

DGO 5.14 — Interagency Operations

Specific Policy Comparison: 1995 vs. Proposed

1. Purpose (5.14.01) [Modified]

Terminology updated; phrasing on notification and approval softened

1995 Version	Proposed Version (2026)
Refers throughout to the “San Francisco Police Department.” States that command personnel are aware of interagency operations and that members receive prior approval before participating.	Introduces the “SFPD” abbreviation on first use. States that command personnel are properly notified of interagency operations and that members receive approval — the word “prior” is dropped.

2. Definitions (5.14.02) [Modified]

"Outside Agency" redefined; illustrative examples dropped

1995 Version	Proposed Version (2026)
“Outside Agency” defined by example: “any local, state or federal law enforcement or government agency, e.g., FBI, DEA, State Parole, ABC, ATF.”	“Outside Agency” defined functionally as any local, state, or federal law enforcement or government agency that is not SFPD; the illustrative list is removed.

3. Policy — Approval Authority (5.14.03) [Modified]

Approval authority moved from Deputy Chief to Commander; new MOU exception added

1995 Version	Proposed Version (2026)
All interagency operations require prior approval of the member's Deputy Chief, with no stated exceptions. Deputy Chief approval is also required before SFPD can request assistance from an outside agency.	Only operations not governed by a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) require prior approval, and that approval now comes from the Commander of the participating unit rather than the Deputy Chief, who is notified only as an escalation, "if necessary." The approval authority has shifted from the Deputy Chief to the Commander because this allows for operations to be conducted more timely and dynamically and Commanders typically have greater knowledge of the interagency operation than a Deputy Chief.

4. Procedures (5.14.04) [New Section]

Entirely new section introducing a request form, a formal sign-off chain, and a time-sensitive fast track
New Interagency Operations Request Form

1995 Version	Proposed Version (2026)
No form specified.	Requires an Interagency Operations Request Form (SFPD Form 631), signed by the participating unit's OIC, Captain, and Commander before the operation begins. This allows for records of interagency operations and approvals to be maintained.

Time Sensitive Operations

1995 Version	Proposed Version (2026)
Not addressed.	New pathway: for non-exigent but time-sensitive operations, members may request and receive verbal approval from their Commander. The Commander should confirm approval by email when practical, and a Form 631 marked "verbal notification" is completed after the operation. These operations are necessary for time-sensitive circumstances that require administrative efficiency.

Requests from an Outside Agency

1995 Version	Proposed Version (2026)
The request is referred to the member's Deputy Chief, who must approve it before any member participates.	The request is referred to the member's Officer in Charge (OIC), who completes Form 631 and obtains Captain and Commander approval; the Commander notifies the Deputy Chief only if necessary. The approval authority has shifted from the Deputy Chief to the Commander because this allows for operations to be conducted more timely and dynamically and Commanders typically have greater knowledge of the interagency operation than a Deputy Chief.

5. Pre-Operation Briefing Requirement [Modified]

Mandatory Deputy Chief-led briefing dropped entirely

1995 Version	Proposed Version (2026)
Required a briefing or meeting between SFPD and the outside agency before the operation, conducted by the Deputy Chief or designee,	Allows Deputy Chiefs to determine if a briefing is required between SFPD and the outside agency

1995 Version	Proposed Version (2026)
covering operational objectives, agency roles, community concerns, and applicable General Orders.	before the operation, conducted by the Deputy Chief or designee.

6. On-Scene Oversight of Outside Agents [Removed]

Senior officer's duty to monitor outside agents for General Order violations dropped

1995 Version	Proposed Version (2026)
Made the senior ranking officer on-scene responsible for ensuring no Department General Order violations were committed by outside agents, and for informing any violator that the conduct violated SFPD General Orders.	No comparable “during operation” oversight provision as outside agencies are not beholden to SFPD General Orders but a reminder to members of their duty to adhere to SFPD policy during interagency operations has been added.

7. Denial — Sanctuary Law Compliance (5.14.05) [New Section]

Entirely new section barring participation that violates local or state law, including SF Sanctuary Laws

1995 Version	Proposed Version (2026)
Not addressed.	New section: the Department will not participate in interagency operations that violate local or state law, including San Francisco's Sanctuary Laws (Admin. Code §12H, §12I), California Government Code §7284, and DGO 5.15 (Enforcement of Immigration Laws).