

**APPLICATION FOR UNREASONABLE HARDSHIP DETERMINATION FOR  
ACCESSIBILITY UPGRADES – OVER 2025 VALUATION THRESHOLD**

**BPC-032**

**PURPOSE**

When improvements are made to existing commercial and multi-family structures, Section 202 of the current adopted version of the California Building Code (CBC) allows for an exception in lieu of bringing the entire structure up to compliance with current code standards for accessibility. To qualify for the exception, an unreasonable hardship must exist, and the project’s total valuation (including the cumulative valuation projects within a 3-year period) must exceed the current year’s valuation threshold. Refer to Permit Sonoma instructions [BPC-004 Nonresidential & Multifamily Housing Submittal Guidelines](#) for guidelines on required plans, details, and justifying documents for nonresidential Building Permit applications.

**VALUATION THRESHOLD AMOUNT: \$203,611.00      YEAR: 2025**

**TO APPLY**

The owner/applicant shall have a design professional (licensed architect or civil engineer) complete and submit this form with the permit application. An accessibility site review will be completed and Permit Sonoma Plan Check staff will forward the hardship request to the Building Official for a determination. A review fee is required for this service.

**PROJECT INFORMATION**

Date _____	Owner _____
Building Permit Number _____	Owner Phone Number _____
Site Address _____	Applicant _____
City / Zip _____	Applicant Phone Number _____

**DEFINITION OF UNREASONABLE HARDSHIP**

**CBC Section 202** Unreasonable Hardship exists when the enforcing agency finds that compliance with the building standards would make the specific work of the project affected by the building standard unfeasible, based on an overall evaluation of the following factors:

1. The cost of providing access;
2. The cost of all construction contemplated;
3. The impact of proposed improvements on financial feasibility of the project;
4. The nature of the accessibility which would be gained or lost;
5. The nature of the use of the facility under construction and its availability to persons with disabilities.

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List applicable sections below for which either an unreasonable hardship exception or a request for equivalent facilitation is being requested:

Chapter 11 Applicable Section	Requires Determination of Unreasonable Hardship	Request for Equivalent Facilitation
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

**UNREASONABLE HARDSHIP DETERMINATION**

1. Total cost of providing access (attach itemized cost estimate): \$ \_\_\_\_\_
2. Total project construction cost: \$ \_\_\_\_\_
3. Describe the impact of the proposed improvements on the financial feasibility of project:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Describe the nature of the access features that would be gained or lost:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What is the nature of the use of the facility under construction?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What is the availability of the facility or facilities to persons with disabilities?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**EQUIVALENT FACILITATION REQUESTED TO BE PROVIDED**

Describe in detail the means by which equivalent facilitation will be provided (reference applicable details on construction documents):

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I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_

Owner/Applicant \_\_\_\_\_ Design Professional \_\_\_\_\_

Owner Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Design Professional Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** The County will not check the plans for compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). It is the Owner’s responsibility to ensure compliance with these regulations. The County does not have any legal authority to enforce or interpret the ADA regulations with regard to private facility plan checks (*except to the extent that it enforces Civil Code sections 54 and 54.1 as to facilities it owns or leases*).

Note, however, that the State of California has incorporated many, *but not all*, of the ADA provisions into Title 24 effective January 8, 2020.

**TO BE COMPLETED BY PERMIT SONOMA STAFF**

The application for a hardship exception has been filed with this office. The following action was taken:

The above-named project has been denied an unreasonable hardship exemption for the following reason(s):

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The above-named project has been granted an unreasonable hardship exemption from the requirements of the State of California CCR-Title 24 (Regulation for the Accommodation for the Disabled) pursuant to the current adopted version of the CBC.

Conditions of Approval:

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Date of Approval/Denial \_\_\_\_\_ BLD Permit Number \_\_\_\_\_

Building Official Signature \_\_\_\_\_