



STATE OF WASHINGTON
Capital Projects Advisory Review Board

December 20, 2024

The Honorable Davina Duerr, Chair
House Local Government Committee
House of Representatives
Post Office Box 40600
Olympia, Washington 98504-0600

The Honorable Liz Lovelett
Senate Local Government, Land Use
& Tribal Affairs Committee
State Senate
Post Office Box 40440
Olympia, Washington 9804-0440

Re: 2024 SHB 1621 Review Report

Dear Representative Duerr and Senator Lovelett:

The 2023 Legislature passed Substitute House Bill 1621 standardizing a number of issues and limits for multiple public entities, including first and second-class cities, water-sewer districts, and fire districts. The bill borrowed existing statutory language from the Public Utility District (PUD) procurement process and applied this language to the SHB 1621 entities. The effective date of the bill was delayed to June 30, 2024, to allow time for CPARB to review and make recommendations to the legislature by December 31, 2023. The recommendations from that report were not adopted at that time and stakeholder work continued.

SHB 1621 Review Committee have continued meeting throughout 2024, continuing the stakeholder work associated with this bill. CPARB has successfully completed the stakeholder work and has identified recommendations to be incorporated into the RCWs via the upcoming 2025 Legislative session.

Public entity stakeholder representatives have restated SHB 1621's purpose is to address the need for flexibility to perform work with regularly employed personnel in situations when the practice provides an efficient and effective means to address an exigent circumstance. The opportunity to self-perform more public work needs to balance with the reduction of public bid opportunities which are so important to small, minority, veteran, and disadvantaged businesses throughout our state. Our recommendations find the appropriate balance of these competing priorities.

While the intent of SHB 1621 was to provide consistency, the reality remains that not all local government agencies operate the same. After two years of discussion and compromise between a broad number of affected stakeholder groups, full consensus for support of the committee's majority decisions could not be reached. This report supports the importance of stakeholder discussions and reflects the diverse needs within the construction community.

CPARB appreciates the continued opportunity to serve the legislature and thank you for entrusting us to provide the stakeholder work needed for such multifaceted legislation. If you have any questions, please contact lead staff for CPARB, Nancy Deakins at nancy.deakins@des.wa.gov or (360) 280-6236, or CPARB Chair, Linneth Riley-Hall at Linneth.riley-hall@soundtransit.org or (206) 334-8916.

Sincerely,

Linneth Riley-Hall
CPARB Chair

cc: CPARB Members
Tara Smith, Director, Department of Enterprise Services
Linda Kent, Chief External Affairs Officer, Department of Enterprise Services
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