Yes	All Zoning Districts	N/A	N/A	N/A	(a)AUP required prior to installation for review limited to size, placement, and duration.			
3.Awning	Yes	All Zoning Districts except Residential	50% of awning face	1 per Business	Based on building height	(a) Minimum vertical clearance from the ground of eight (8) feet. (b) May project a maximum of five (5) feet into the public right-of-way with approved encroachment permit (c) Shall be securely attached to the buildings and well maintained. (d) No supports or poles may be located in the public right-of-way. (e) Shall complement the building they are attached to.			
4.Banner	No	All Zoning Districts except Ag & Residential	40 sf	1 per Public street frontage	N/A	 (a) May be in place for a maximum of thirty (30) days. (b) All banners must be down a minimum of sixty (60) days before any new banner may go up (c) Banners must be secured flat against a building or secure structure placed in the ground. (d) Nonprofit events shall be exempt from size and number of banners (e.g., farmers market). 			
5.Building Name Identification	Yes	All Zoning Districts except Ag & Residential	20 sf	1 per building	Based on building height	(a) Signage used to identify the building not the tenant(s).			
6.Changeable Copy	Yes	All Zoning Districts I	Based on AUP	1 per business	12 ft.	(a) AUP required.(b) Size of changeable copy to be determined by the AUP.(c) Design of changeable copy sign shall be determined by AUP.(d) Sign is non-digital.			
7.Freeway	Yes		*	*	*	*Refer to section 9-15.010			



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APPENDIX

Allowed Signage Types – Table 15.2									
Sign Type	Permit Required	Zones Allowed	Max. Sign Area ¹	Number of sign(s) permitted	Max. Height²	Special Requirements			
Oriented									
8.Home Occupation	No	All Ag & Residential Zones	2 sf	1 per residential unit	4 ft	(a) Requires issuance of a valid business license prior to placement. (b) Signage is permitted as a part of a residential occupancy in a mixed-use development.			
9.Information Kiosks	Yes	All Zoning Districts	Based on AUP	Based on AUP	Based on AUP	 (a) For the permanent and / or temporary display of information. (b) Limited to civic activities, advertising for local events. (c) AUP required. 			
10. Private Light Pole ³	Yes	Non- Residential Zones / Public Zones	6 sf for each pole	25% of the total number of light poles;	Based on Light Pole Height	 (a) A permanent light pole within a parking lot or property may be utilized for temporary banner or signage that does not count towards total aggregate sign area. (b) Eight (8) feet minimum vertical clearance or as required by the California Building Code, whichever is greater. (c) Light Pole located on private property. (d) A maximum of two (2) signs per pole. (e) Signage on poles shall be placed within decorative frames or brackets. 			
11.Ground Monument Sign	Yes	All Zoning Districts Except Residential	60 sf CN, CP, CR, CS, CT, CPK, IP, I 50 sf L,LS,P,OS	1 per 200 lineal foot	6 ft.	 (a) Minimum base height shall be one (1) foot. (b) Maximum base height shall be four (4 feet) (c) Base does not count towards sign face area. (d) Base shall have decorative hardscaping and shall be consistent with the architecture of the building(s) it serves. (e) Bases shall be located in a landscape planter. (f) Cabinet type signs shall be prohibited. (g) Monument signs in DO/DC require a building to be setback a min. of 10-feet from back of walk. (h) Bases shall be located in a landscape planter and setback three (3) feet from the back of 			
12. Multi-Tenant Freestanding	Yes	Non- Residential Zones	50 sf + additional	1 per property	12 ft	sidewalk in the DO/DC zone. (a) Two (2) or more tenants required. (b) Minimum base height shall be			





