

Amendment 6: Determination of Lead Agency

Councilmember Pacheco

The City's SEPA policies (Section 25.05.910) include rules to determine which department is responsible for fulfilling SEPA requirements for a particular proposal. The code states that "4. Except for the Legislative Department, the responsible department for all proposals initiated by a department shall be the department making the proposal..." However, it is silent on the rules for the Legislative Department. In the past, the Legislative Department has both delegated authority to other departments and assumed lead status depending on (1) the proposal, (2) whether there is a clear agency that can assume lead status, (3) whether that department will prioritize that work, and (4) whether the department has the resources necessary to fulfill the requirements of SEPA. Council Bill 119600 would clarify that the Legislative Department may either assume lead status or delegate that status to another City department. This amendment would amend that language to clarify that the Legislative Department may require that the other department assume lead status, which will allow for the discussion of whether resources will be available to fulfill the duties of lead agency under the Legislative Department's desired timeline.

Amend proposed subsection 25.05.910.B.9 as follows:

9. When the Legislative Department initiates a proposal, it may assume the status of responsible official, or may ~~delegate request that another department assume~~ the status of responsible official ~~to another department, at its discretion.~~