

## SUMMARY and FISCAL NOTE\*

<b>Department:</b>	<b>Dept. Contact:</b>	<b>CBO Contact:</b>
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*\* Note that the Summary and Fiscal Note describes the version of the bill or resolution as introduced; final legislation including amendments may not be fully described.*

### **1. BILL SUMMARY**

**Legislation Title:** AN ORDINANCE relating to tree protections; adding new provisions related to trees that are part of an archaeological site; and amending Sections 25.11.060 and 25.11.130 of the Seattle Municipal Code.

**Summary and Background of the Legislation:** In May 2023, the Council passed Ordinance 126821 that updated the City’s regulations for trees location on private property (Seattle Municipal Code Chapter 25.11). These regulations went into effect on July 30, 2023. This proposed legislation would add new provisions regarding trees on archaeological sites. These modifications are intended to ensure that the City is following State requirements related to trees on archaeological sites for lots undergoing development in Neighborhood Residential zones.

Specifically, the legislation would:

- Define a “culturally modified tree” as “a tree that has been determined by the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation to be an archaeological site or part of an archaeological site subject to requirements of chapter 27.53 RCW.”
- Require that SDCI (1) notify DAHP when an applicant is seeking to remove a Tier 2 or Tier 3 tree from a lot for development in Neighborhood Residential zones; and (2) receive confirmation from DAHP whether the tree is an archaeological site or part of an archaeological site.
  - If DAHP confirms the tree is not part of an archaeological site, SDCI may approve removal of the tree.
  - If DAHP confirms the tree is part of an archaeological site and the applicant want to proceed with removing the tree, the applicant is responsible for obtaining permission from DAHP to remove the tree before SDCI may approve removal of the tree.

The proposed changes related to culturally modified trees are procedural requirements categorically exempt from State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) review. Thus, no additional environmental review is needed for this proposal.

### **2. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

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



**f. Climate Change Implications**

**1. Emissions: Is this legislation likely to increase or decrease carbon emissions in a material way?**

No.

**2. 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 proposal could increase the retention of culturally modified trees on lots undergoing development. In addition to other environmental benefits, large trees provide shade and thus mitigate the impacts of hotter summer temperatures, which are anticipated to increase due to climate change.

**g. 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)?**

Not applicable.

**Summary Attachments (if any):**

None.