



FINDING COMMON GROUND

Attn: Quan Nghiem, M.S., P.E.  
Permit and Engineering Bureau  
LADBS Metro Office  
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213-482-0409

From: Deep Foundations Institute (DFI)  
Helical Foundations and Tie-Back (HPT) Committee

Re: Helical Piles for New Construction and Lateral Loads  
LABC Section 1810.3.1.5

Mr. Nghiem,

It has been brought to our committee's attention that the City of Los Angeles is now willing to consider amendments to the Los Angeles Building Code (LABC) regarding helical piles. We also understand the target date to have amendments published is July 2021. LABC Section 1810.3.1.5 currently restricts use of helical piles for repair of foundations only, but not for new construction. In addition, helical piles are restricted to axial loads only, excluding horizontal loads. This restriction is not in line with current California Building Code (CBC) Section 1810.3.1.5. Furthermore, International Code Council-Evaluation Service (ICC-ES) Acceptance Criteria (AC) 358 has recently been modified to account for seismic concerns in zones DEF.

The DFI HPT committee is made up of representatives of the helical piles industry including manufacturers, installers, distributors and specifying engineers. We have over 50 members participating in efforts to educate the construction community and improve quality of helical piles. Several of our members, including myself, are members of the ICC-ES Ad-Hoc committee on helical piles and contributors on the ICC-ES AC 358 document. Our committee has written industry specifications for the use of helical piles and funded several DFI research initiatives for usage of helical piles, including seismic loading. Several of our manufactures have received LA Research Reports on our products in addition to ICC-ES verification reports per AC 358. Our committee has discussed this issue and are in full support of this request.

This Committee would respectful request LABC Section 1810.3.1.5 be amended to reflect the acceptance of helicals piles as referenced in CBC Section 1810.3.1.5. This amendment would recognize helical piles only having restrictions for the State of California Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) projects as noted in Section 1810.3.1.5.1.

Should you have any questions regarding the performance, specifications or application of Helical Piles, DFI and its HPT Committee are available to assist you.

Sincerely,

Mark Bryant  
2021 Chair  
Deep Foundations Institute  
Helical Foundations and Tie-back Committee