

**UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
UW FACILITIES, ASSET MANAGEMENT**

DATE: January 26, 2021

SUBJECT: SEPA Categorical Exemption

Per RCW 43.21C, WAC 197-11 and WAC 478-324-020 through 210, the University of Washington (UW) is the Lead Agency responsible for compliance with the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) for projects which the University initiates. Public notice of categorical exemptions is not required per WAC 197-11-305(2) which states “an agency is not required to document that a proposal is categorically exempt.” Agencies may note on an application that a proposal is categorically exempt or place such a determination in agency files.

NAME: South Campus Force Main Repair

LOCATION: UW Seattle Campus

HISTORY: The project identifies an existing sewer force main that is leaking and requires repair.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The project will repair a leaking sanitary sewer force main. A force main is piping that conveys pumped sewage where a drain field is lower than the elevation of a trunk gravity main. In this case, effluent gravity drains from the south side of the UW Medical Center from H-Wing to Montlake Tower as well as from south campus buildings along Portage Bay to UW Lift Station #4, located in a landscaped area. From there, Lift Station #4 pumps effluent at 20 psi west then north via the force main to a manhole between Hitchcock Hall and J-Wing. Then, effluent gravity drains into a 108” King County Metro trunk sewer main shown as a dashed light green line and denoted with a blue arrow in **Figure 1**. The leak is believed to be near the northbound side of San Juan Road in the approximate location shown by a red arrow in **Figure 2**.

Although the leak is minor and contained at this time, repair is imperative to avoid risk of: further degradation; increased and uncontrolled leakage; potential disruptions of service to the UW Medical Center and south campus buildings; and potential adverse environmental impacts given the proximity to Portage Bay.

CONTROL MEASURES: The project has a safety plan associated with working with sewage; a traffic control plan to provide logistics, expectations and support for potential temporary roadway, pedestrian pathway and parking lot access alterations; and a spill prevention plan with site controls, temporary erosion and sedimentation controls (TESC), and response plan in the event of a spill.

SEPA DETERMINATION: This project is categorically exempt per WAC 197-11-800(3) of the State Environmental Policy Act. This section exempts repair, remodeling, maintenance or minor alteration of existing private or public structures, facilities or equipment, including utilities, involving no material expansions or changes to the existing use. No adverse environmental impacts are associated with this project.

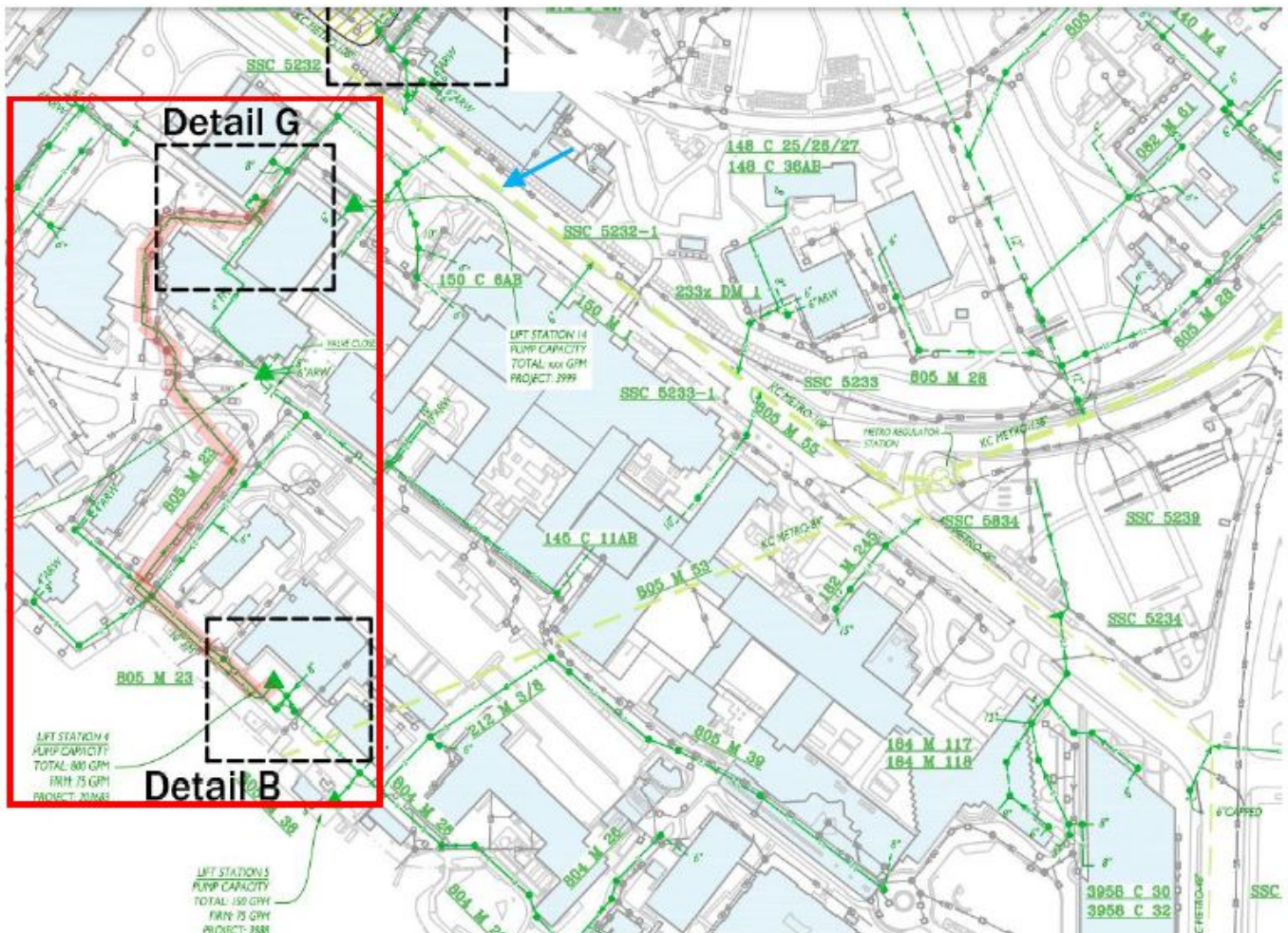


Figure 1 - South Campus sanitary sewer system. Force main highlighted in pale red. Metro sewer main denoted by light green dashed line and blue arrow.



Figure 2 - Force main highlighted in pale red. Approximate leak location denoted by red arrow.