

REAL ESTATE



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Q | What are the potential changes to Seattle's Design Review Program?

A | On June 8, the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections (SDCI) released a draft proposal to make changes to Seattle's Design Review Program. The legislation proposes three major changes. First, it modifies the threshold criteria used to determine whether a project is subject to Design Review. Instead of the current thresholds based on zone, use, units, and square footage, the legislation creates new thresholds primarily based on square footage. Second, the legislation eliminates Streamlined Design Review (a simplified review process) and creates a new Hybrid Design Review for certain projects where early stages of review are handled by SDCI staff. Third, the legislation requires that all projects prepare and implement community outreach plans at the beginning of the process.

If you have a project that might require Design Review in the future, then keep an eye on these proposed changes.