SUMMARY and FISCAL NOTE

Department:	Dept. Contact:	CBO Contact:
SDCI	Margaret Glowacki	Christie Parker

1. BILL SUMMARY

Legislation Title: AN ORDINANCE relating to floodplains; tenth extension of interim regulations established by Ordinance 126113, and as amended by Ordinance 126536, for an additional six months, to allow individuals to rely on updated National Flood Insurance Rate Maps to obtain flood insurance through the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Flood Insurance Program.

Summary and Background of the Legislation: This legislation extends the interim floodplain development legislation adopted by Ordinance 126113, and amended by Ordinance 126536, for a tenth time with a public hearing as allowed by the State Growth Management Act. Without adoption of this legislation the interim regulations would expire on February 4, 2026. This legislation extends the amended interim regulations for 6 months so that the City's floodplain mapping and development regulations will continue to be consistent with federal law. These interim regulations will continue to be in place while SDCI conducts the final work before Council considers the Permanent Floodplain Development legislation, which incorporates feedback from enhanced stakeholder outreach. The additional time is needed to allow for the 60-day notice, as required by the Department of Commerce. This time will also be used to provide opportunities for additional public comment during Council deliberations.

The extension of the interim regulations applies to permit applications for construction on property within floodplain areas mapped by FEMA. FEMA has required these types of updates across the country. FEMA published the final updated floodplain map for King County in February 2020. This map (called the Flood Insurance Rate Map) identifies properties that are at risk of flooding and is used to determine which properties are required to have flood insurance. The updated FEMA map is considered final and took effect on August 19, 2020.

2. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

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

3. SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Does this legislation have financial impacts to the City? 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. While the updated mapping in the interim legislation, Ordinance 126113, includes approximately 185 additional properties, the number of permit applications that are being reviewed using the interim regulations is minimal. Existing SDCI staff is sufficient to review permit applications and costs are recovered by existing permit fees. The updated maps have already been prepared.

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.
See response above.

Please describe any financial costs or other impacts of *not* implementing the legislation.
No financial costs to the City are anticipated. If the City does not extend the interim regulations, property owners in the FEMA mapped floodplain areas may not be able to purchase flood insurance, renew an existing policy, or attain federally backed mortgages.

Please describe how this legislation may affect any City departments other than the originating department.
Seattle Public Utilities, Parks, Seattle Department of Transportation, and any other department that is proposing development in the floodplain will need to comply with these regulations.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

a. Is a public hearing required for this legislation?
Yes.

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

c. Does this legislation affect a piece of property?
The legislation will continue to apply to approximately 2,190 properties along the Puget Sound coast, the Duwamish River, and certain streams. This number includes the additional 185 properties included in the interim regulations

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.
Nationally, areas with more minority residents tend to have a greater share of unmapped flood risk. While FEMA's February 2020 maps better reflect that risk, some property owners will need to purchase flood insurance, which low-income property owners may struggle to afford. The City's floodplain regulations meet the federal requirements for flood insurance and in some instances are more protective. The more protective standards will result in lower insurance rates over the long term.

ii. Please attach any Racial Equity Toolkits or other racial equity analyses in the development and/or assessment of the legislation.
No specific RET or equity analysis was prepared for these interim regulations.

iii. What is the Language Access Plan for any communications to the public?
Access to language translation services is available, if needed. No language access plan was prepared for these interim regulations.

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.
There will be no increase or decrease of carbon emissions as a result of this legislation.

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.
The interim floodplain regulations are intended to increase resiliency to climate change in Seattle by identifying areas that are at risk of flooding and requiring building standards that either keep development out of the areas that are at the highest risk of damage or require structures to be elevated and/or floodproofed to decrease the risk of damage.

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?
N/A

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.