

Thursday, March 16, 2017

Members of the City Council
City of Brisbane
50 Park Place
Brisbane, CA 94005

RE: Brisbane Baylands: Biological Resources

Council Members,

Biohabitats has had the privilege to examine and assess some of the biological resources of the Brisbane Baylands property. Biohabitats, a consultant and contractor that focuses on conservation planning, ecological restoration and regenerative design, uses a whole systems framework and applies a living systems approach to work with cities and communities throughout the country to regenerate ecological processes, economical resiliency and cultural vibrancy.

The Brisbane Baylands property is mostly a man-made artifact of urban development, however the natural world has found ways to develop a foothold and thrive in many areas. The potential to restore and enhance ecological function and process is immense. Our work with Brisbane Baylands embraces holistic patterns, processes and structures within the landscape. This is especially true for mixed use communities like Brisbane Baylands that will inhabit the San Francisco Bay transitional ecotone. Our work respects the complex networks in ecosystems, community structure and species interactions, while acknowledging human interaction as a critical component of place. We believe that true sustainability is regenerative, and it is a process that embraces the interests of all affected stakeholders. Our work is not only based on rigorous field investigations, cutting-edge conservation strategies, and tested ecological principles, but is also grounded in effective master planning approaches.

Our multidiscipline team will incorporate designs to provide for wildlife movement corridors and enhance habitat for native wildlife species. Specifically, we will be looking at landscapes that contain a mosaic of native habitat types that support local fauna in coastal scrub, grassland, and willow scrub habitats. Biohabitats will pay particular attention to creating and promoting linkages between upland habitats and San Francisco Bay and linkages between upland habitats along the Bay shoreline. Our work in the last few years has focused on understanding the ecological potential and developing concepts for these areas. Biohabitats has been closely working with San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) to critical transition zone habitat enhancements for the project, specifically along the north edge of the Brisbane Lagoon. Additionally, we will be developing guidance documents like a Marsh Wildlife and Habitat Protection Plan to minimize the effect of night lighting, develop appropriate buffer zone, and create interpretive education and information signs for wetland habitats in and surrounding the Brisbane Baylands.

Again, we are excited about the ecological resources and potential at Brisbane Baylands and look forward to spreading Biohabitats mission of “Restoring the Earth and Inspiring Ecological Stewardship”. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,
BIOHABITATS, INC.

Pete Muñoz, *Bioregion Team Leader*

