

Thursday, November 20, 2008

MEMORANDUM

To: Sawmill Cove Board of Directors  
From: Garry White, Director  
Subject: NOAA Marine Operations Center Pacific

**NOAA to Relocate Seattle Base**

Receipt of the forthcoming Request for Proposal (RFP) from NOAA for its Marine Operations Center-Pacific location will renew competition for maritime research grounds and docking for at least six ocean-going vessels.

NOAA is seeking a lease term of 10 years beginning July 1, 2011, with multi-year options for up to 20 years. According to a market analysis, among the facilities and amenities NOAA likely will expect bidding ports to provide are: a 1,550-linear foot pier for large ships, a 400-linear foot pier for smaller vessels, an 18,000-square foot office building, a shop, boat shed, warehouse and abundant land for open storage and parking.

Estimated economic benefits to the community that is selected include:

- 96 officer and crew jobs
- annual ops budget \$6 million
- 20 shore-side support jobs with budget of \$2.5 million  
(complete base relocation to a single new site)

WHY NOAA should relocate its Marine Operations Center-Pacific to Sitka.

- Three of the four ships currently based in Seattle are dedicated to Alaska work. Locating in Alaska would appear to be more efficient.
- SCIP has plenty of space including office building, the Stores Building, deepwater dock potential, relatively calm waters
- SJC core campus available
- Sitka Sound Science Center
- NSRAA hatchery
- University of Alaska Southeast
- Access to both open Pacific and inside waters
- US Geodetic Survey/Magnetic Observatory
- US Coast Guard base
- Herring Cove
- High quality of life

Competitors for this opportunity include:

- Newport, OR
- Bellingham, WA
- Port Angeles, WA
- Everett, WA
- Juneau, AK