

May 3, 2017

Brisbane City Council
City Hall
50 Park Place
Brisbane, CA 94005

Dear Members of the City Council,

We are writing as Brisbane citizens who are raising a family and watching the rapid changes in the community over the past 5 years. We hope to express some of our concerns about the development of the Baylands.

We strongly support the Planning Commission's plan which includes renewable energy options. We strongly oppose the Baylands Developer's housing options at the Baylands based on the following reasons:

- 1) We are unconvinced it is healthy for humans to be living and raising children on a former waste site whose environmental toxins have not been fully evaluated. This is particularly concerning for the neurodevelopment of children who may be raised there, as evidenced by the overwhelming social/medical/epidemiological problems in Oakland where lead toxicity is known to be lowering childrens' IQs [1].
- 2) While we are concerned about the housing crisis in the Bay Area, there is little evidence that this is simply a supply issue that will be "solved" by simply creating more housing units. This complicated issue is more about affordability than shortage, related to the enormous income gaps whereby our community workers (teachers, restaurant workers, small business owners, nurses etc) are being pushed out by investors and the ultra-wealthy. Developers and their pocketbooks seem to be the primary winners if housing is developed here, not the community members who need affordable housing, and certainly not the current citizens of Brisbane.
- 3) We have heard no convincing reason that Brisbane, a community who values the "small town" feel, is responsible for creating housing for the Bay Area, particularly on a toxic waste site; in fact we believe a housing development in the Baylands would undermine and erode the cohesiveness of our town. The health and well-being of our community would be much better served by renewable energy options that would serve generations to come, and restoration of the wetlands. Scientific research shows that natural green space is necessary for human wellbeing.

We are concerned that money and power will unduly influence this sensitive topic, and we want to know if our city council shares our values. Can we count on you to support the Planning Commission's plan?

Sincerely,

Daniel and Nikki Ballarin

1. <http://www.eastbaytimes.com/2016/12/28/oakland-child-lead-exposure-in-fruitvale-worse-than-flint-michigan-study-finds/>