

From: Alameda Point Harbor Seal Monitors [mailto:alamedaharborseals@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2019 8:46 PM
To: Jim Oddie <JOddie@alamedaca.gov>; Tony Daysog <TDaysog@alamedaca.gov>; Malia Vella <MVella@alamedaca.gov>; John Knox White <JknoxWhite@alamedaca.gov>; Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft <MEzzyAshcraft@alamedaca.gov>
Cc: City Clerk <CLERK@alamedaca.gov>; Manager Manager <MANAGER@alamedaca.gov>
Subject: Nautilus Lease--Feb. 19 City Council meeting

Re: Proposed Lease to Nautilus Data Technologies (File # 2019-6503 on Consent Calendar)
February 19, 2019

We have noticed the proposed lease to Nautilus Data Technologies for Building #530 and #600 for a water-cooled data storage center. It raises some concerns for the harbor seal population and related wildlife and ecosystem at the water discharge site.

As you can see from the drawing in the proposal, this center will pull in water from Seaplane Lagoon and later discharge the warmed water into the estuary, *directly* at the harbor seal float. Key issues are not mentioned in the proposal, e.g., what will be the temperature of the discharge water, how fast will the discharge be, and so on. Such dumping into the bay can affect not only the seals, but also the eelgrass in the vicinity of the stormwater outfall, which is a special status marine vegetation. Eelgrass serves as a substrate for herring eggs, which in turn provides food for seals and sea birds such as pelicans. It also is habitat for other species.

The business would have to prove to the regional water board, in our opinion, that this discharged water is not an unacceptable number of degrees above ambient water temperature. They can't just dump warm water into the Bay, especially a harbor where it could end up causing algae to form.

We think you should pull this item from the consent calendar and address the water discharge issue. The impact of discharging warm water into the harbor under the current proposal needs further investigation. And an alternative--discharging the water back into the Seaplane Lagoon along the current intake route-- should also be investigated.

Even though a clause in the lease stipulates that Nautilus must comply with all environmental laws, maybe the city council should insert a special lease condition highlighting the water discharge issue, i.e., "pending approval by the Regional Water Quality Control Board, National Marine Fisheries Service, CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Army Corps of Engineers, and the Bay Conservation and Development Commission."

A supplemental environmental impact report (EIR) may need to be prepared, since this impact was not contemplated in the Alameda Point EIR.

Thank you,
Mark Klein, on behalf of the Alameda Point Harbor Seal Monitors

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