APPENDIX

		Allowe	d Signage		able 15.2	
Sign Type	Permit Required	Zones Allowed	Max. Sign Area ¹	Number of sign(s) permitted	Max. Height ²	Special Requirements
			10 sf per tenant Max. 100 sf			four (4) feet. (c) Base does not count towards sign face. (d) Base Articulation. Base shall be consistent with architecture of multi-tenant building. (e) Bases shall be located in a landscape planter and setback five (5) feet from the back of sidewalk. (f) Cabinet monument type shall be prohibited. (g) A singular pole is prohibited.
13. Projecting	Yes	All Zoning Districts except Ag & Residential	15 sf	1 per business	N/A	(a) Minimum ground clearance must be eight (8) feet, or as regulated by the California Building Code. (b) May encroach up to five (5) feet within the public right-of-way with issuance of an encroachment permit.
14. Projected Image	No* *Electrical permit may be required.	All Zoning Districts except Ag I	N/A	1 per business / residence	N/A	(a) Laser lights or projected image signs used to project an image, logo, or other graphic in a building, structure, sidewalk or other surface. (b) Project image signs may be in place a maximum of thirty (30) calendar days and not be utilized for a minimum of sixty (60) days thereafter. (c) Installation of new electrical components shall be consistent with the California Building Code or successor code. (d) Flashing, distracting lights shall not be utilized.
15. Off-Site Subdivision	Yes	Ag & Residential Zones / Non-Residential Zones	40 sf	3 per subdivision	10 ft.	 (a) Subdivision tracts of five (5) or more lots may be permitted to install off-site directional advertising signage. (b) Subject to the approval of an AUP. (c) Subdivision shall be located within the City of Atascadero. (d) No flags, banners or other decorations shall be affixed to the sign. (e) The signs shall not be illuminated. (f) All signs shall be located on private property with written permission from the property owner provided to the City. (g) The signs shall be removed prior



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APPENDIX

Allowed Signage Types – Table 15.2									
Sign Type	Permit Required	Zones Allowed	Max. Sign Area ¹	Number of sign(s) permitted	Max. Height ²	Special Requirements			
						to final occupancy of the last unit in the tract or after a period of three (3) years whichever is less. (h) The applicant may apply annually for a one (1) year time extension for active construction projects.			
16.Neighborhood Identification	Yes	Residential Zones	36 sf	1 per arterial / collector street frontage	6 ft	 (a) Residential Single Family / Multi-Family Developments of five (5) units or more. (b) Minimum base height shall be one (1) foot. (c) Maximum base height shall be three (3 feet) (d) Base does not count towards sign face area. (e) Base shall have decorative hardscaping and shall be consistent with the architecture of the building(s) it serves. (f) Bases shall be located in a landscape planter on private property, (g) Cabinet type signs shall be prohibited. (h) Signs shall front on either an designated arterial or collector road. 			
17.Single Tenant Freestanding	Yes	All Zoning Districts except Residential	60 sf	1 per property	6 ft	 (a) Sign face shall be elevated, a minimum of one (1) foot off the ground. (b) Bases shall be located in a landscape planter and setback a minimum of two (2) feet from the back of sidewalk. (c) Cabinet monument type shall be prohibited. (d) A singular pole is prohibited. (e) Signs in DO/DC require a building to be setback a min. of 10-feet from back of walk. 			
18. Suspended	Yes	All Zoning Districts except Ag & Residential	15 sf	1 per public street frontage	N/A	(a) Minimum ground clearance of eight (8) feet or as regulated by the California Building Code or successor code.			
19. Temporary For-Sale	No	All Zoning Districts	6 sf all other lots 32 sf for lots fronting a highway	1 sign per street frontage; 1 sign per highway frontage	6 ft.	(a) Signs must be removed fourteen (14) days after close of sale.			





APPENDIX

Allowed Signage Types – Table 15.2						
Sign Type	Permit Required	Zones Allowed	Max. Sign Area ¹	Number of sign(s) permitted	Max. Height²	Special Requirements
20. Temporary Non- Commercial	No	All Zoning Districts	6 sf for yard sign 32 sf freestanding	1 per property	5 ft	 (a) A maximum of nine (9) months. (b) Must be removed a minimum of ninety (90) days before any new non-commercial signage may be placed. (c) Prohibited in the public right-ofway.
21. Tenant Directional	No	All Zoning Districts	N/A	N/A	5 ft.	(a) Does not count against total aggregate sign area.(b) Design shall be consistent with the architectural style and features of the building façade.
22. Wall	Yes	All Zoning Districts except Residential	Based on building frontage for all other non-residential zones	1 per building face with a public street frontage or parking lot	Based on building height	 (a) May not exceed one (1) square foot per lineal foot of building frontage. (b) For tenants greater than 10,000 square feet in size, an additional one hundred and fifty percent (150%) more sign area may be permitted. (c) Wall signs shall be located below the top of the parapet or roofline on single story buildings and below the second floor sill on multi-story buildings. (d) Painted signs do not require building permits but required planning review.
23. Window Lettering / Perforated Window Film / Window Graphics	No	All Zoning Districts except Ag & Residential	Not to exceed 1/2 of window area in all other zones Not to exceed 1/3 of window area in DC/DO Zone	*	*	*See section 9-15.004(f)

Notes:

- Maximum Sign Area measured in square feet (sf).

 Maximum Height measured in feet (ft) and from finished grade for all sign types.

 Additional Light Pole signage regulations contained in subsection 9-15.007(b)(2).

