SCOPING NOTICE

June 28, 2021

SUBJECT: Scoping for an Environmental Assessment for Proposed Seismic Upgrades VA Puget Sound Health Care System, American Lake Division Campus, Tacoma, Washington

Dear Valued Stakeholder,

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Office of Construction and Facilities Management is proposing to address seismic deficiencies at the VA Puget Sound Health Care System (VAPSHCS), American Lake Division Campus located at 9600 Veterans Drive Southwest, Tacoma, WA (Figure 1). The purpose of the Proposed Action is to address existing seismic deficiencies. The Proposed Action is needed to improve safety for Veterans, staff and visitors, and to ensure the continuity of health care services to Veterans. The VA proposes to implement the Proposed Action in a phased program consisting of seismic upgrades to five buildings (Figure 2). This scoping notice is also available online at https://www.cfm.va.gov/environmental/.

VA is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to assess the potential environmental impacts associated with implementing the potential seismic upgrades at the campus. VA will prepare the EA in accordance with the regulations implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (42 U.S. Code 4321-4370h), as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 1500-1508), and VA Implementing Regulations (38 CFR Part 26). The EA will evaluate the potential direct and indirect impacts on the human environment resulting from the Proposed Action.

If you have comments on the scope of issues for analysis, or input on potential alternatives or information/analyses relevant to the Proposed Action, please submit your comments/input via email to vacoenvironment@va.gov with the subject line “American Lake Seismic Upgrades EA” by July 31, 2021. For additional information or questions, please contact Ms. Christine Modovsky, VA Environmental Engineer, at Christine.Modovsky@va.gov or (202) 632-5352. Reference “American Lake Seismic Upgrades EA” in your correspondence.

VA anticipates releasing the Draft EA for a 30-day public review and comment period in Fall 2021. VA will publish a notice of availability of the Draft EA in the *News Tribune*, and solicit comments at that time. The Draft EA will be available for review at the Tillicum Pierce County Library (located at 14916 Washington Ave SW, Lakewood) and via the VA website: https://www.cfm.va.gov/environmental/.

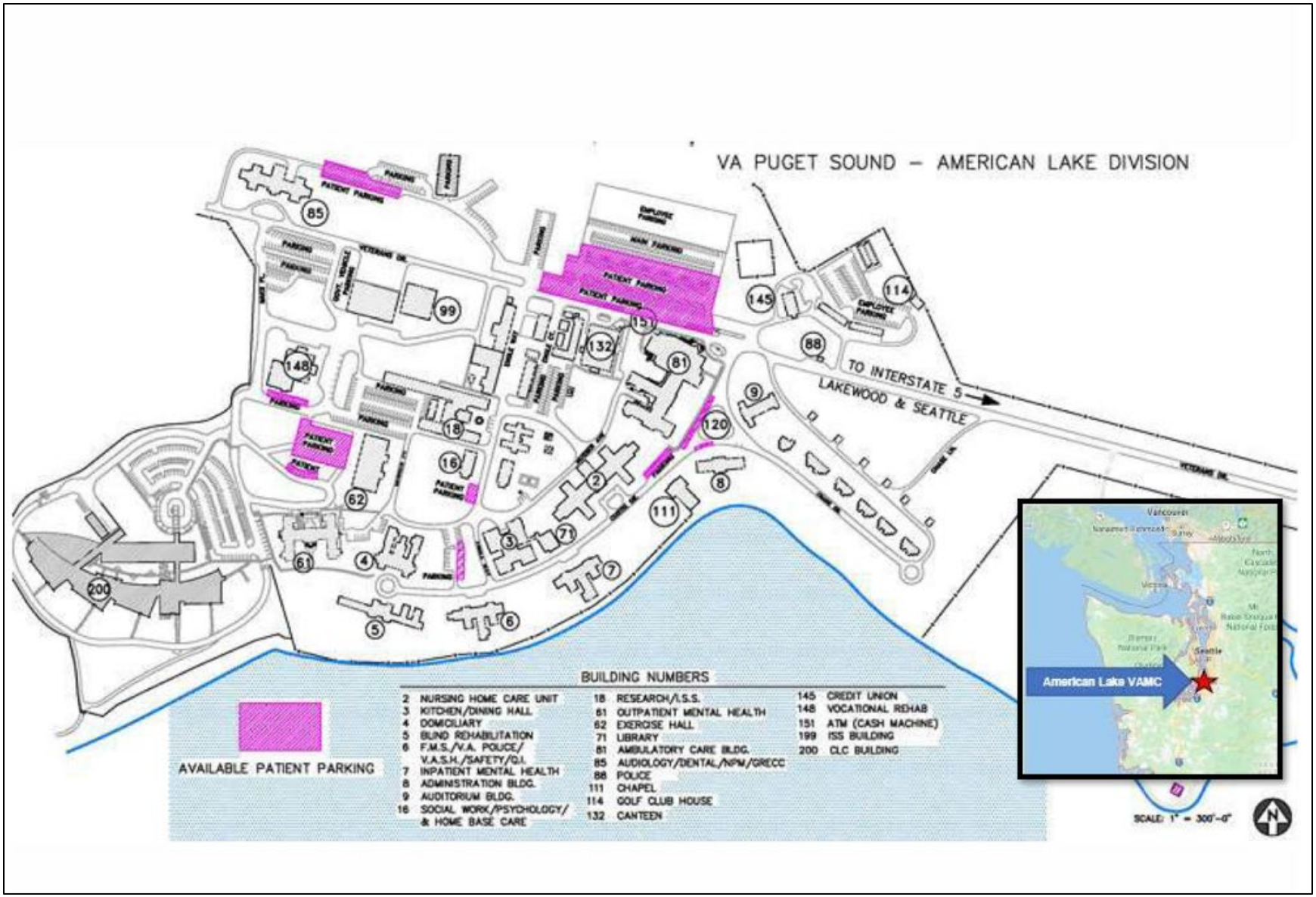

Figure 1. Location of VAPSHCS American Lake Division Campus, Tacoma, WA

Figure 1. Location of Proposed Building Seismic Upgrades, American Lake Division Campus, Tacoma, WA