

SEPA Advisory Committee Summary

Date: March 19, 2025 (via email)

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

Husky Soccer Field Renovation

Improvements to the University of Washington Husky Soccer Stadium are necessary to serve as one of two Venue Specific Training Site (VSTS) locations in Seattle for the 2026 FIFA World Cup. The project scope includes several essential upgrades required to meet FIFA's requirements for World Cup training facilities. These requirements are intended to ensure players have consistent, high quality training facilities across the 16-city tournament footprint:

- Full renovation of the existing soccer pitch, including new subgrade, subsurface drainage system, irrigation system, and natural grass playing surface;
 - This will include raising the level of the pitch and adding new concrete stub walls/fencing at grade transitions
- Upgrade of the existing sports lighting system with LED technology;
- New ball control netting;
- Pitch maintenance equipment and other fixtures and equipment necessary to meet FIFA standards; and
- Install a platform for t.v. cameras

The plan is to replace the turf surface, level the surface so it drains better, and make a few adjustments at the edges of the field due to the change in topography (getting access to/from the field shed, etc.). This should not remove much base but rather add more to it. Add a ball net at the east end of the field. Construction access is to be from Walla Walla Road.

This area has several Environmental Critical Areas. A Geotech memo addresses liquefaction, landfill and peat topics. No impacts to the nearby wetland is anticipated as no ground disturbance is occurring beyond the existing field. There will be BMPs to protect the wetlands, runoff, etc.

The committee received project information on March 5 and the checklist on March 13. The committee reviewed and approved the SEPA checklist March 19, 2025.