

**From:** Barnes, Michael  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 15, 2016 12:16 PM  
**To:** Baylands  
**Cc:** Padilla, Ingrid  
**Subject:** Baylands remediation meeting of 15 Dec 2016

Dear Madam Mayor and City Council,

My wife and I attended much of the Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> council meeting on the important subject of Baylands remediation. While we had hoped to speak at this evening's (15 Dec 2016) meeting on the same subject, it conflicts with an important family honor that we must attend.

It is my hope that the conversation on the important subject of Baylands remediation returns to facts and the science of remediation, and abandons the emotional and personal beliefs that are how "post-truth" decisions are made. You will make better decisions for Brisbane by acknowledging and following your scientific consultant's process and conclusions, than by speculation and "what ifs" that appeal to the emotions. This is well-illustrated by recent world events.

The Brexit vote in England and our own national presidential election were two reasons that the University of Oxford named "post-truth" as the word of the year. Their definition: relating to or denoting circumstances in which objective facts are less influential in shaping public opinion than appeals to emotion and personal belief. The University points out that this term "...has also become associated with a particular noun, in the phrase *post-truth politics*."

Don't allow post-truth to govern the political Baylands decisions. There are many successfully remediated sites just like ours. Sites that have been through earthquakes. Sites that predate fissionable material. Sites that were unregulated municipal garbage dumps and housing sites that were previously rail yards.

It is our responsibility to finally make the Baylands a safe and productive part of our town, which can only happen if we make decisions based on science, not emotion. Otherwise we contribute to the global fall into the post-truth dark ages.

Sincerely,

Michael Barnes