



CITY OF MILPITAS

Office of Building Safety
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PARTY WALLS

Policy:**BDP-BLG16**

Effective Date:

6/30/2008

Proposed by:

TUCC

Last Reviewed/
Revised:

3/1/2023

Reviewed/
Revised by:

JDS

Approved By:

Building Official

CODE REFERENCE:

2022 CBC Section 706.1.1

ISSUE:

Section 706.1.1 of the 2022 *California Building Code* provides for the use of a single fire wall (referred to as a Party Wall) at a property line to separate two buildings.

POLICY:

The purpose of this policy is to set forth the minimum requirements for use of a “party wall” to address the issues of construction, maintenance, removal, access, structural stability, and location.

The use of a single party wall at a property line to separate buildings shall provide the following:

1. A common wall agreement shall be filed with the property. The agreement shall address questions of maintenance, removal, and access. The agreement shall be submitted to the Office of Building Safety for review and shall be determined to be acceptable prior to issuance of the permit that will include the construction of the party wall.
2. The party wall must be constructed and located such that the property line is within the fire-rated assembly that provides the necessary fire rating for the party wall. The plans must show full height wall sections and details at the party wall that clearly shows the property line to be located within the fire-rated assembly of the party wall. There shall be no gap between the property line and the fire-rated assembly of the party wall.
3. An engineering evaluation of the structural stability of the fire wall shall be submitted as part of the plan review process to address Section 706.2, Structural Stability, and requirements of the party wall. That section requires the following performance criteria: “Fire walls shall be designed and constructed to allow collapse of the structure on either side without collapse of the wall under fire conditions.” The analysis shall contain, as a minimum, the following items: (1) a full description of the structural systems on each side of the party wall, (2) a rational analysis of the collapse modes that are likely to occur during fire conditions, and (3) how the structural system layout and design provided will prevent collapse of the party wall.

The party wall’s location relative to the property line shall be verified by a licensed surveyor prior to its construction and again prior to the final of the permit, and the property line shall be permanently marked in the field.