

SUMMARY and FISCAL NOTE

Department:	Dept. Contact:	CBO Contact:
Seattle Public Utilities	Cris Horbelt	Akshay Iyengar

1. BILL SUMMARY

Legislation Title: AN ORDINANCE relating to Seattle Public Utilities; updating side sewer regulations to conform to current standards, clarify existing requirements, allow side sewer fees to be created by Director's Rule, and update definitions; amending Sections 21.16.030, 21.16.040, 21.16.070, 21.16.077, 21.16.140, 21.16.240, and 21.16.270 of the Seattle Municipal Code; and repealing Sections 21.16.071 and 21.16.350 of the Seattle Municipal Code.

Summary and Background of the Legislation:

Seattle's Department of Construction and Inspections (SDCI) has administered the City's side sewer permitting program since 2003. Seattle Public Utilities manages and maintains the City's wastewater and stormwater collection system. To better align the side sewer permitting program with the two departments' core functions and to improve customer service to ratepayers, SPU will be assuming the side sewer permitting function. To effectuate this change, the authority of each of the Department Director's must be revised.

This legislation would clarify program requirements, remove and relocate permit fees from the Seattle Municipal Code to an SPU Director's Rule, and clarify the authority of Department Directors. Side sewer permit fees would be relocated from SMC Chapter 21.16 and consolidated with other SPU fees in Finance Director's Rule 220.2. This will better help SPU's Rates and Finance section keep SPU revenue updated across the lines of business.

2. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Does this legislation create, fund, or amend a CIP Project? ☐ Yes ☒ No

3. SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Does this legislation have financial impacts to the City? ☐ Yes ☒ No

3.d. Other Impacts

Does the legislation have other financial impacts to The City of Seattle, including direct or indirect, one-time or ongoing costs, that are not included in Sections 3.a through 3.c? If so, please describe these financial impacts.

No

If the legislation has costs, but they can be absorbed within existing operations, please describe how those costs can be absorbed. The description should clearly describe if the absorbed costs are achievable because the department had excess resources within their existing budget or if by absorbing these costs the department is deprioritizing other work that would have used these resources.

This legislation does not have additional costs associated with it.

Please describe any financial costs or other impacts of *not* implementing the legislation.

This legislation will formalize the on-going transfer of the Side Sewer Permitting Program from SDCI to SPU. This is being done to align the two departments' core functions and improve customer service. Absent enactment of this legislation, the authority of each department's Directors will not reflect the employees of the respective Departments who are performing this work.

Please describe how this legislation may affect any City departments other than the originating department.

This change would happen concurrent with the termination of an inter-departmental agreement between SPU and SDCI to provide side sewer permitting functions on behalf of SPU. The purpose of the transition is to better align the permitting functions and associated regulations of each department with their code-required responsibilities. Upon transfer of the program and adoption of this legislation, SDCI will no longer have the responsibility to enforce the provisions of the Side Sewer Code on behalf of SPU.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

a. Is a public hearing required for this legislation?

No

b. Is publication of notice with The Daily Journal of Commerce and/or The Seattle Times required for this legislation?

No

c. Does this legislation affect a piece of property?

No. The proposal is a non-project legislative action with no specific site. As Side Sewer Code requirements are city-wide, specific projects affected by the proposal may occur anywhere within Seattle's city limits

d. Please describe any perceived implication for the principles of the Race and Social Justice Initiative.

- i. **How does this legislation impact vulnerable or historically disadvantaged communities? How did you arrive at this conclusion? In your response please consider impacts within City government (employees, internal programs) as well as in the broader community.**

This legislation does not negatively impact vulnerable or historically disadvantaged communities. Adopting this legislation and the complete transfer of the Side Sewer Permitting Program from SDCI to SPU will better facilitate enforcement of the requirements for Registered Side Sewer Contractors. This requirement serves to establish a baseline of minimum qualifications for Contractors that are permitted to do sewer work in City streets. This will serve as an added protection for disadvantaged communities who can disproportionately be taken advantage of by unscrupulous and unlicensed Contractors.

- ii. **Please attach any Racial Equity Toolkits or other racial equity analyses in the development and/or assessment of the legislation.**

NA

- iii. **What is the Language Access Plan for any communications to the public?**

SPU regularly publishes the Director's Rules to notify the public of changes on its website and in emails to frequent customers. Access to language translation service is available in needed. No language access plan was prepared specifically for these administrative updates.

e. Climate Change Implications

- i. **Emissions: How is this legislation likely to increase or decrease carbon emissions in a material way? Please attach any studies or other materials that were used to inform this response.**

This legislation will not increase or decrease carbon emissions.

- ii. **Resiliency: Will the action(s) proposed by this legislation increase or decrease Seattle's resiliency (or ability to adapt) to climate change in a material way? If so, explain. If it is likely to decrease resiliency in a material way, describe what will or could be done to mitigate the effects.**

This legislation will not increase or decrease Seattle's resiliency to climate change.

- f. **If this legislation includes a new initiative or a major programmatic expansion: What are the specific long-term and measurable goal(s) of the program? How will this legislation help achieve the program's desired goal(s)? What mechanisms will be used to measure progress towards meeting those goals?**

This legislation does not include a new initiative or a major programmatic expansion.

- g. **Does this legislation create a non-utility CIP project that involves a shared financial commitment with a non-City partner agency or organization?**

No

5. ATTACHMENTS

Summary Attachments: None