

SEPA Advisory Committee Summary

Date: January 26, 2026

Committee Members:

- Doug Gallucci – Environmental Health & Safety
- Mark Huppert – Transportation Services
- Julie Blakeslee – University Environmental & Land Use Planner, Chair
- Kristine Kenney – University Landscape Architect
- Rob Lubin – Housing & Food Services
- Jecca Canet – Engineering Services

Chemical Sciences Building

Construction of the University of Washington Husky Chemical Sciences building is necessary to:

- Enable a new mode of science where fundamental chemical research can transform into real-world applications in real time.
- Provide unique opportunities for education and discovery for undergraduate and graduate students in interdisciplinary chemical sciences research.
- Enhance recruitment of faculty and graduate students.
- Be in proximity to the existing Chemistry Building and Bagley Hall with interdisciplinary research centers such as MoES and NanoES.

UW's Chemistry Department faces limitations due to aging facilities that cannot keep pace with the demands of modern scientific practice. Bagley Hall (1937) and Chemistry Library (1957) (no longer a library) do not meet requirements for cutting-edge research in the chemical sciences, limiting new discoveries and training opportunities for students.

The plan is to replace the Chemistry Library building in Site C17 identified of the UW Seattle Campus Master Plan. The proposed building would be up to 106,000 square feet and up to 95' tall and would meet Development Standards set by the master plan for this site. A portion of the square feet identified for the adjacent Site C16 would also be used for this building, which is allowed under the master plan.

The building footprint has largely been constrained to something similar to the Chemistry Library footprint in order to avoid utilities along the east and north sides, a row of mature evergreen trees along the west/Stevens Way side, and providing space between the new building and Benson Hall to the south for light, air, vegetation, and a graceful accessible pathway.

This area has one potential Environmental Critical Areas which is near the edge of the blue heron rookery buffer. An avian study was conducted and no active nests in the area were identified (and have not for the last 8+ years).

The committee received project information on January 26 and the checklist on February 24. The committee reviewed and approved the SEPA checklist March 3, 2026.