Stanford University
Photoprocessing Requirements for New Installations

1) Digital photography is the preferred alternative.

2) All new photoprocessing equipment must meet the City of Palo Alto Sewer Use Ordinance Requirements. Ordinance requirements can be found on-line at: Palo Alto Municipal Code located under Title 16, 16.09 Sewer Ordinance, 16.09.215 Requirement for photographic materials processing

3) Sink and floor drains placed in photoprocessing rooms must be lipped to prevent accidental chemical discharge.

4) Ensure adequate space for storing fresh and spent chemicals. Secondary containment will be necessary if a floor drain is present.

5) All tubing entering or exiting the photoprocessing machine must be labeled with contents and direction of flow.

6) All non-digital photoprocessors must discharge through a silver canister recovery unit. The recovery unit must be replaced at the frequency indicated by the manufacturer based on usage of the film processor. Each unit must be marked with a start date and the service agent’s initials.

7) All photoprocessing units must be serviced by an approved outside vendor.

8) Place provision in vendor contract requiring them to comply with all applicable Local, state and Federal Regulations for wastewater and hazardous waste.

9) Prior to start up of the photoprocessor, and monthly after start up, the operator or vendor servicing the unit must sample the discharge (all water going to the sewer) from the unit, to ensure compliance with Sewer Use Ordinance standards for silver (0.25 mg/L). Sample results must be verified by the Water Planning & Stewardship staff.

10) For hand processing, ensure work area includes a space not connected to sewer for fixer bath. Prevent accidental discharge of spent fixer to sewer by not placing fixer bath inside sink.

11) For hand processing ensure sink drain has a plug to prevent accidental chemical discharges to sewer.

Please contact the Water Planning & Stewardship team at suwater.stanford.edu/wps to review installations and answer any questions.