

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE
AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON SCOPE OF SEIS

Project Name: Life Sciences Building – Seattle Campus

Proponent: University of Washington

Description of Proposal: The Life Sciences Building (LSB) will accommodate new laboratory and office space to allow the Department of Biology to increase its faculty size to meet major increases in undergraduate student demand. The LSB will be approximately 169,000 gross square feet and will include new greenhouse facilities approximately 20,000 to 25,000 gross square feet. The existing greenhouse and associated buildings will be demolished. It is anticipated that the LSB will have five floors above grade with a mechanical penthouse and 1-2 below grade floors to support 30-40 principal investigators with lab space, associated offices and conference space, 2-3 authentic undergraduate research/teaching laboratories, growth chambers, and animal care facilities.

Location of Proposal: This project is proposed to be located the Seattle Campus Master Plan site 21C. Site 21C is located directly east of Kincaid Hall on the site of the existing greenhouse, plant lab and plant lab annex. The site is bounded by Kincaid on the west, Stevens Way NE on the north, Garfield Place NE on the east and the Burke Gilman Trail and NE Pacific Street on the south.

Lead Agency: University of Washington

EIS Required: The Lead Agency has determined that this proposal has the potential to have a significant adverse impact on the environment. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be prepared pursuant to Chapter RCW 43.21C.030. Materials can be reviewed at the Capital Projects Office (206) 543-5200.

Scoping: Agencies, affected tribes and members of the public are invited to comment on the scope of the SEIS. You may comment on alternatives, mitigation measures, probable significant adverse impacts, and licenses or other approvals that may be required. Please provide written comments to the contact person by the date specified.

The Lead Agency has identified the following areas for discussion in the EIS: traffic (construction and operation); construction; historic and cultural preservation; plants; light and glare; and transportation (Burke Gilman Trail impacts).

The following alternatives will be analyzed: the proposed project and no action.

Because of specific program and locational objectives of the Life Sciences Project, other sites identified in the CMP-Seattle 2003 for potential development (referred to herein as alternative sites) are not considered in this SEIS because these sites would not meet the following project objectives as defined by the University of Washington at a lower environmental cost (per WAC 197-11-440(5)).

- Consolidate proposed academic and greenhouse uses on the same site.
- Directly connect to existing life sciences and environmental sciences uses in Kincaid Hall
- Proximity to proposed Animal Research and Care Facility to achieve research efficiencies.
- In addition to not meeting identified project objectives, locating the Life Sciences project on alternative sites would result in the potential for environmental impacts associated with demolition of structures, conversion of open space, and construction in direct proximity to Unique and Significant landscapes identified in the CMP-Seattle 2003 (such as the Medicinal Herb Garden).

Comment Deadline: May 21, 2015

Responsible Official and Contact Person: Jan Arntz
Environmental and Land Use Compliance Officer
Capital Projects Office
Box 352205
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Date: April 30, 2015

Signature: 

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