



To: Colorado Building Officials

From: Structural Engineers Association of Colorado  
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cc: Dale Statler, P.E.  
Chair, SEAC Wind Committee  
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Subject: Revised CO Wind Speed Study

The Structural Engineers Association of Colorado (SEAC) Wind Committee is working on a revised Colorado wind speed study, and we need your help! Recent changes to ASCE 7 wind provisions have wrought havoc along the Colorado front range, seeing mistaken shifts of the Special Wind Region (SWR) boundary, a transition from ~50-year to ~700-year reference wind speeds, a risk-targeted reduction to the mapped speeds along the SWR border, and more. Engineers have managed to limp along the Front Range Gust Map from 2006 using conservative approximations based upon the limited data available at the time. However, not only is this information outdated, but no regional wind study has ever been performed south of Castle Rock -- leaving wind speeds for half of the mapped Colorado SWR undefined. Furthermore, the SWR boundaries in ASCE 7-16 and 7-22 remain incorrect, especially south of the Denver metro area where Pikes Peak is no longer included.

Colorado needs a new study to correctly define and fully cover the CO SWR. The outcome will be clarity on design wind speeds within the SWR and removal of ambiguity of interpretation for AHJs. As before, we're relying on the involvement and generosity of interested building departments and other organizations such as yours for funding and support of this significant effort, which is anticipated to cost on the order of \$200,000. Fortunately, we have found a willing and enthusiastic partner in the Colorado Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSEM), which enables us to apply for FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) funding to cover up to 75% of the costs. We must raise, at a minimum, the remaining \$50,000 in funds by the beginning of February 2024 in order to qualify for the FEMA BRIC grant. The SEAC board and NCSEA have already pledged \$5,000, bringing us to 10% of this goal.

In 2006 when SEAC fundraised for the original front range wind study, over 35 building departments contributed amounts ranging from \$200 to \$1,000 each in support of the effort. We hope that your agencies will consider donating again to unlock the necessary FEMA funds and make this much-

needed revised study a reality. Any building department that donates will receive a printed copy of the final study along with a guide to incorporating it into your local amendments.

Learn more about this endeavor and donate to the study here:

[https://mms.seacolorado.org/members/evr/reg\\_event.php?orgcode=SEAC&evid=38611213](https://mms.seacolorado.org/members/evr/reg_event.php?orgcode=SEAC&evid=38611213)

(or more conveniently, at <http://tinyurl.com/COWindStudy>, or by scanning the QR code below)



Credit cards, checks, and money orders are accepted through this secure online form. You will receive a “registration” email as a receipt for your contribution. Additionally, if you prefer you can skip the form and send a check made out to “SEAC” and marked “Wind Study” to:

SEAC  
303 S. Broadway  
Ste 200-345  
Denver, CO 80209

SEAC needs to have our 25% contribution fully pledged by February 6<sup>th</sup> to qualify for the FEMA BRIC funding, so we thank you in advance for responding quickly to this request. If approval of funds cannot be finalized by your organization until after this date, then we will happily accept your best estimate of funding to be allocated in our online registration form, which will serve as your pledge until funds are approved and sent. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact myself or the SEAC Wind Committee Chair, Dale Statler, who is cc’ed. Thank you in advance for your consideration!