

**From:** Yonathan  
**Sent:** Friday, May 05, 2017 9:08 AM  
**To:** Baylands  
**Subject:** We are part of the same community

To the honorable City Council of Brisbane,

I'd like to clarify some of my comments from Thurs, May 4th meeting on the Brisbane Baylands

**Please think about what development would be appropriate regionally**

The Baylands site is very close to the Bayshore Caltrain station, which I used to use when I worked on the Peninsula. It's not a glamorous station, but it *is* a Caltrain stop that would be preferable to the very long supercommutes that many of the workers of the Bay Area suffer today. Since it is a large site that is close to transit, it is a regionally significant site and I hope that you consider the good that it can do to the lives of the people in the region (in addition to its impact in Brisbane).

Think about what the people of the Bay Area need. Because San Francisco's problems do not stop in San Francisco. Santa Clara's problems don't end in Santa Clara. And Brisbane's problems don't stop in Brisbane, if Brisbane were to build only office buildings and no housing. When the children of San Francisco and Palo Alto cannot afford to raise a family anywhere near their own parents, neither can the children of Brisbane.

**Find creative ways to mitigate risks and costs**

People are worried of the costs and the risks of housing. Please work together to find creative ways to address these concerns.

Of course, one way for Brisbane to absolve itself of all the costs and risks of development would be to allow San Francisco to annex a part of the site. By the way, annexation is not a threat as some have reported; under the [California Constitution](#), county borders can only change by the mutual consent of the counties. Changing the border is an option, not a threat.

There are many less extreme ways that Brisbane and its neighbors can work together to share the costs and risks of development. Please communicate with your neighbors and with county and regional representatives to mitigate the fears of some residents.

But even without working with neighboring governments, Brisbane can still learn a lot by looking at how its neighbors handle growth. For example, one speaker was afraid that any new units would only be abused by Airbnb landlords. Fortunately, San Francisco has successfully defended its own law that ensures that Airbnb does not reduce the number of housing units in federal court, and this law can be copied. Brisbane can also look to Mountain View and San Francisco's Transportation Demand Management (TDM) programs to encourage as many people as possible to take transit instead of adding to traffic. Observe the soil remediation at Schlage Lock and the foundations that are built in Candlestick (which like the Baylands is also prone to liquefaction).

## **Look at the big picture**

No city in the Bay Area is an island. At my own workplace, which is a small business, the employees are split among living in San Mateo, San Francisco, Alameda, and Santa Clara Counties, and I imagine the same can be said for most workplaces. Some commenters admitted that the Bay Area suffers from a severe housing shortage but were despondent that Brisbane cannot solve this problem on its own. They are right that Brisbane will not solve the housing shortage on its own—no one city will. But Brisbane and all cities in the Bay Area should do what they can to build more housing.

Thank you,  
Yonathan Randolph