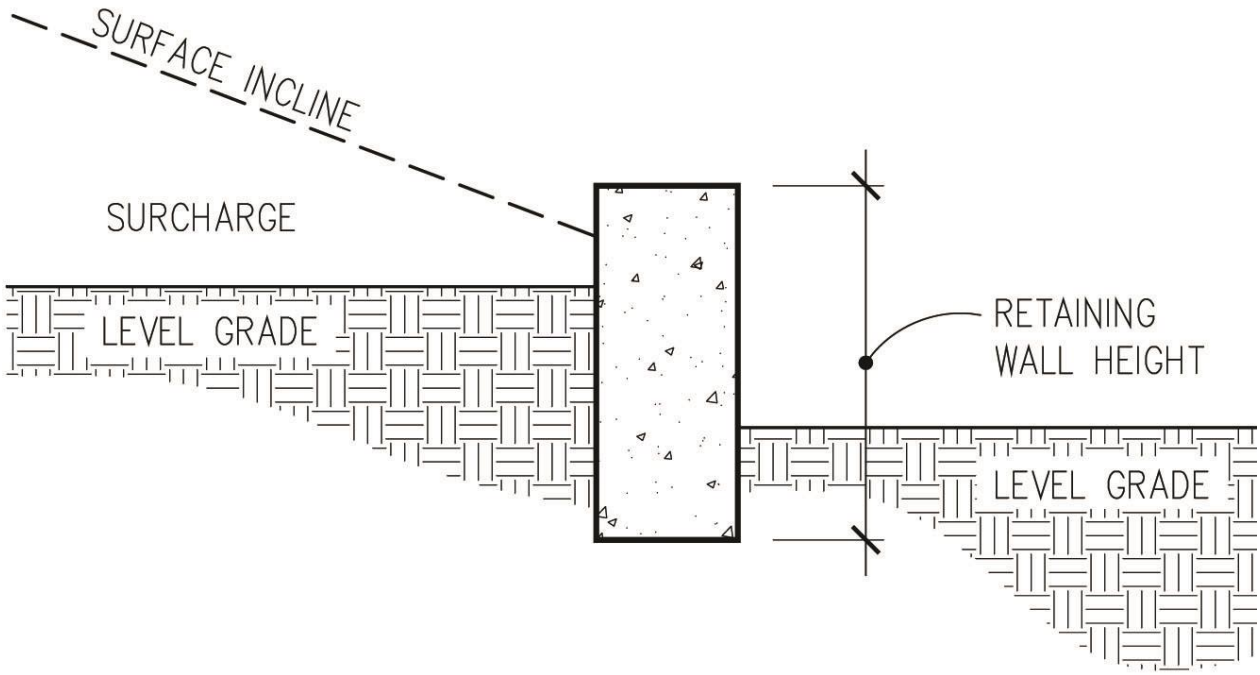
Retaining Wall Policy

City of Hayward Development Services Department

September 2014

All retaining walls require a building permit before construction unless the proposed retaining wall is not over 4 feet in height measured from the bottom of the footing to the top of the wall and does not support a surcharge or impounding Class I, II, or IIIA liquids.

The Permit application must be accompanied by a design certified by a registered design professional.

Surcharge:

If the grade on the retaining side of the wall is level without surface incline for a distance equal or longer than the overall height of the wall, then for the purpose of the code there is no surcharge. Where special conditions exist, the building official is authorized to require additional construction documents to be prepared by a registered design professional.