

August 8, 2025

MEMORANDUM

To: Parks, Public Utilities, and Technology Committee
From: Brian Goodnight, Analyst
Subject: CB 121037: SPU Side Sewer Code

On August 13, 2025, the Parks, Public Utilities, and Technology Committee (Committee) will consider [Council Bill \(CB\) 121037](#), which would update side sewer regulations in the Seattle Municipal Code (SMC) to clarify existing requirements and to align with decisions made in the 2025 Adopted Budget.

This memorandum provides relevant background information on the side sewer permitting program, briefly summarizes the bill, and describes next steps.

Background & Summary

In the 2025 Adopted Budget, the Council approved staffing changes to transfer administration of the side sewer permitting program from the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections (SDCI) to Seattle Public Utilities (SPU). Specifically, 10 FTE were transferred from SDCI to SPU and the budget also authorized eight new FTE within SPU. The side sewer permitting program administers permitting for new developments as well as the repair or replacement of existing side sewers. SDCI has overseen the program since 2003 via an agreement with SPU, and SPU desires to take over that work to promote consistent interpretation, application, and enforcement of the side sewer code.

CB 121037 would amend various subsections of [Chapter 21.16 SMC](#) to recognize the transfer of authority from SDCI to SPU for the side sewer permitting activities, such as replacing references to the Director of SDCI with references to the Director of SPU, and would make other clarifying corrections. More significantly, the bill would remove the schedule of permit fees from the SMC and refer instead to SPU charges set via Director's Rule. SPU intends to consolidate the side sewer permitting fees along with other fees specified in [Director's Rule FIN-220.2](#), easing the administration of the fee schedule. SPU is not proposing to adjust any side sewer permitting fees at this time.

Next Steps

The Committee is scheduled to discuss and possibly vote on CB 121037 at its meeting on August 13. If the Committee votes to recommend passage of the bill at that time, the City Council could consider the legislation at its meeting on September 2, at the earliest, following conclusion of the Council's summer recess.

cc: Ben Noble, Director
Calvin Chow, Lead Analyst